Online Proctoring Fact Sheet
What does online proctoring mean for the ARE?

Over the past several years, the NCARB Board of Directors, the Examination Committee, and Examination department staff have been evaluating the capability of online proctoring technology to support the delivery of the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). Advancements in technology back in 2016 allowed NCARB to transition the ARE to a web-based examination that was able to be delivered in test centers around the globe. Further advancements in technology and improvements by online proctoring providers in recent years now make online proctored delivery of the ARE a reliable and secure delivery option.

It is important to remember that the changes being made to enable the ARE to be delivered via online proctoring will **NOT** change the content being assessed on the exam. Also, the current six-division structure of the ARE, which aligns with the six experience areas of the Architectural Experience Program ® (AXP®), will **NOT** change. What this means for licensure candidates is that they need to study and be competent on the same content that is tested on the ARE today.

What is going to change to enable online proctored delivery relates to the way in which the ARE is delivered. NCARB has conducted research that provides us confidence in the ability to make some adjustments to the number of questions asked and the delivery length of each division while ensuring exam reliability and validity. NCARB is also making some changes in the way candidates will proceed through each administration to increase the security of the exam.

The following fact sheet outlines what online proctoring means for the future of the ARE.

Granting Eligibility to Test
The process for granting an individual their eligibility to test will not change. Jurisdictions will continue to maintain the ability to self-mange candidate eligibilities or choose to use NCARB's Exam Eligibility Services, a free service to Member Boards that eases the workload of board staff.

Access to the ARE
Access to the ARE will increase with the addition of online proctoring. NCARB will continue to provide all candidates the option to test at an on-site testing center. Online proctoring will have appeal to candidates in more remote areas where test center access requires significant travel. Online proctoring is also likely to appeal to candidates with scheduling constraints as it also extends the hours during the day when a candidate can take the ARE.

Examination Fees
The current fee for each exam administration is $235. There is no planned increase in this fee. NCARB will absorb the cost to implement online proctoring. The fee will be the same regardless of whether the candidate chooses remote delivery or test center delivery.

Scheduling an Appointment

Scheduling an appointment will become more flexible with the addition of online proctoring. Not only will candidates be able to schedule an appointment at an on-site location, they will be given the option to schedule an appointment using online proctoring. Online proctoring services have the potential to be available 24 hours a day as remote proctoring services are offered globally.

Setting Up a Testing Area for Online Proctored Delivery

Candidates wanting to take an exam using online proctoring will need to be able to provide a location and the necessary technology that meets the requirements of NCARB. By providing a private testing area with appropriate technology, the candidate will create their own virtual test center. The candidate's testing environment will be evaluated by the online proctoring agent at the beginning of each administration and if it is found to meet the necessary security requirements, it will be designated an NCARB-approved ARE testing location/center and the test administration will proceed. If the candidate cannot provide an appropriate location at the time they have scheduled, the candidate will not be allowed to test and their exam fee for that administration will be forfeited.

What Technology is Required to Take an Online Proctored Exam

Besides a private testing area, the candidate will need to have a computer with video and audio capability as well as a stable internet connection. Candidates will be able to complete a system check of their technology before scheduling an online proctored appointment. The system check includes the installation of a secure browser that will be used only for the administration of the exam, an internet connectivity check, a video check, and an audio check.

The secure web browser used for the exam delivery will block access to all other computer applications throughout the exam administration. The secure browser also monitors candidate's keystroke and mouse actions.

Will NCARB Publish the Minimum Technical Requirements?

Yes, NCARB will publish the minimum requirements needed to deliver the ARE via online proctoring. Upon establishing those requirements, the information will become publicly available and messaged to all stakeholders.

Checking in for an Appointment

The check-in procedure for an online proctored exam will require candidates to provide valid proof of identification before proceeding with the evaluation of their test area. Upon verification of proper identification, candidates provide the proctoring agent a video review of their testing area to ensure a clean work area and no extraneous or suspicious devices in the room.

The check-in procedure includes a revalidation of the technology in place to support the exam delivery. Once the testing area is approved and the system check is complete, the candidate has completed the check-in procedure and is released to the online proctor to begin their exam.

Taking an Online Proctored Exam

Candidates will take the exam using a traditional test driver that allows them to view the questions, monitor the amount of time they have remaining, and access approved resources such as a calculator. The candidate will be monitored by video and audio the entire time they

are testing. Candidates do not see the online proctor and will view the exam just as they do today.

In a typical administration, the candidate will not engage with the online proctor once the exam begins. Like testing on-site, the candidate will focus on the content on the screen in hopes of passing the division—the proctor works in the background in real time monitoring the candidate for any behavior outside the norm using both computer technology and physical observation. If the online proctor needs to address a candidate issue, the exam is paused by the proctor and the candidate is contacted by the proctor through the online application.

Can the Online Proctor End the Exam Appointment?
Yes. If a candidate fails to follow the rules outlined for online delivery, the proctor will first warn the candidate. If the candidate continues to not follow testing procedures, the exam appointment will be terminated, and the score invalidated. The ability to take the ARE is a privilege granted by the jurisdictional licensing board. Just as in test centers today, if a candidate fails to follow the policies and procedures required, they can lose the privilege to test.

Will the ARE be Adjusted to Support Online Proctoring and Future Test Center Delivery?
No regarding format and content, yes regarding some elements of delivery. The current testing times and flexibility that candidates have to navigate back and forth between division questions while testing is not conducive to online proctored delivery and makes it more difficult to schedule at a test center with limited hours. Also, NCARB's psychometricians have completed a study that supports adjusting the total number of questions needed during each administration to maintain an appropriate level of reliability for high-stakes licensure examinations. This will slightly adjust the timing of each division to ease the burden of finding an appointment time.

Will the Content of the ARE Change to Support Online Proctoring?
No. The current division structure and objectives assessed within each division will remain unchanged when online proctoring becomes available. Changes to examination content are based on updates determined appropriate due to changes in practice and any future exam content changes will be based on the results of the Analysis of the Practice of Architecture expected to be completed in 2022.

Will the On-Site Administrations Be Different than Online Administrations?
No. The ARE will be delivered using the same format, timing, and content for all administrations regardless of delivery mode.

Will the On-Site Administrations be Scored Any Different than the Online Administrations? No. The ARE will be scored the same regardless of delivery mode.

Will Score Reporting Change with Online Proctoring?
No. The score reporting process will remain the same as it is today. Candidates will be able to access official score reports from their NCARB Record just as they do today.

Will the Cut Score Change?

Yes. As noted previously, the total number of questions asked will be decreasing. Due to that decrease, the cut score, the number of questions a candidate must answer correctly to pass, will also need to be adjusted. The change in cut score will not decrease the required level of competence needed to pass. The decrease in cut score will only reflect a decrease in the number of questions asked.

Will the Cut Score Change Cause Score Reports to Be Delayed?

Maybe. Unlike the launch of ARE 5.0 in 2016 when NCARB had no viable item data on the new case study and graphic items added to the ARE, the existing items included on the ARE that will be online proctor capable, will already have item data. NCARB is working with our psychometricians to develop a way that allows candidates that are high performers to receive a passing score as quickly as they do today. We are also hoping to release low performing scores just as quickly so those candidates can receive feedback on their ongoing preparation. However, for candidates that score close to the newly established cut score, NCARB will need to hold scores for a period of time (likely up to six weeks) until an appropriate pass/fail decision is made.