

Interior Design Certification Information for Students and Interior Designers



CERTIFIED

1) WHY SHOULD I BECOME A “CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER”?

- ❑ It is the only legally recognized title for interior designers in California.
- ❑ Only Certified Interior Designers have proven their education, experience, and passed an examination relevant to California.
- ❑ Every Certified Interior Designer is required to sign and abide by the CCIDC Code of Ethics and Conduct when they apply, giving their promise of professionalism to their clients.
- ❑ Certification demonstrates a commitment to professional practice.
- ❑ Greater knowledge decreases risk of legal liability.
- ❑ Increased client confidence in your abilities.

2) WHAT IS CERTIFICATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS?

- ❑ “Certified Interior Designer” is the only legally recognized and protected title for interior designers in the state of California.
- ❑ In 1990 the California legislature passed a law creating Section 5800 of the Business & Professions Code, which in turn codified the title “Certified Interior Designer”.
- ❑ CCIDC is the responsible and recognized organization for certifying interior designers in the state of California.

3) WHAT IS A CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER (CID)?

(B&P Code [Section 5800](#))

A Certified Interior Designer is a competent design professional who may prepare and submit non-structural, non-seismic construction documents and specifications to local building departments for the purposes of plan check.

Certified Interior Designers have demonstrated through education, experience, and examination their knowledge of the California Building Code as it relates to space planning, life safety, flammability, and disabled access code issues, under the provisions of Chapter 3.9 of the Business & Professions Code, Section [5800-5812](#).



4) WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER?

(B&P Code [Section 5801](#))

A Certified Interior Designer must have completed:

1. Met one of the following minimum qualification requirements:
 - a. 80+ Semester Core Units from accredited design program (120+ Quarter Units) plus two years of diversified design experience.
 - b. 60 - 79 Semester Core Units from accredited design program (90+ Quarter Units) plus three years of diversified design experience.
 - c. 40 - 59 Semester Core Units from accredited design program (60+ Quarter Units) plus four years of diversified design experience.
 - d. Minimum eight years of diversified design experience, interior design education, or combination of both, that total eight years.
2. Upon proof of qualification, candidates must pass the IDEX® California examination specifically developed for certification based upon the California Building Code, Title 24, California laws and regulations as well as fulfilling one of the four categories above.

5) WHAT IS AN ACCREDITED INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM?

CCIDC, the Certification Board tasked to administer the Certified Interior Designers Title Act, accepts all accrediting agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education.



6) WHAT IS THE "IDEX® CALIFORNIA" EXAMINATION?

The IDEX® California is an examination specially developed for certification purposes in California and tests candidates specifically on the California Building Code (CBC) and Title 24 as well as ethics, business practices, and design standards, among other things.

7) WHY IS THE IDEX® CALIFORNIA REQUIRED, AND NOT A NATIONAL EXAMINATION?

None of the national examinations test for the California Building Code or Title 24, they test for codes that do not apply in California.

If the purpose of regulating a profession is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, then it stands to reason that the examination used in determining a candidates proficiency for such regulation be based upon the codes and regulations applicable to that state.

8) WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE THE IDEX® CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION?

The minimum education requirement is a two (2) year certificate or 40 semester units (60 quarter units) in the core subject of interior design, or for "experience only" candidates a minimum of five (5) years diversified interior design working experience based upon 36 hours per week, or a total of 9,000 hours.

9) HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE IDEX® CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION?

First you must apply to become a Certified Interior Designer so your education and/or work experience can be verified. The various applications are located under the [Candidates](#) menu on the CCIDC web site. You will register for the IDEX® California on the same application to become a Certified Interior Designer.

10) HOW IS THE IDEX® CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED?

The IDEX® California is an online examination given at multiple locations across California at proctored testing sites. It can also be taken at testing sites in other states. There is also a Live Remote Proctoring option available to take the IDEX® Examination in the privacy of your own home.

The examination is given twice a year, once in the spring (May) and once in the fall (October). The testing window for each sitting lasts for the entire month. When a candidate registers for the examination they are allowed to select their testing location and their testing date and time within the testing window.

11) HOW LONG IS THE EXAM?

The exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions and candidates are given three (3) hours to answer them. The purpose of the IDEX is to test the candidate's knowledge on codes and regulations as well as consumer safety and other issues as it relates to certification. Passage of the IDEX® California is in addition to the education and experience requirements defined in item 3 of this brochure and [Section 5801](#) of the B&P Code.

12) WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDEX® CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION?

[Information on the IDEX® California](#) examination posted under the [Candidates](#) menu on the CCIDC web site, including a free download of the official CCIDC study guide and applications.

Information posted on the CCIDC web site for third party [study materials and preparation classes](#).



13) WHO MAY REFER TO HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS A "CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER"

(B&P Code Sections [5812](#) & [5804](#))

Only persons who have met the education, experience, and examination requirements, and have been certified by the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC) may refer to themselves as a "Certified Interior Designer".

The title "Certified Interior Designer" is protected by law ([B&P Code Section 17200](#)) and it is considered an "unfair business practice" for any person to represent himself or herself as such unless they have complied with [Section 5800](#).

14) HOW IS A CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER IDENTIFIED?

(B&P Code [Section 5802](#))

Each Certified Interior Designer should affix a stamp and wet signature to all drawings, specifications, or documents prepared for submission. All documents shall be presented as interior design documents, not as architectural or engineering documents.

15) WHAT DOES THE CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER STAMP LOOK LIKE?

