

# IIDA

TENNESSEE  
chapter



## ADVOCACY GUIDE FOR TENNESSEE INTERIOR DESIGNERS



# ABOUT IIDA TENNESSEE

**197**

PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERS

**75**

STUDENT  
MEMBERS

**349**

TOTAL  
MEMBERS

IIDA TN provides meaningful resources to commercial interior designers and their clients to advance the profession and enhance business value. We are supported by three City Centers in East Tennessee, Nashville and Chattanooga.

Our vision is to support culture, enhance business value, solve problems, and positively impact the health and well-being of people's lives through a greater understanding of interior design.

We believe that through education, advocacy and meaningful connection to our design community we can continue advancing the profession in Tennessee.



# “Advocacy is everything.

Education is advocacy. Membership is advocacy. And every single one of us in the interior design industry, whether we are practicing in a firm or working for a manufacturer or teaching, is an advocate for our profession.”

Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA  
IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO



# EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION MATTER

**600** Number of NCIDQ Certificate holders **needed** based on population

**366** Current NCIDQ Certificate holders in Tennessee

**278** Registered Interior Designers in Tennessee



## WHY DOES REGISTRATION MATTER?

Registration shows consumers and clients that you have met the minimum standards to call yourself a RID. Clients can be assured you have the education, examination, and experience necessary to be a professional interior designer.

Additionally, registration laws gives consumers a venue for the redress of grievances and complaints against RIDs.

Numbers don't lie. If you want to enhance your state's interior design legislation, high numbers of RIDs show legislators that registration matters to the profession.

Registration shows that interior designers are registered design professionals on par with architects, landscape architects, and engineers for their specific area of expertise.

The background of the top half of the page features a close-up, high-angle view of several architectural blueprints spread out on a surface. The blueprints are detailed with technical drawings, including floor plans, walls, and various dimensions. Several white cylindrical objects, likely rolled-up documents or tubes, are scattered across the blueprints, some partially unrolled. The overall scene is in black and white, with a clean, professional aesthetic.

## HOW DO I GET REGISTERED?

The state of Tennessee requires an interior design degree from a Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) accredited program, at least two years of relevant & diverse interior design experience, and successful passage of the National Council of Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination.

Click [here](#) for more information about NCIDQ

Click [here](#) for more information about CIDA

Click [here](#) for more information about Tennessee's Registration Requirements



# ACCREDITED INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAMS IN TN

[East Tennessee State University, Johnson City](#)

[Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro](#)

[O'More School of Design at Belmont University, Nashville](#)

[The University of Memphis](#)

[University of Tennessee, Knoxville](#)

[University of Tennessee at Chattanooga](#)



# WHAT IS NCIDQ INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION?

## **What is NCIDQ Interior Design Certification?**

NCIDQ Certification is the industry's recognized indicator of proficiency in interior design principles and a designer's commitment to the profession.

## **The Value of NCIDQ Certification**

NCIDQ Certificate holders have proven their **expertise in understanding and applying current codes established to protect public health, safety, and welfare.**

Passage of the NCIDQ Examination is required for interior design licensure/registration in every regulated jurisdiction within the United States and Canada with the exception of California. It is the **only examination recognized by these state and provincial regulators and therefore required for the practice of many types of interior design.** Designers certified through the NCIDQ Exam gain wide industry visibility and recognition.

The strenuous requirements of the NCIDQ Exam give clients and employers added confidence in the caliber of work from NCIDQ Certified interior designers. The exam covers seven areas that capture the core competencies of interior design: **building systems, codes, construction standards, contract administration, design application, professional practice and project coordination.**

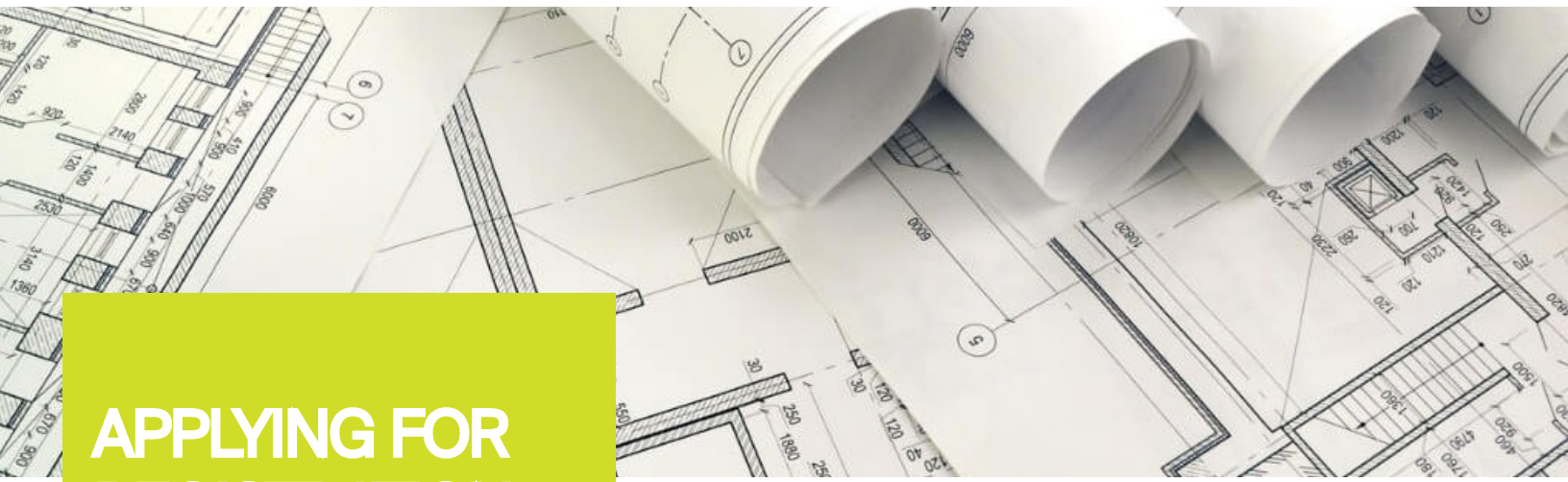
## **NCIDQ Certification Earned Through Examination**

To earn certification, qualified interior designers can apply to take the NCIDQ Exam. After CIDQ approves their eligibility, **candidates purchase and schedule each of the three sections of the exam and must pass each section within a specified time-frame.**

The three separate sections of the NCIDQ Exam are: the Fundamentals Exam (IDFX), the Professional Exam (IDPX), and the Practicum Exam (PRAC). **All three sections focus entirely on public health, safety, and welfare.**

To ensure the NCIDQ Exam tests interior designers' understanding of concepts crucial to the field, **CIDQ undertakes a practice analysis of the interior design profession every five to seven years.** The most recent practice analysis, completed in 2019, was based on information gathered through an online survey of more than 700 interior designers. A panel of experts in the field analyzed those results with our partners at our testing company and provided guidance on core competencies to cover.





# APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION

If you meet all of the requirements for registration and would like to apply, please click [here](#) then follow the instructions below:

- Architects & Engineers

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- Frequently Asked Questions

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- News and Information ▾

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- Licensee/Applicant Resources ▾

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- Public Meeting Information ▾

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- Rules & Laws ▾

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- Consumer Resources ▾

## Architects & Engineers

Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineer Examiners

[Apply / Renew License](#) [Verify a License](#)



**New Legislation Opens Licensure to Broader Field of Engineering and Architectural Professionals Starting July 1, 2022**

**Architects & Engineers 100th Anniversary**  
 Tennessee Board of Examiners for Architects and Engineers Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Board's Creation.

# Find Information About Regulated Professions and Activities

## Search by Profession, Regulation Name or Topic

- Simply search for either the profession name, regulation name or by a topic name. For example, if you're looking for a Cosmetologist license, you can search for "Cosmetologist" or even by a related term such as "hair".
- Results will include applications, renewals, verifications, reinstatements and more.
- Results will also include a list of requirements, fees and other important information associated with a regulation.
- The Regulatory Licenses currently available include those professions regulated and licensed within the Department of Commerce and Insurance, Division of Regulatory Boards, and the Department of Agriculture, Division of Consumer and Industry Services.

## Verify a License

Non-Health Professional Licenses

*for example: accountants, barbers, real estate firms*

Health Care Professional Licenses

*for example: pharmacist, psychologist, massage therapist*

Search Now

# Search for a License by Profession, License Name or Topic

Simply search for either the profession name, regulation name or by a topic name. For example, if you're looking for a Cosmetologist license, you can search for "Cosmetologist" or even by a related term such as "hair."

Registered Interior Designer  **Type 'Registered Interior Designer' into the search bar**

1 result found. Can't find what you are looking for or have a request?

**Registered Interior Designer**

- Apply**
- Renew
- Verify
- Reinstate
- Info

 **Then click 'Apply'**



Types of Licenses

Architects

Engineers

Engineer Interns

Landscape Architects

**Interior Designers**

Corporations, Partnerships and Firms

# Interior Designers

*Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners*

> [Student Information](#)

> [Registration Requirements for Initial Registration](#)

> [Registration Requirements for Registration By Reapplying](#)

[Forms and Downloads](#) [Fee Information](#)

**Click here to confirm you meet registration requirements**



## Licensee/Applicant Resources

Types of Licenses ▾

### Forms and Downloads

Fees

Renew a License

Continuing Education

Changing Registration Status

Change of Address or Employer

Is Your License Suspended?

Online Complaint Response Form

Newsletters

# Forms and Downloads

*Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners*

Fees Notice: Before submitting any application, be sure you have met the minimum education and experience requirements for registration, because the application fees are not refundable.

## Applications for Registration

- [Architects](#)
  - [Architects Application](#) [online]
- [Engineers](#)
  - [Engineers Application to Test](#) [online]
  - [Engineers Application by Comity](#) [online]
  - [Engineers Application by Reapplying](#) [online]
- [Engineer Interns](#) (for certification)
- [Interior Designers](#)
  - [Interior Designer Application](#) [online]
- [Landscape Architects](#)
  - [Landscape Architect Application](#) [online]



## Comprehensive Online Regulatory & Enforcement System

[Public Search](#) | [File a Complaint](#)  
[Need Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Thank you for visiting CORE! We expect the system to be down for maintenance every Thursday beginning at 5:15 p.m. CST for up to 30 minutes. If you need assistance, please call 615-741-2241. We are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.

### Returning User

\* \* \* are required.

\*User ID:

\*Password:

Sign In

[Forgot user ID?](#)  
[Forgot password?](#)

### New User

[Register a new account](#)



If you've never logged into the CORE system, register a new online account to manage your license, registration, or certification.



### Sign-up and manage your licenses

Welcome to the Comprehensive Online Regulatory and Enforcement System. If you are a new user and wish to use this system, please select the "Register a new account" link on the left hand side of your screen.

If you have forgotten your user ID or password, select the appropriate link on the left hand side of your screen to recover your account.

### Notices

[Solicitation for individuals interested in providing electrical or building inspection services on behalf of the State.](#)

### Video Tutorials

[New Account](#)  
[New Application](#)  
[License Renewal](#)  
[Purchase Electrical Permit](#)  
[Purchase Residential Building Permit](#)  
[Authorized User Function](#)

THIS SYSTEM IS FOR AUTHORIZED USE ONLY!

Use of this system constitutes consent to monitoring, interception, recording, reading, copying or capturing by authorized personnel of all activities. There is no right to privacy in this system. Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Secure System

**THANK YOU!**  
**ANY QUESTIONS?**



**CONTACT US :**  
**[advocacy@iida-tn.org](mailto:advocacy@iida-tn.org)**