

Computerizing the NCIDQ Examination

The NCIDQ Certification is the mark of a professional interior designer. In order to earn the NCIDQ Certification, one must first pass all three sections of the rigorous NCIDQ Examination. Each section of the exam contains content to measure the core competencies of interior design in regards to public health, safety and well-being. The first two sections of the exam are currently computerized, but now CIDQ is embarking on the process of computerizing the practical portion of the exam.

This section, known as PRAC, is hand-sketched and made up of seven independent exercises. With the current realities of the profession and how technology is being utilized, CIDQ has aimed to computerize the Practicum section of the exam. Despite being an expensive and time-intensive project, in 2014 we laid important groundwork in several ways. We synthesized our research and recommendations from other organizations. We developed a timeline for getting the computerized section up and running. We engaged the services of a vendor who specializes in these types of computerized practical exams. And we convened a task force to help us change practicum questions written for a paper exam into questions appropriate for a computer-based exam.

In 2015 we will address typical defensible examination processes such as how to test and validate the revised questions that will be used, and customize the current software to the needs of an interior design certification examination. We expect to administer the first computerized Practicum in the spring of 2017. This final piece of examination computerization will begin to allow for opportunities to administer the NCIDQ Examination globally.