



Council for
Interior Design
Qualification

Overview of the NCIDQ Exam



@NCIDQexam



CIDQ

NCIDQ
Examination

Topics that we will go over today

IMPORTANT

Why is the
NCIDQ
important?

Application
Process

- Eligibility Paths –
Education + Work
Experience

Dates, Deadlines,
and Fees

Exam Information

- Basics and
Exam Blueprints

Studying and
Scoring the
NCIDQ exam

Jurisdictional
Requirements

Continuing
Education

For all
information
and questions,
please visit
www.cidq.org.

Why is the NCIDQ Certification Important?

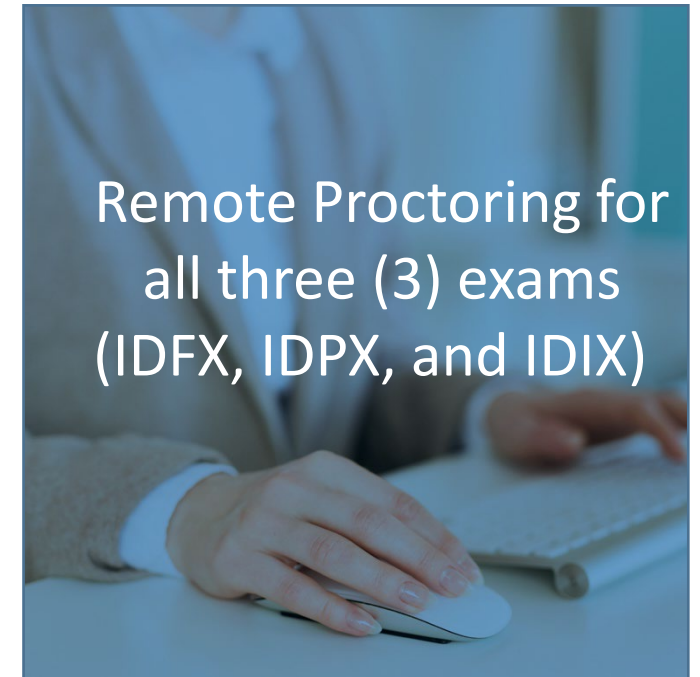
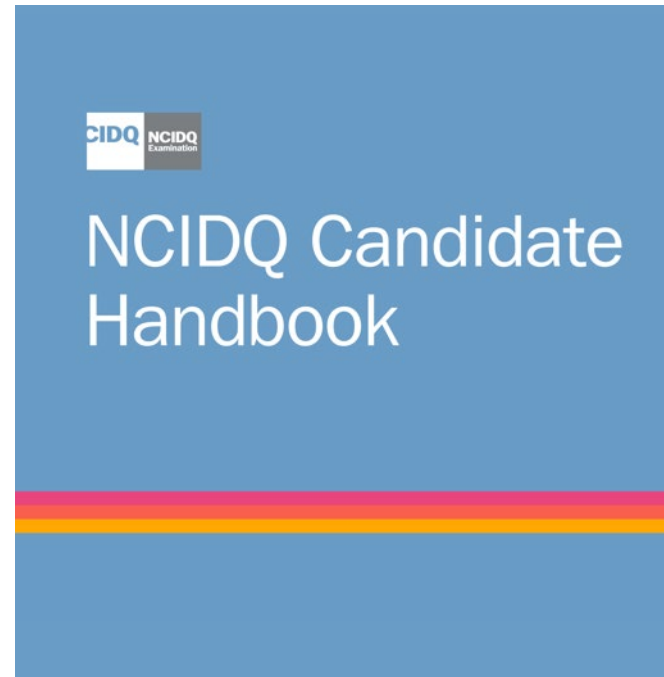
- Industry Standard
- Differentiator
- Recognized by nearly all regulated jurisdictions in Canada and the United States
- Increased Salary Potential

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a median salary for interior designers as \$61,590, while the estimated median salary for NCIDQ certificate holders is \$70-\$125,000

SOURCE: ASID 2024 COMPENSATION & BENEFITS REPORT

News You Can Use

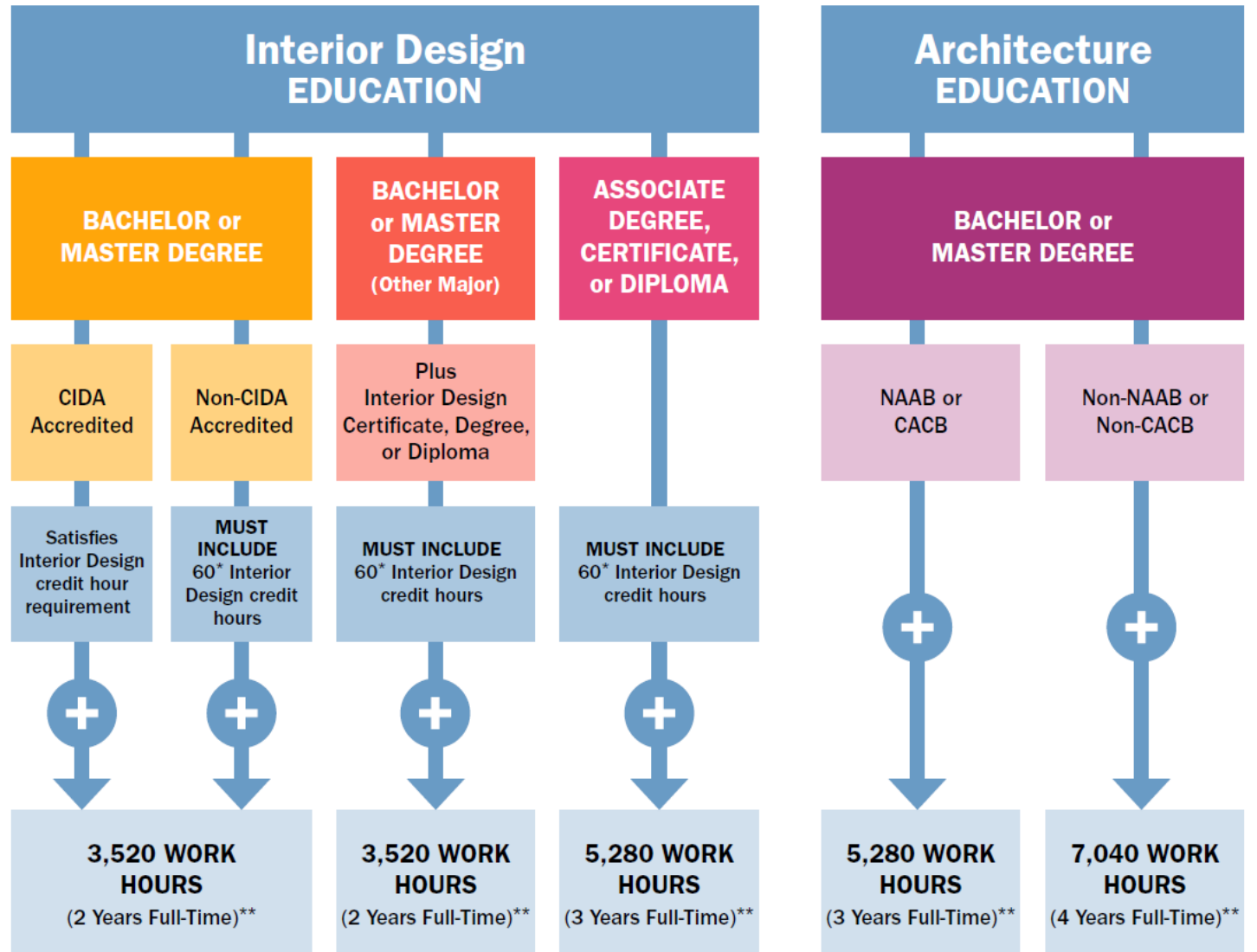
IMPORTANT



Application Process and Requirements

Eligibility Paths

For full eligibility paths and work experience requirements, visit www.cidq.org/paths.



*60 semester or 90 quarter Interior Design credit hours

**Up to 1,760 hours of interior design work experience, earned prior to graduation, may be included in overall work experience total.

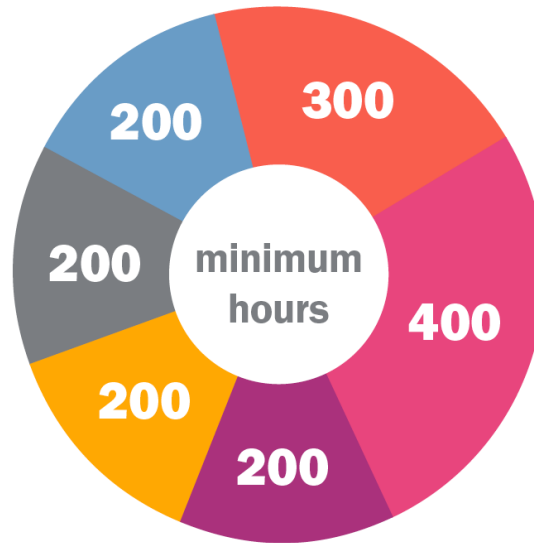
Work Experience Requirements

Minimum hours will be required in each of the following categories for all candidates:

Programming/Pre-Design
200 HOURS

Schematic Design
200 HOURS

Contract Administration
200 HOURS



Design Development
300 HOURS

Construction Documents
400 HOURS

Professional Practice
200 HOURS

Application Requirements

NEW! APPLICATION VIDEO:
www.cidq.org/apply

IDFX ONLY

- Request school to email official transcript(s) to CIDQ directly at transcripts@cidq.org (preferred method) or mail in sealed, official transcript(s).
- Pay application fee and submit.

PLUS apply for IDPX/IDIX (*after approval of IDFX ONLY and completion of work experience*)

- Request school to email official transcript(s) to CIDQ directly at transcripts@cidq.org (preferred method) or mail in sealed, official transcript(s).
- Have work verification verified by a supervisor/sponsor who meets CIDQ requirements.
- Pay application fee and submit.

OR

All Three (3) Sections of Exam (IDFX, IDPX, IDIX)

- Request school to email official transcript(s) to CIDQ directly at transcripts@cidq.org (preferred method) or mail in sealed, official transcript(s).
- Have work verification verified by a supervisor/sponsor who meets CIDQ requirements.
- Pay application fee and submit.

Fees

Fees if Applying in Two Parts*

Total 14 exam administrations

Application Fee	Exams	Exam Fee	Exam Pay & Scheduling Period
\$100	IDFX	\$305	Spring: January 3 – March 31 Fall: July 1 – September 30
\$150	IDIX	\$470	
	IDPX	\$365	

Fees if Applying for all Three (3) Exam Sections-

Total 10 exam administrations

Application Fee	Exams	Exam Fee	Exam Pay & Scheduling Period
\$235	IDFX	\$305	Spring: January 3 – March 31 Fall: July 1 – September 30
	IDIX	\$470	
	IDPX	\$365	

*Candidates who do not meet the work experience requirement and apply for the IDFX Only first must submit another application for the IDPX/IDIX once the work experience requirements have been met.

** All fees are payable in U.S. Dollars. Application fees are non-refundable. Payments are made through Authorize.net, the designated payment gateway, using candidate's MyNCIDQ account. We do not accept check payments.



Fees Explained

Application Fee:

Paid to submit
application for review

Exam Fee:

Paid to purchase an
exam for upcoming
exam administration.

Paying this fee allows an
approved applicant to
schedule an exam
appointment for that exam
administration.

Exam fees are valid for the current exam
administration only and do not carry forward.

Dates and Deadlines

	SPRING EXAMS	FALL EXAMS
Applications Accepted	August 1 – January 31 DEADLINE: JANUARY 31*	February 1 – July 31 DEADLINE: JULY 31*
Exam Payment & Scheduling Period	January 3 – March 31	July 1 – September 30
Exam Administration	April 1 – 30	October 1 – 31

*A complete application must be submitted by the application deadline date to be eligible for review for the upcoming exam administration.

Scheduling

Exam Window	April October
Cancellations	\$100/exam
Rescheduling	May be done for current administration only; fees do apply
Unscheduled & Uncancelled	Subject to full forfeiture of exam fee

Questions?

The NCIDQ Exam- Exam Basics and Blueprints

Exam Basics

The NCIDQ Exam consists of 3 separate sections/exams

FORMAT:

All three (3) exams will have-
Multiple Choice, Hot Spot, Drag and Place, and Fill in the blank

Exam Name	Number of Questions	Duration
IDFX	115*	3 hours
IDIX (formerly PRAC)	130*	4 hours
IDPX	115*	3 hours

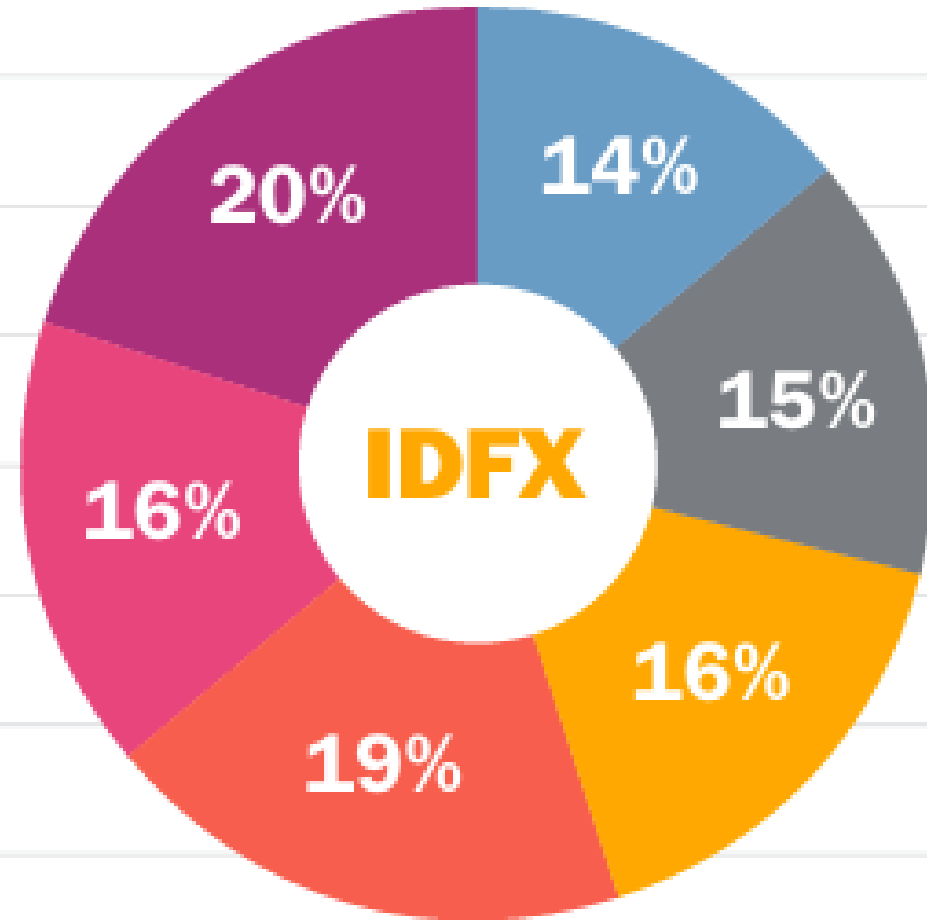
*All three (3) exams contain 15 unscored pre-test questions.

IDFX

Fundamentals Exam

IDFX EXAM CONTENT AREAS

- I. Existing Conditions 14%
- II. Pre-Design 15%
- III. Programming 16%
- IV. Space Planning 19%
- V. Preliminary FF&E and Finishes 16%
- VI. Schematics 20%

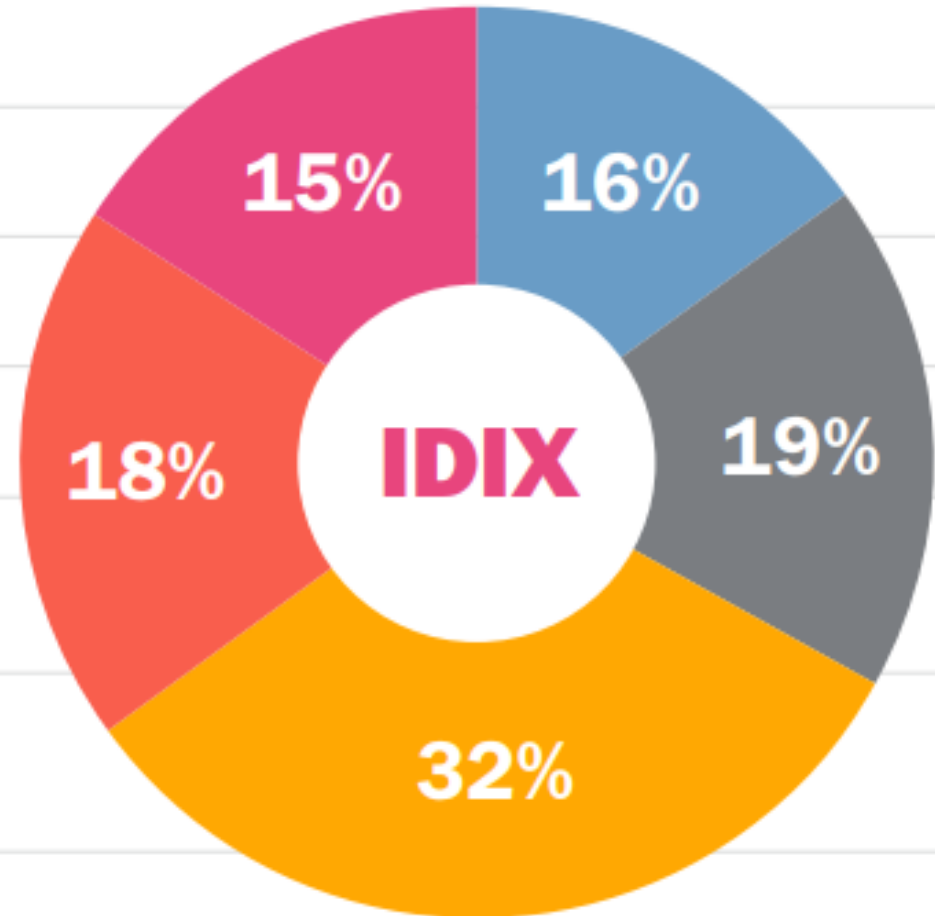


IDIX

Implementation Exam

IDIX EXAM CONTENT AREAS

- I. Codes and Life Safety 16%
- II. Integration and FF&E 19%
- III. Construction Documents 32%
- IV. Consultant Drawing Coordination 18%
- V. Construction Specifications and Schedules 15%

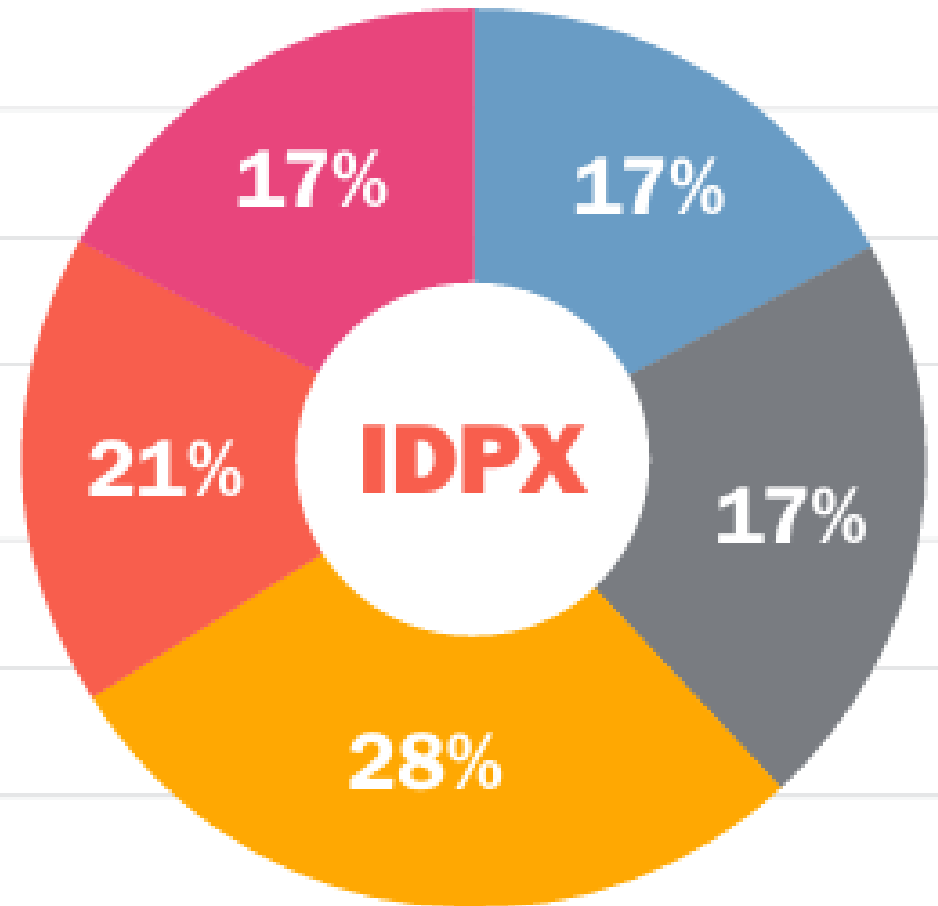


IDPX

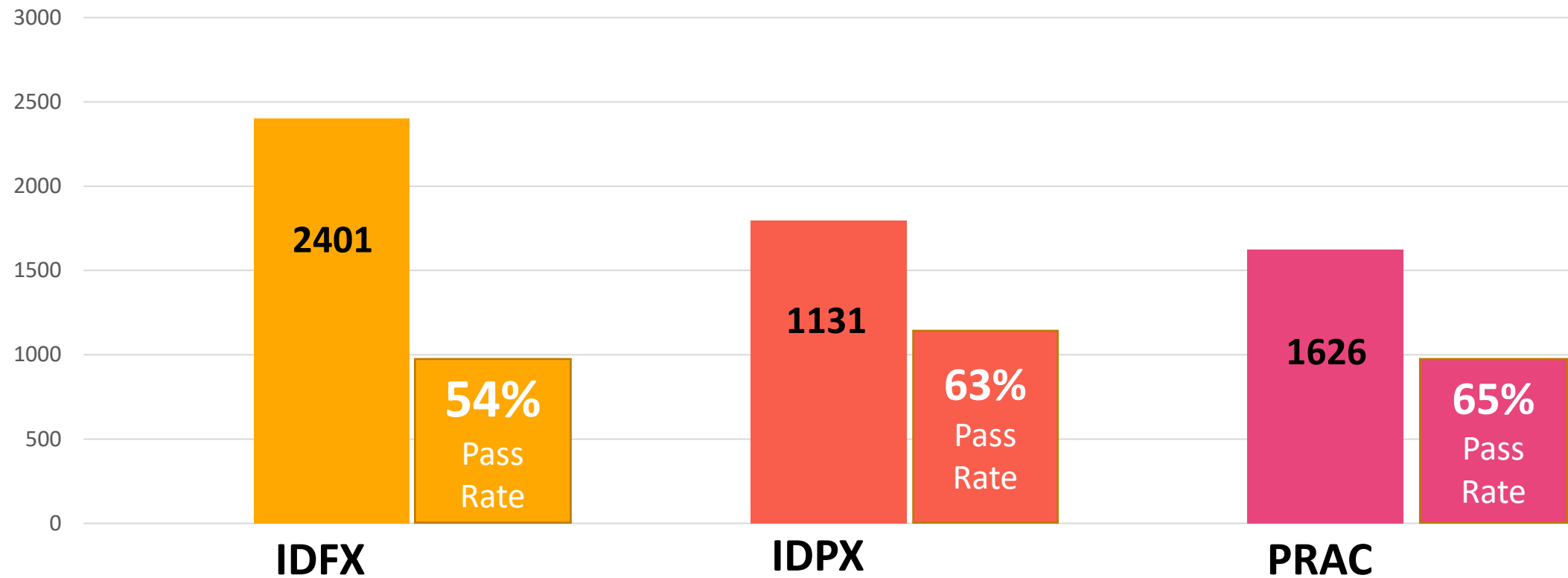
Professional Exam

IDPX EXAM CONTENT AREAS

- I. Feasibility Studies 17%
- II. Scheduling and Budgeting 17%
- III. Contracts, Procurement, and Permitting 28%
- IV. Construction Process 21%
- V. Site Observation and Close-Out 17%



2025 Exams Administered + Passing Rates



Questions?

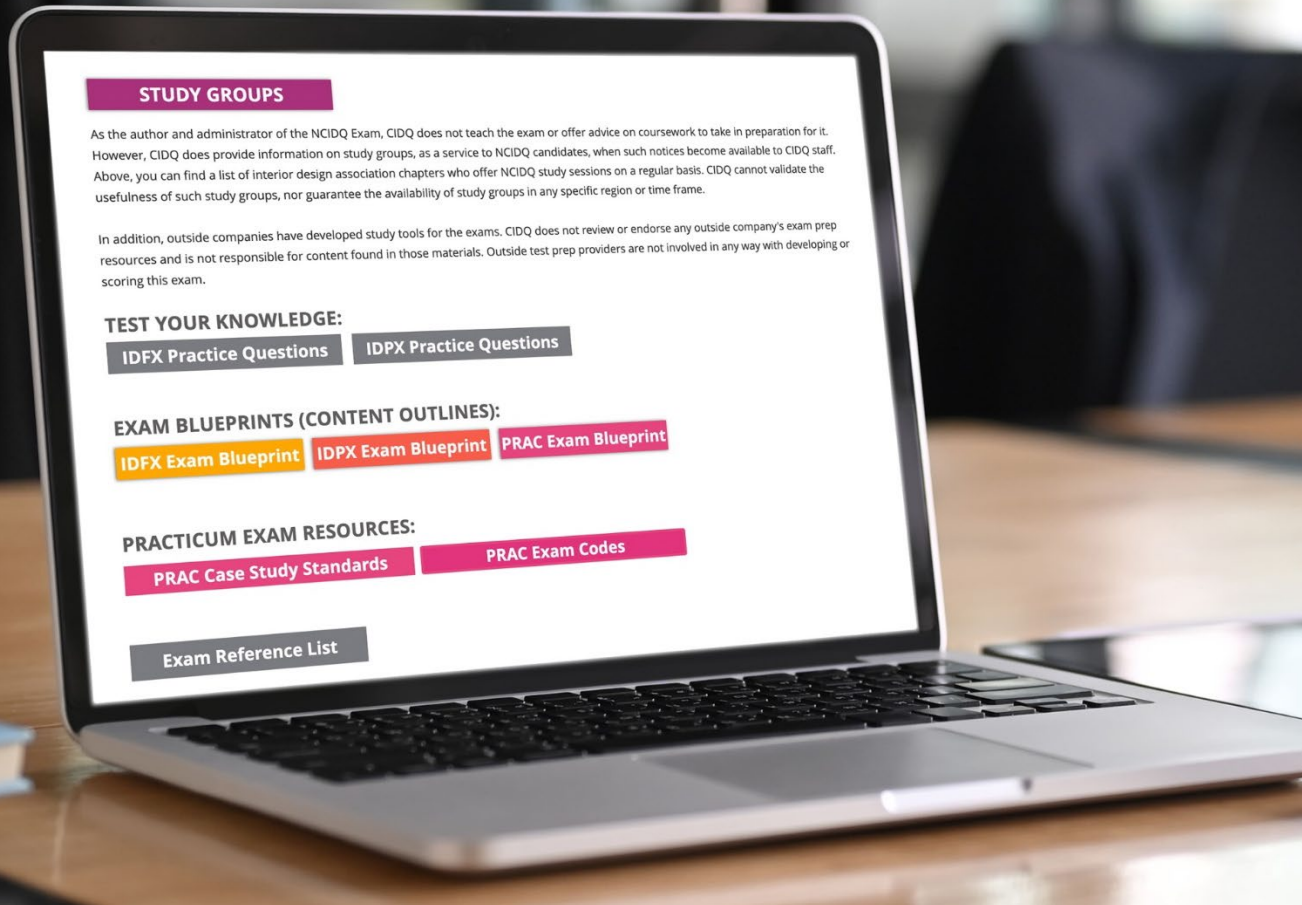
Studying and Scoring the NCIDQ exam

Reference Standards

- IBC 2021, IRC 2021, and the related 2017 Accessibility Code
- Knowledge of when certain standards need to be referenced, including but not limited to:
 - ASHRAE, ASTM, BIFMA, ETL, OSHA, UL
- Conceptual Knowledge of:
 - ANSI, NEC, NFPA



Studying for the Exams



Online NCIDQ Exam Study Resources

- Exam Blueprints (Content Outlines)
- IDFX & IDPX Practice Questions
- IDIX Exam Codes
- Study Group Information

CIDQ does not teach the exam or offer advice on coursework to take in preparation for it nor does it review or endorse any outside company's exam prep resources.

Score Reports

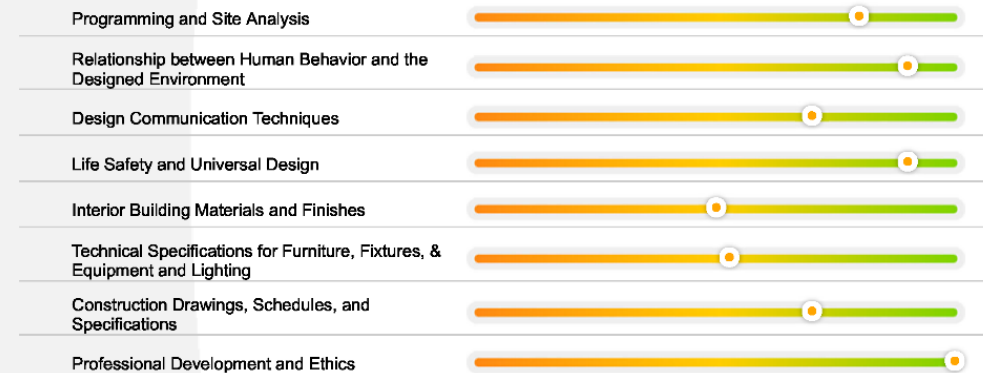


Test Date: Oct 01, 2021

Interior Design Fundamentals Exam

Congratulations! A preliminary analysis of your test results show that you successfully achieved the passing standard for the IDFX Examination. After the final quality control review of all scores has been performed, notification of the posting of your official examination results report, within your secure MyNCIDQ account, will be sent to you via email approximately 6 weeks after the close of the current exam window.

Your score is reported as a scaled score. The passing standard is 500. A diagnostic analysis of your performance in each domain/content area is shown below.



The NCIDQ Examination is comprised of three sections: 1) Interior Design Fundamentals Exam (IDFX), 2) Interior Design Professional Exam (IDPX), and 3) Practicum (PRAC). Candidates must pass all three sections of the exam in order to satisfy the NCIDQ Examination requirements and become NCIDQ Certified. For more information, visit www.cidq.org.

Jurisdictional Requirements and Maintaining the NCIDQ credential

Continuing Education

STAY ACTIVE TO:

- Use the NCIDQ appellation to display your professionalism, expertise, and commitment
- Obtain the NCIDQ [digital badge](#)
- Be included in the [public directory](#) available to prospective clients
- Have your verified information provided to any regulatory board you wish
- Be eligible for CIDQ leadership opportunities
- Support the ongoing development and integrity of the NCIDQ Examination
- Promote the respected NCIDQ Certification that distinguishes you as a **highly qualified interior designer**



Professional Organizations- Opportunities



Certification

Why it matters:

- Professionalism
- Prestige
- Opportunity
- Eligibility
- Leadership



THANK YOU!



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LinkedIn

Questions?