

What's Your Pre-Licensure Title in Delaware?

Delaware statutes prohibit a person who is not licensed as an architect from not only practicing or offering to practice architecture in the state, but also from otherwise holding themselves out to the public as being an architect, or use in connection with their name, or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description intending to convey the impression that the person is an architect.

Delaware Code, Title 24, Section 303(a) states, in part, that: "No person shall engage in the practice of architecture in this State or otherwise hold oneself out to the public as being an architect, or use in connection with the person's name, or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description intending to convey the impression that the person is an architect, unless such person has a certificate of registration."

This has been consistently interpreted to prohibit an unlicensed individual from holding themselves out as a "residential architect", "interior architect" or "architectural designer" and from using similar titles that include "architect" or derivative terms such as "architectural".

Certain titles are allowed by the state of Delaware, but "Architectural Associate" is NOT one of them.

The Term "Intern"

- **AIA:** The American Institute of Architects (AIA) supports the title of "intern" for students who are working in an architectural office while actively pursuing architecture degrees in programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), or studying in pre-professional programs.

AIA supports the title of "Architectural Associate" or "Design Professional" for those who 1) have earned a degree from a program accredited by NAAB, or who have met education / experience requirements in their jurisdiction AND 2) are participating in the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' Architectural Experience Program or are meeting their jurisdictions' experience requirements. (Refer to the [AIA Directory of Public Policies and Position Statements](#), Section I. The Architect, D. Future of the Profession, 4 Pre-Licensure Titling, December 2016.)

- **NCARB:** The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) retired the use of the term "intern" to describe those who are working to become architects versus those who are already licensed architects and the Intern Development Program was renamed the Architectural Experience Program, effective June 29, 2016 while preserving the title "architect" for licensed persons. NCARB refers to those working toward architectural licensure as "aspiring architects" or "exam candidates".
- **Jurisdiction Licensing Boards:** The licensing board of each jurisdiction has the authority to prescribe terminology for unlicensed professionals in their jurisdiction.

Pre-Licensure Titles Permitted in Delaware

- **State of Delaware:** Delaware's Architecture statute (law) section 303(b)(15), indicates individuals currently employed under the responsible control of an architect, and who maintain in good standing a NCARB record may use the title "intern architect" or "architectural intern" in conjunction with the person's current employment.

Businesses are encouraged to ensure that titles used in business and on business/marketing collateral comply with jurisdictional statutes and related administrative rules.

Helpful Links:

[Delaware Architecture Statute](#) (license law)

[Delaware Architecture Rules & Regulations](#)