

## Requirements to become Registered

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### Education & Experience Required:

Minimum College Education: 2 years  
Total Education + Experience: 6 years

### Examination Required: NCIDQ

[www.ncidq.org](http://www.ncidq.org)



### Interior Design Examining Board

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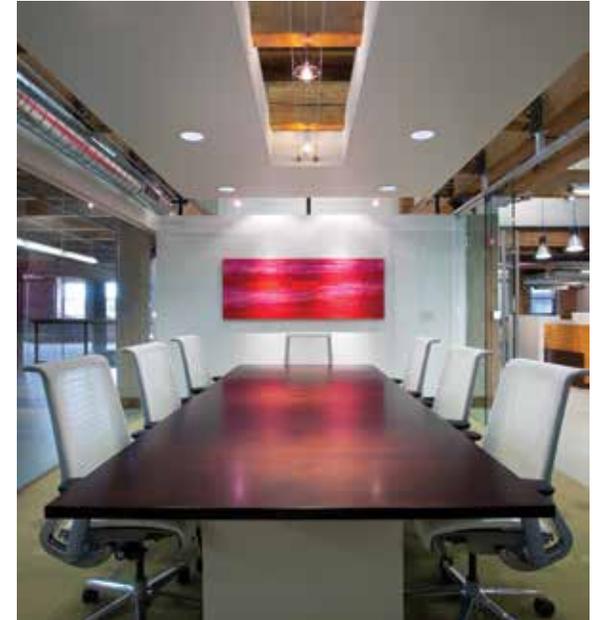
Take the first step towards becoming  
a Registered Interior Designer

Visit

[www.plb.iowa.gov](http://www.plb.iowa.gov)

Iowa Interior Design Examining Board  
200 East Grand Avenue, Suite 350  
Des Moines, IA 50309

About the title  
**REGISTERED  
INTERIOR DESIGNER**



### Why regulate professions?

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The 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives states the powers not delegated to the federal government. Under this framework, states regulate professions that impact the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Professional regulations set a minimum level of competencies required to safely practice a profession.

## Iowa Interior Design Title Act

In July of 2005, Iowa became one of a growing number of states to grant legal status to the interior design profession as a means to protect the health, welfare and safety of people living and working in their states. The Iowa Interior Design Title Act allows individuals the right to call themselves “Registered Interior Designers” after meeting the required formal interior design education, experience, and passage of the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) examination.

### The Title:

#### “Registered Interior Designer”

A title act regulates the use of a title, such as Iowa’s “Registered Interior Designer”. Iowa’s title act does not require individuals to become registered to practice interior design. In other words, a designer can practice interior design and provide interior design services in Iowa without being registered. However, that designer cannot advertise or represent oneself as a “Registered Interior Designer”. This provides the public the benefit of an identifiable choice when hiring an interior designer. Consumers can be confident that an Iowa “Registered Interior Designer” has met a minimum level of professional qualifications.

### Definition of Interior Design

Under Iowa’s title act, “interior design” is defined as the design of interior spaces including the preparation of documents relating to space planning, finish materials,

furnishings, fixtures, and equipment, and the preparation of documents relating to interior construction that does not affect the mechanical or structural systems of a building. “Interior design” does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or the practice of professional engineering.  
[Iowa Code, Section 544C.1]

### Benefits to Professionals

- **Achieve** recognition among professionals in Iowa and across the country in demonstrating your support of increasing public awareness of interior design as a profession that requires education, experience, and examination.
- **Identification** as a “registered design professional”, which is defined in the International Building Code as “an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration law of the state in which the project is being constructed.”
- **Reciprocity** in other states that have legislation regulating interior designers. Minnesota, Missouri, and Illinois are adjoining states that also regulate the interior design profession.
- **Maximize the value** of your professional services by demonstrating your commitment to the profession and community by identifying your professional qualifications.

## How does the public benefit from Iowa’s Title Act?

- Better identification of the qualifications of interior designers.
- Assurance that an Iowa “Registered Interior Designer” can make informed choices regarding safety codes, suitability of products and finishes, and the maintenance of healthy and functional interior environments that promote the wellbeing of occupants.
- Take advantage of broader choice in the selection of design services from registered interior designers who provide better quality and increased accountability.

**For a list of Registered Interior Designers in Iowa, visit**  
<https://iowaplbf.force.com/LicenseSearchPage>

## Why is continuing education required for Interior Designers?

The Iowa Interior Design Examining Board is committed to the enhancement of the health, safety and well-being of the public which is supported through continuing education.

## What are the continuing education requirements for maintaining registration?

Within a biennial renewal period, ten (10) contact hours must be successfully completed in health, safety, and welfare (HSW) subjects and acquired in structured educational activities.