



National Standard of Competency for Architects

The National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA) establishes the standard for architectural education and assessment of professional competency prior to registration as an architect in Australia.

competencystandardforarchitects.aaca.org.au

National Program of Assessment

The National Program of Assessment is a competency based assessment which provides a pathway to the Architectural Practice Examination for those who have substantial skills and experience in the architectural profession but do not have an accredited qualification in architecture or overseas equivalent.

R Regulatory


S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

 Critical Domain

 Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **4** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

1. Design: Project briefing



S

1.1 Preparation & endorsement of an agreement between client and Architect. This agreement will clearly communicate terms, services to be provided, and fees appropriate for the scale and type of project.



A

1.2 Establishment, analysis and evaluation of client project requirements and objectives.



1.3 Assessment of project budget and timeframe against project requirements and objectives.



A

1.4 Identification of factors that may impact on client project requirements and objectives.



S

1.5 Knowledge of different procurement processes available and evaluation of the impact these have on the project.



1.6 Selection and presentation to clients and relevant stakeholders of procurement method for the project.



A

1.7 Preparation of project brief for approval by client and relevant stakeholders.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 3 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

2. Design: Pre-Design



A

2.1 Identification, analysis and integration of information relevant to siting of project.



A

2.2 Application of principles controlling planning, development and design for the project site.



S

2.3 Evaluation of factors influencing and impacting on project cost.



2.4 Analysis of project brief in relation to clients objective budget and timeframe.



2.5 Attainment of approval from client of project budget and timeframe.



A

2.6 Preparation and analysis of project development options in response to project brief.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 3 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

3. Design: Conceptual Design



A

3.1 Design response integrates the objectives of brief, user intent and built purpose.



A

3.2 Application of creative imagination, aesthetic judgement and critical evaluation in formulating design options.



A

3.3 Design response incorporates assessment of the physical location and relevant wider regional, contextual and environmental issues.



A

3.4 Design response incorporates assessment of relevant legislation, codes and industry standards.



A

3.5 Exploration and application of ordering, sequencing and modelling of three-dimensional form and spatial content.



S

3.6 Assessment of the economic impact on the project of design strategies and options.



A

3.7 Assessment and integration of construction systems and materials consistent with project brief.



A

3.8 Application of manual and digital graphic techniques and modelling to describe three-dimensional form and spatial relationships.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 3 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

4. Design: Schematic Design



A

4.1 Evaluation of design options in relation to project requirements.



A

4.2 Evaluation of design options against values of physical, environmental and cultural contexts.



A

4.3 Application of creative imagination aesthetic judgement to produce coherent design



S

4.4 Inclusion of expertise of relevant specialists and consultants in developing the project design.



A

4.5 Investigation and integration of appropriate structural, construction, service and transport systems in the project design.



A

4.6 Investigation and integration of appropriate material selection for the project design.



A

4.7 Coordination and integration of appropriate environmental systems, including for thermal comfort, lighting and acoustics.



4.8 Analysis of schematic design in regard to cost planning and timeframe to comply with client and project requirements.



A

4.9 Obtain approval for the design from client and and/or relevant stakeholders.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 4 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

5. Documentation: Detailed Design



A

5.1 Application of creative imagination and aesthetic judgement in producing a resolved project design in regard to site planning, physical composition and spatial planning as appropriate to the project brief.



A

5.2 Resolution of project design addressing all building occupancy and functional aspects including spatial requirements and relationships and circulation aspects.



A

5.3 Evaluation and integration of regulatory requirements.



A

5.4 Integration of structural and construction systems in resolved project design.



A

5.5 Integration of materials and components based upon an understanding of their physical properties.



A

5.6 Integration of relevant technical services, environmental and transportation systems.



5.7 Resolution of project design to address budget and time constraints.



A

5.8 Presentation of detailed design to facilitate relevant client and stakeholder approvals.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 4 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

6. Documentation: Documentation



S

6.1 Identification and adoption of a strategy, program and process of documentation integrated through all project stages to enable project delivery.



S

6.2 Continuing coordination and integration of information and project material from relevant consultants, specialists and suppliers.



6.3 Incorporation of the project requirements and objectives in accordance with Project Brief and approved Detailed Design.



6.4 Timely completion and communication of accurate and comprehensible documents that will include, as required, drawings, models, specifications, schedules and other relevant modes of information.



6.5 Nomination of quality and performance standards with regard to selected materials, finishes, fittings components and systems.



6.6 Identification and description within the project documentation of the type and scope of separate project trades and sub-contractors as required.



6.7 Establishment of quality assurance systems to ensure consistency and completeness of project documentation in accordance with the requirement for the project brief, project timeframe and project budget.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

● Critical Domain

● Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the 3 level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment



6.8 Project documentation is in accordance with, and appropriate to, the project contract and project procurement procedure.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

Critical Domain

Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **4** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

7. Project Delivery: Procurement

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.1 Identification of available procurement methods and assessment of relevance and application to the project.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.2 Selection of procurement method incorporates assessment of the impact on all phases of project including design, documentation and project delivery.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.3 Selection of procurement method incorporates assessment of the impact on contractual arrangements between all project stakeholders.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.4 Selection of procurement method incorporates assessment of the impact on selection, contracting and scope of work of consultants and specialist service providers.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.5 Preparation of report and recommendations to enable client to make approval of procurement method and all associated contracts.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7.6 Knowledge and application of all administration and principles for the selected procurement method and associated contracts.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

☒ Critical Domain

☐ Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **4** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

8. Project Delivery: Construction Stage

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.1 Selection process for appropriately qualified contractors is in accordance with procurement method and project contract.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.2 Recommendation regarding contractor selection and specifics of project contract are made to the client for their approval.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.3 Identification and application of the process and administration systems needed to fulfil all obligations under project contract.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.4 Construction progress and quality is systematically reviewed and monitored as required under the contract provisions.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.5 Identification and application of all relevant processes required for certification of monetary claims, project variations, extensions of time, project instructions or other administrative responsibilities under the contract provisions.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.6 Monitoring project requirements and objectives as described in project documents are met.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8.7 Identification and application of appropriate and consistent systems for record keeping and maintenance of document revisions.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

☒ Critical Domain

☐ Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **4** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment



8.8 Ensure that warranties, schedules, as built documentation, certificates, approvals and other project information are completed and handed to the client and relevant authorities as required under the contract.



8.9 Undertake post occupancy evaluation if required under the scope of the project agreement.

- R** Regulatory
- S** Social & Ethical
- E** Environmentally Sustainable
- D** Disciplinary
- C** Communication

- Critical Domain
- Necessary Domain

- K** Knowledge acquisition
- S** Skills acquisition
- A** Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

- 1** Architectural Practice Examination Logbook
- 2** Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper
- 3** Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **3** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment

R S E D C

9. Practice Management



9.1 Knowledge and implementation of appropriate practice model to ensure efficient, effective and ethical professional service.



9.2 Knowledge and application of practice resources required to ensure efficient and effective professional service.



9.3 Identification and application of practice systems and quality management systems to facilitate efficient and timely delivery of architectural services in accordance with project objectives.



9.4 Establishment of project team and practice structures required to deliver the professional services in a timely manner.



9.5 Knowledge of the legal and ethical obligations relating to copyright and intellectual property requirements.



9.6 Knowledge and application of professional ethics and ethical practices in respect to practice management and provision of professional service.



9.7 Knowledge of legal and regulatory requirements and obligations in regard to architectural practice, practice management and registration as an architect.



9.8 Clear and consistent communication with client and relevant stakeholders throughout project.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

Critical Domain

Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **A** level

Program level required

National Program of Assessment



9.9 Provision of independent and objective advice through all phases of professional practice.

R Regulatory

S Social & Ethical

E Environmentally Sustainable

D Disciplinary

C Communication

Critical Domain

Necessary Domain

K Knowledge acquisition

S Skills acquisition

A Application of Knowledge & Skills in architectural practice

1 Architectural Practice Examination Logbook

2 Architectural Practice Examination National Exam Paper

3 Architectural Practice Examination Interview

All required Architectural Practice Examination competencies are at the **4** level