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**June 10, 2017**

**Attention** : **Elie G. Haddad, PhD**  
*Professor in Architecture*  
*Dean of the School of Architecture & Design*  
Lebanese American University  
Beirut/Byblos- Lebanon

**Subject** : **IDP, AXP, and Professional Practice Implementation Report**

**References** : NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit 2015 – San Diego, California, USA

Dear Dr. Haddad,

Please find enclosed a report summarizing the IDP, AXP, as well as the Professional Practice Implementation as part of the process for meeting the NAAB accreditation requirements.

I will be available for discussion as needed.

Sincerely,

**Roger Skaff, AIA, NCARB.**



Member of the Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects.



Member of the American Institute Of Architects.



Roger SKAFF, AIA, NCARB.

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**IDP, AXP,  
&  
Professional Practice  
Implementation  
2015 - 2017**

**Report**

**Date:**  
June 09, 2017



Member of the Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects.



Member of the American Institute Of Architects.

Page 2 of 7



**Table of Contents**

A. Executive Summary..... 4

B. IDP Implementation – Summer 2015..... 5

C. NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit – San Diego, July 2015..... 5

D. IDP to AXP ..... 6

E. AXP Implementation – Summer 2017..... 6

F. Students IDP/AXP Records..... 6

G. NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit – Chicago, July 2017 ..... 7

H. IDP/AXP Models at LAU ..... 7





## A. Executive Summary

As part of the NAAB Accreditation process, the preparation for introducing the IDP program at LAU started in the beginning of Academic Year 2014-2015.

In Spring 2015, Roger Skaff initiated The Internship Development Program (IDP) and developed the required implementation procedures. Reporting forms simulating the NCARB IDP review process replaced the existing evaluation forms for Summer 2015 internship and continued through Summer 2016 internship.

After attending the 2015 Licensing Advisors Summit, Roger Skaff started the process of transitioning from IDP to AXP. The reporting forms have been revised to reflect the newly adopted six (6) Experience Areas instead of the previous seventeen (17) Practice Categories. AXP reporting forms have been put in use for Summer 2017 internship.

There are currently three (3) LAU students with AXP records. Students who have potential plans for practicing either in the USA or internationally are currently considering it.

In Fall 2015, Roger Skaff started teaching Professional Practice based on the Architect AIA Handbook for Professional practice and taking into consideration the concerns discussed during the NCARB Summit workshop. This includes emphasizing Code of Ethics, Cost Estimation, Life Cycle Analysis... In Spring 2017, the Professional Practice II course has started, addressing Zoning Analysis, Code Issues, and Life Safety, and Accessibility.

Roger Skaff is scheduled to represent LAU in the upcoming 2017 NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit, to be held in Chicago.





## **B. IDP Implementation – Summer 2015**

In March 2015, a new Internship Reporting Form (Appendix 1) was created and made ready by early March for Department Chair's review. The form was granted final approval around beginning of June 2015.

Then a workshop was held to introduce the new IDP at LAU to students and faculty.

All the IDP components were explicitly highlighted and discussed.

The new Reporting Form was also introduced as a draft for the students to be more aware of the new Internship outcome.

The IDP Criteria was then considered ready for implementation. Therefore, the LAU Internship program for Summer 2015 was planned and enforced as such.

## **C. NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit – San Diego, July 2015**

The NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit 2015 gathered four of its committees and the Special Task Force for its annual Committee Summit in San Diego, California on Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>, Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>, and Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Roger Skaff represented LAU in this summit.

The sessions introduced Streamlining (overlap in the Education + Internship processes) and Integration (overlap in the Internship + Examination components), which cut the licensure time to around 7.9 years from graduation to completion of the ARE, instead of 13+ years.

In a workshop around Professional Practice, professors from different US universities shared their challenges with the rest of the participants.

Highlights to the IDP and Professional Practice topics have been presented to LAU faculty and Advisory Committee in order to take action in all related recommendations.





## **D. IDP to AXP**

In May 2016, Roger Skaff presented the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and its components to Faculty and Advisory Committee.

The realignment of the IDP seventeen (17) Experience Areas (current at that time) into the six (6) Experience Areas of the AXP (new at that time) were also highlighted.

Transitioning from IDP to AXP and related calculators were demonstrated for information. Carrying IDP hours by students from previous internships were notably limited cases. This has led to considering the implementation of the AXP model in a relatively short time, and without any transitioning or training hours calculation issues.

## **E. AXP Implementation – Summer 2017**

In March 2017, a new Internship Reporting Form reflecting the NCARB AXP model (Appendix 2) was created for use in Summer 2017 internship.

A workshop was held in May 2017 to introduce AXP to LAU students. Faculty was also invited. All the AXP components were explicitly highlighted and discussed. This included a demonstration of the new form and procedures.

As such, the AXP Model has been put out for implementation and will form the evaluation basis for the LAU Internship program for Summer 2017.

## **F. Students IDP/AXP Records.**

It is important to mention that IDP/AXP programs have triggered the interest of many students who have plans to travel to the USA, and have consulted LAU Licensing Advisor Roger Skaff regarding establishing their IDP/AXP records.

There are currently three (3) LAU students with AXP records.

Even students who thought they may benefit from establishing their NCARB Records for the future are seriously considering it.





## G. NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit – Chicago, July 2017

Plans have started for Roger Skaff to represent LAU at the upcoming 2017 NCARB Summit in Chicago.

## H. IDP/AXP Models at LAU

LAU strives to build relationships with firms and practitioners that are willing to engage in the IDP/AXP process. Also, efforts are made to ensure placement of students in a professional setting and being fairly treated. This is achieved through compiling data and feedback that would help in ranking potential employers/practitioners on a yearly basis.

During the last internship cycle, more emphasis have been put on the SUPERVISORY and MENTORSHIP support to serve as resources for students going through the program.

Since his appointment, Roger Skaff's has focused on turning the LAU Internship into a Simulation of the NCARB IDP/AXP models, with the below components being good indicators of such simulation:

- 400 hours of Internship will be provided in new curriculum; that is around 10% of required hours for completing actual AXP.
- New Internship tracking is already in effect through LAU Training Log required to be completed under the new Internship Reporting Form.
- The Training Log is based on NCARB criteria reflected in the six (6) Experience Areas.
- Documented Outcome and Correlation with work samples.
- Internship validity toward actual AXP hours reporting for candidates with NCARB records.

All of the above is applied while maintaining the unique identity of the program with respect to the university and to Lebanon as local market.

This helps students understand the purpose of each Experience Area and its value in their professional life, whether they end up practicing in Lebanon, in the USA, or even internationally.

