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The American Institute of Architects recently updated their [Directory of Public Policies and Position Statements on Pre-licensure Titling](#) to recommend use of the title of 'intern' for students working in an architectural office while actively pursuing architecture degrees in a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited program, or students studying in pre-professional programs. They also recommended use of the title "Architectural Associate" or "Design Professional" for those who have earned a NAAB accredited degree, or who have met the education/experience requirements in their jurisdiction and are currently reporting experience in the NCARB Architectural Experience Program..."

The Louisiana architect licensing law defines "Architect" as "a person who is technically and legally qualified to practice architecture" ([R.S. 37, Chapter 3, §141, B\(2\)](#)). That means someone who has met the education, experience and examination requirements for licensure and has received a license to practice from the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners. Any use of the title architect or derivation of that word by an unlicensed individual is considered an infringement on the law.

With respect to the title "Intern", our rules allow use of the title "Intern Architect" for candidates who have completed a NAAB accredited degree program and are participating in or has completed the NCARB AXP (formerly IDP). Candidates must be employed by a firm that is lawfully engaged in the practice of architecture ([LAC 46:1, Chapter 15, §1529](#)). The caveat is that that title can only be used in connection with their employment with a firm.

The recommendations established by the AIA in their position statement are a direct violation of the Louisiana statute and rules. When position titles are granted to individuals working toward licensure, it is important to consider the statutory requirements and ensure that such titles do not violate the licensing law or Board rules which restrict and limit the titles which may be used.

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