



OPES Review of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board (CLARB) Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE)

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Presentation Topics

- **Who is OPES?**
 - Regulations, Professional Guidelines, and Technical Standards
 - Purpose of Licensure Examinations
- **National Examination Reviews**
 - Psychometric Evaluation
 - Comparison of National Occupational Analysis to California Occupational Analysis
- **Evaluation of LARE**
- **Summary**
- **Questions**

The Office of Professional Examination Services provides:

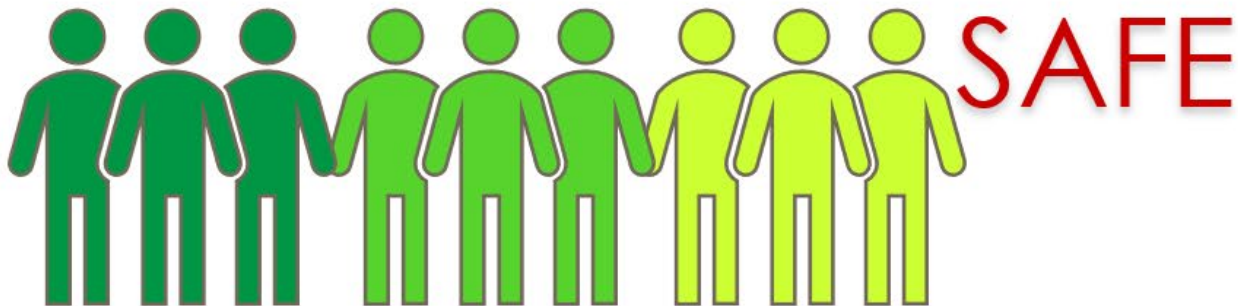
Professional consulting services in examination validation and development to DCA's boards, bureaus, and committees

Recommendations based on regulations, professional guidelines, and technical standards related to licensure examinations

Licensure Examinations

Must provide a reliable method for identifying practitioners who are able to practice safely and competently

Focus on **entry level** tasks and knowledge important for **public protection**



Regulations, Standards, and Guidelines

Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 139

Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures (Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology)

Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education)

Business and Professions Code section 139 Requirements for National Examination Reviews

Must meet psychometric and legal standards

California practitioners must be represented in OA

Must be reviewed for California content

Review of National Examinations has Three Parts



Psychometric
Evaluation



SMEs compare
national OA
to California OA



Identification of any
critical entry level
content that is not
assessed

Psychometric Evaluation

Evaluate Occupational Analysis

Review procedures for developing examination

Review procedures for establishing passing scores

Review information available to candidates

Review examination scoring and passing rates

Review administration and security procedures

Occupational Analysis Process



- Research the profession and conduct SME telephone interviews



- Develop task and knowledge statements with SMEs



- Develop and administer OA survey



- Analyze questionnaire data and demographics
- Review questionnaire results with SMEs



- Develop examination content outline with SMEs

OPES Review of LARE

Psychometric Evaluation

- LARE meets psychometric standards
- LARE is linked to an Occupational Analysis
- SMEs were used to develop questions
- California licensed landscape architects were well represented in the OA at 18.51%
- Passing rates for the LARE are consistent with industry standards

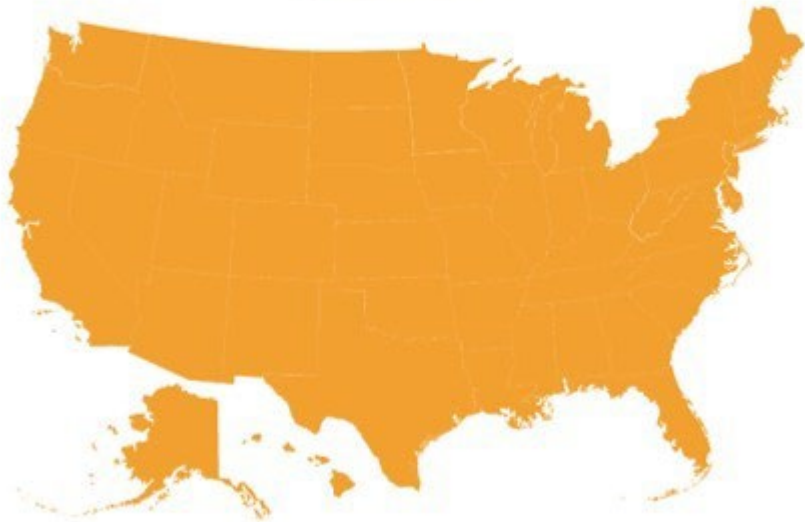
OPES Review of LARE, cont'd.

Psychometric Evaluation and Recommendations

- Do not use educators in examination validation process
- Closely monitor item performance data
- Publish passing rates for first-time test takers
- Increase participation of SMEs licensed 5 years or fewer
- Update test preparation resources

Comparison of National OA to CA OA

National examinations test core, mainstream practice.



FULL PRACTICE

California examinations test what is unique about practice in the state.

- **Geology**
- **Weather**
- **California health and safety laws**
- **California-specific practice areas**



Linkage Study

Comparison to the California OA

- LARE adequately assesses the majority of the knowledge required for entry level landscape architectural practice in California
- LARE does not adequately assess the following:
 - California codes and regulations
 - California-specific climate and environmental considerations
 - California-specific professional practice
 - California-specific construction site and user safety and security

Summary

LARE meets psychometric standards and links to the California Supplemental Examination outline

California codes and regulations as well as CA-specific considerations are not assessed by the LARE

California-specific content should continue to be assessed by the CSE

Thank you.

Any questions?



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