



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Public Protection through Examination, Licensure, and Regulation

OPES Evaluation of LARE Passing Scores

April 21, 2023

Robert Calvert, Ph.D.
Research Data Specialist II

Heidi Lincer, Ph.D.
Chief



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Road Map



General
information



Findings



Discussion

Landscape
Architect
Registration
Examination
(LARE)

Four Sections

Sections 1 and 2 after
graduation

Sections 3 and 4 after
work experience

Current LARE Sections

Section 1—Project and Construction Administration

Section 2—Inventory and Analysis

Section 3—Design

Section 4—Grading, Draining, and Construction
Documentation

Discussion of Previous Inquiry

Gender – Not Significant

Degree Type – Not Significant

Section 2 – Significant

Pathway to Licensure – Not Significant (CSE)

LARE
Research
Questions

Is CA pass rate different from the National?

Are there differences in CA pass rates by school?

CA vs National pass rate by School

Data provided by CLARB

2020-2022	N	1	2	3	4
Cal Poly-SLO	72	61	62	51	62
Cal Poly - Pomona	92	31	30	33	43
Berkeley	51	82	72	69	64
UC Davis	55	66	55	54	58
USC	25	67	61	61	67
Extensions	-	-	-	-	-
National		60.5	62.5	59	63.5

Green = Above Average
Black = Approximately Average
Orange = Below Average

Comparison of Examination Outcomes

		LARE (2020-2022)			ARE (2021)	
		Above	At	Below	Above	Below
Cal Poly SLO		0	4	0	5	0
Cal Poly Pomona		0	0	4	0	5
Berkeley		4	0	0	5	0

Green = Above Average
Black = Approximately Average
Orange = Below Average

Highly Persistent Test Takers

- 20 of 1170 candidates (1.7%) account for 11.6% of all failed attempts
- 4 of these students come from Pomona (2% of their grads)
- 5 of these students come from UCLA extension (7% of their grads)

First Time vs Repeaters

- CLARB does not report this data
- Analysis of CA data showed modest improvements in pass rates for all institutions. The pattern for Pomona is similar to other CA schools.
- If data was provided nationally it would allow for an evaluation of pass rates which removed the effect of the highly persistent test-taker.

Cal Poly Pomona 2018-2022 Data

Data provided by LATC

By Attempt	Section 1			Section 2			Section 3			Section 4		
	n	Pass	Pass %	Attempts	Pass	Pass %	n	Pass	Pass %	Attempts	Pass	Pass %
Cal Poly Pomona	229	93	41%	225	84	37%	194	82	42%	169	80	47%
Other CA	410	283	69%	448	279	62%	413	247	60%	431	268	62%
National			62%			65%			~60%			~62%

Cal Poly Pomona 2018-2022 Data

By candidate - Only those who attempted all 4 sections	Section 1			Section 2			Section 3			Section 4			
	Cand.	Attempts	Pass	Pass %	Attempts	Pass	Pass %	Attempts	Pass	Pass %	Attempts	Pass	Pass %
Cal Poly Pomona	211	74	54	73%	87	52	60%	88	47	53%	84	44	52%
Other CA	417	198	162	82%	225	159	71%	220	148	67%	221	146	66%

Pass all 4 Sections

	Attempt 4	Pass 4	% Complete
Berkeley	55	51	93%
Cal Poly Pomona	74	57	77%
Cal Poly - SLO	67	60	90%
UC Davis	57	48	84%
UCB Extension	12	10	83%
UCLA Extension	21	14	67%

Okay, there is a
difference, now what?

The problem of causation



Discussion of Possible Causes and associated data

Chance

Differences in Candidates

Differences in Curriculum

Quality of Work Experience

Validity of Examination

Conclusions

- CA pass rates are close to national averages
- CA pass rates are better than national averages if Cal Poly Pomona is removed
- Differences are not necessarily bad
- Schools serve different communities and commonly have different pass rates
- We have no evidence of the cause(s) of the difference between Pomona and other institutions

OPES Recommendations

- Evaluate pass rates after implementation of new examination.
- Explore other avenues of data collection for evaluation, which may include national demographic information.

Thank you.

Any questions?