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Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture students and others urged to consider becoming Registered Accessibility Specialists

View video: <https://youtu.be/vSRWwKS6x1s>

AUSTIN – A construction and remodeling boom in Texas has created demand for specialists who inspect commercial projects to make sure the projects are complying with the Texas Accessibility Standards, a construction law built upon the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

These inspectors, called Registered Accessibility Specialists or RASes, are licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). RASes seek to eliminate the architectural barriers that keep people with disabilities from accessing public areas, as well as improve safety and construction quality for all Texans.

Fewer than 600 people in Texas are licensed as RASes, even though commercial construction projects continue to see strong demand during the pandemic. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook says there's a bright future for construction and building inspectors, with employment projected to grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026.

People who have degrees in architecture, engineering, interior design, and landscape architecture plus at least one year of experience related to building planning, accessibility design, or review are eligible to take the test and become certified as a RAS.

Once a person has passed the RAS exam and obtained their license, they are eligible to work as a consultant in an architecture firm, work for an inspection company, or work for themselves as an independent contractor.

In addition to the process listed above, there are two other paths to licensure as a RAS:

- Option 2: Eight years' experience related to building planning, accessibility design, or review, or equivalent.

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- Option 3: Certification as an accessibility specialist granted by a model building code organization and four years' experience related to building planning, accessibility design, or review, or equivalent.

Visit the TDLR Elimination of Architectural Barriers [webpage](#) for more information about becoming a RAS.

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

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