**General Page Life-cycle Stages**

In general terms, the page goes through the stages outlined in the following table. In addition to the page life-cycle stages, there are application stages that occur before and after a request but are not specific to a page. For more information, see [ASP.NET Application Life Cycle Overview](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178473%28v=vs.85%29.aspx).

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| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Description** |
| Page request | The page request occurs before the page life cycle begins. When the page is requested by a user, ASP.NET determines whether the page needs to be parsed and compiled (therefore beginning the life of a page), or whether a cached version of the page can be sent in response without running the page. |
| Start | In the start step, page properties such as [Request](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.request%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) and [Response](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.response%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) are set. At this stage, the page also determines whether the request is a postback or a new request and sets the [IsPostBack](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) property. Additionally, during the start step, the page's [UICulture](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.uiculture%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) property is set. |
| Page initialization | During page initialization, controls on the page are available and each control's [UniqueID](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.control.uniqueid%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) property is set. Any themes are also applied to the page. If the current request is a postback, the postback data has not yet been loaded and control property values have not been restored to the values from view state. |
| Load | During load, if the current request is a postback, control properties are loaded with information recovered from view state and control state. |
| Validation | During validation, the [Validate](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.webcontrols.basevalidator.validate%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) method of all validator controls is called, which sets the [IsValid](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.ivalidator.isvalid%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) property of individual validator controls and of the page. |
| Postback event handling | If the request is a postback, any event handlers are called. |
| Rendering | Before rendering, view state is saved for the page and all controls. During the rendering phase, the page calls the [Render](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.control.render%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) method for each control, providing a text writer that writes its output to the [OutputStream](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.httpresponse.outputstream%28v=vs.85%29.aspx) of the page's **Response** property. |
| Unload | Unload is called after the page has been fully rendered, sent to the client, and is ready to be discarded. At this point, page properties such as **Response** and **Request** are unloaded and any cleanup is performed. |