



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD
OF NOVA SCOTIA

**REGISTRATION POLICY
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 POLICY STATEMENT	3
2 PURPOSE	3
3 SCOPE	3
4 DEFINITIONS	4
5 EXAMPLES OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	4
6 RELEVANCE OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	4
7 ASSESSMENT OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	5
8 NON-DISCLOSURE AND WITHHOLDING INFORMATION	5
8 IMPACT OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	6
9 REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION	6
10 APPEAL	7
11 CONFIDENTIALITY	7

1 POLICY STATEMENT

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia is established by the Nova Scotia *Dental Act* to represent and protect the interests of the public in the practice of dentistry. The mandate of the Dental Board is fulfilled by ensuring that only properly trained, qualified and licensed professionals render treatment that meets the standards of skill, knowledge, and judgment that are reasonable in the practice of dentistry in Nova Scotia. Individuals licensed to practice dentistry and dental assisting must do so in a manner which is expected to uphold the public's trust in the profession.

Applicants must demonstrate professional behaviour that is ethical, supersedes self-interest, strives for excellence, is committed to continual professional development, and is accountable to individual patients, to the profession, and to the general public

As part of the Board's mandate, the Registrar shall assess an applicant's demonstration of good moral character and evidence that the applicant is fit and proper to be registered as a dentist with the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (consistent with the *Qualifications for Registration and Licensing of Dentists Regulations*, s 4(1)) or a dental assistant with the Provincial Dental Board (consistent with the *Dental Assistants Regulations*, s 9(1)(d)). An element of this assessment is the disclosure of past academic conduct.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Registration Policy: Academic Misconduct* is to educate applicants of the formal policies in place to assist in the application, registration and licensing processes with the Provincial Dental Board. This Policy is also intended to assist applicants when completing the application form required as part of the application process for licensure with the Provincial Dental Board.

This Policy is intended to provide necessary information to inform applicants about the characteristics and conduct that are deemed to be suitable for the practice of dentistry and dental assisting in Nova Scotia.

3 SCOPE

This Policy is intended to apply to all applicants (dental assistants or dentists) of the Provincial Dental Board (including but not limited to new graduates, student licensees, dentists from other Canadian jurisdictions and internationally trained dental professionals).

This Policy is intended to be read in a manner that is consistent with the Board's *Assessment of Good Character for Registration and Licensing of Dentists in Nova Scotia Policy*.

4 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 “**Academic Misconduct**” means any type of cheating, fraud and/or dishonesty that occurs in relation to an academic exercise, examination, assignment or other form of evaluation.
- 4.2 “**Plagiarism**” means the presentation, submission or usage of another’s work and passing it off as one’s own work. Plagiarism can include the usage of words, ideas, thoughts, or passages of completed work (research, essays, assignments) without giving proper credit to the original author.

5 EXAMPLES OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- 5.1 Plagiarism;
- 5.2 Cheating on an assignment, examination or other evaluation;
- 5.3 Submitting one’s work more than once without approval;
- 5.4 Falsifying data;
- 5.5 Collaborating on an assignment, examination or other evaluation unless expressly permitted to do so;
- 5.6 Writing an examination for another individual; or
- 5.7 Aiding in the commission of an academic offence.
- 5.8 It should be noted that the above list is not intended to be exhaustive and the Provincial Dental Board’s position is that a wide range of circumstances may be considered incidents of academic misconduct.

6 RELEVANCE OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- 6.1 An academic penalty, finding, or action(s) of any kind made by an academic

institution arising from academic misconduct or unprofessional behaviours are included under a non-exhaustive list of evidence of a lack of good moral character and evidence that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a dentist or dental assistant with the Provincial Dental Board.

7 ASSESSMENT OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

7.1 Positive findings of academic misconduct will be assessed by the Registrar based on criteria including:

7.1.1 The number of incidents of misconduct;

7.1.2 The date of the incident(s) of misconduct;

7.1.3 The nature and seriousness of the incident(s) of misconduct;

7.1.4 The relation of the incident(s) of misconduct to the practice and profession of dentistry;

7.1.5 The academic institution's response (including both formal and informal actions); and,

7.1.6 The actions of the applicant following the finding of academic misconduct (for example: remediation, rehabilitation or education concerning the behaviour).

7.2 The potential impact of the incident(s) of misconduct on the integrity of the licensing and registration process will be relevant in the Registrar's inquiry.

7.3 The potential impact of the incident(s) of misconduct on the integrity of the dental profession as a whole will also be considered.

8 NON-DISCLOSURE AND WITHHOLDING INFORMATION

8.1 The Provincial Dental Board takes non-disclosure of an incident(s) of academic misconduct very seriously. This may result in the denial of licensure to an applicant.

8.2 The submission of incorrect, untruthful or misleading answers that would have been material to the applicant's licensure will result in the denial of the applicant's licensure.

- 8.3** If an applicant is unable or unwilling to provide or consent to the disclosure of evidence or documentation to the Registrar to properly investigate an application, then the applicant will be denied licensure.

9 IMPACT OF A FINDING OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- 9.1** Evidence of academic misconduct that illustrates a lack of good character or that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a dentist or a dental assistant may result in the applicant being:

9.1.1 Licensed with conditions or restrictions; or

9.1.2 Denied licensure.

- 9.2** A non-exhaustive list of license conditions or restrictions include the following:

9.2.1 Restriction from administering or prescribing narcotics for a specified period of time (Dentist);

9.2.2 Restriction from administering or prescribing sedation for a specified period of time (Dentist);

9.2.3 Practice under supervision for a specified period of time (Dentist or Dental Assistant); or,

9.2.4 Successful completion of educational course(s) or programs, including courses or programs on ethics (Dentist or Dental Assistant).

- 9.3** The Registrar may exercise the discretion to grant regular licensure in specific circumstances following a finding of academic misconduct.

- 9.4** A licensing/registration decision following a finding of academic misconduct will be dependent on the specific circumstances of the applicant and will be determined on a case by case basis.

10 REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- 10.1** Individuals who indicate a history of prior misconduct or fitness to practice concerns (including past incidents of academic misconduct) must consent to allow the Registrar to investigate the matter further and obtain additional documentation as needed.

- 10.2** The Registrar may request additional support from legal counsel or an external

investigator to obtain the information required to render a licensing decision.

- 10.3** The decision to request additional information or documentation and/or to request additional support from legal counsel or an external investigator will be determined on a case by case basis.

11 APPEAL

- 11.1** An applicant who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Registrar respecting registration, licensing or otherwise relating to entries on the Dentists' Register or Dental Assistants Register may appeal the decision to the Registration Appeal Committee (Sse *Policy on Licensing and Licensing Appeals for Dentists*).

12 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 12.1** The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia will respect the individual applicant's right to privacy and confidentiality.
- 12.2** The Policy is intended to be read in a manner that adheres to and is consistent with all relevant privacy legislation.
- 12.3** The Policy is intended to be read in a manner that adheres to and is consistent with the Provincial Dental Board's *Privacy Policy* and all other relevant internal policies.