

## The Role of Third-Party Assessors in the Registration and Licensing Process

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA) is the organization which oversees the practices of dentistry and dental assisting in the province. The role of the NSRDDA, with respect to the practices of dentistry and dental assisting, is to:

- protect the public from harm,
- serve and promote the public interest,
- preserve the integrity of the professions of dentistry and dental assisting, subject to the public interest, and
- maintain the public confidence in the ability of the PDBNS to regulate dentistry and dental assisting.

One of the ways the NSRDDA fulfills its role is by ensuring that only qualified individuals are registered and licensed as dentists and dental assistants in Nova Scotia.

### Examining Bodies

The NSRDDA relies on national examining bodies which act as third-party assessors for Canadian oral health regulators. Prospective applicants for registration and licensure as a dentist or dental assistant must first obtain certification from the applicable examining body.

Profession	Examining Body
General Dentistry	The National Dental Examining Board of Canada ( <a href="#">NDEB</a> )
Dental Specialties	Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) <a href="#">National Dental Specialty Exam</a> <sup>1</sup>
Dental Assisting	The National Dental Assisting Examining Board ( <a href="#">NDAEB</a> )

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<sup>1</sup> From 2020 through 2023, the National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) was administered by the NDEB.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Each examining body establishes its own eligibility criteria for examinations which is based primarily on the accreditation status of the educational institution attended. The number and type of assessments may vary depending on the accreditation status of the institution where the training took place.

## **Oversight of Examining Bodies by Regulatory Authorities**

Canadian oral health regulators provide oversight and are intimately involved with the national examining bodies to ensure that our mutual goals of public protection and fairness in assessment are met.

The NSRDDA exercises this oversight by:

- appointing individuals to serve on the examining boards and committees,
- appointing examiners to develop examination content as well as acting as invigilators and evaluators, and
- collaborating with the examining bodies to give feedback on policies, strategic plans, and assessment protocols.