

POLICIES ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTISTS

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTISTS – FIRST APPLICATION AS A GENERAL DENTIST IN CANADA

1. Definitions
 - 1.1 “Act” means the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).
 - 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA).
 - 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
 - 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#).
 - 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
 - 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.
3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a general dentist for the first time in Canada must complete an online application form which includes payment of a non-refundable application fee and submission of the following:
 - 3.1 A passport-style photo;
 - 3.2 A certified¹ copy of their general dentistry certificate from the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB);
 - 3.3 A certified copy of their graduation certificate from a dental program accredited by the:
 - 3.3.1 Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)
 - 3.3.2 American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
 - 3.3.3 Australian Dental Council (ADC) effective March 30, 2010,
 - 3.3.4 Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ) effective December 15, 2011,
 - 3.3.5 Irish Dental Council effective December 5, 2012, or
 - 3.3.6 an international dental program meeting the eligibility requirements to register for the NDEB Equivalency Program or another bridging program approved by the Board;
 - 3.4 A letter from the Dean certifying their graduation from the dental program;
 - 3.5 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;

¹ Information on certifying documents can be found [at this link](#).

- 3.6 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
 - 3.7 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;
 - 3.8 For an applicant for initial registration and licensing who has obtained NDEB certification more than 36 months prior to applying: satisfactory proof (e.g., letter from employer, sworn affidavit, etc.) that the applicant meets the currency of practice requirements defined as a minimum of 450 hours of clinical practice within the 36 months preceding the date of application;
 - 3.9 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
 - 3.10 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.10.1 be signed;
 - 3.10.2 be dated;
 - 3.10.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
 - 3.10.4 have been written within the previous 12 months.
 - 3.11 Translation of documents (if applicable).
- 4. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
 - 5. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable initial registration fee and the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
 - 6. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

Document History

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTISTS – CURRENTLY LICENSED AS A GENERAL DENTIST ELSEWHERE IN CANADA

1. Definitions
 - 1.1 “Act” means the [*Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)*](#).
 - 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA).
 - 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [*Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting*](#).
 - 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [*Regulated Health Professions General Regulations*](#).
 - 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
 - 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [*Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting*](#).
2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.
3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a general dentist who are currently licensed elsewhere in Canada must complete an online application form which includes submission of the following:
 - 3.1 A passport-style photo;
 - 3.2 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;
 - 3.3 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
 - 3.4 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;
 - 3.5 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
 - 3.6 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.6.1 be signed;
 - 3.6.2 be dated;
 - 3.6.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
 - 3.6.4 have been written within the previous 12 months.
 - 3.7 Translation of documents (if applicable).

4. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
5. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
6. In compliance with the Nova Scotia [Fair Registration Practices Act \(FRPA\)](#), applicants currently licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction are not required to provide:
 - a copy of their general dentistry certificate from the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB);
 - a copy of their graduation certificate from a dental program; or
 - a letter from the Dean certifying their graduation from the dental program.
7. In compliance with the Nova Scotia [Patient Access to Care Act \(PACA\)](#), applicants currently licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction are not required to pay:
 - an initial application fee; or
 - an initial registration fee
8. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

[Document History](#)

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTAL SPECIALIST – FIRST APPLICATION AS A DENTAL SPECIALIST IN CANADA

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “Act” means the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).
- 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA)
- 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#)
- 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#).
- 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
- 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).

2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.

3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a dental specialist for the first time in Canada must complete an online application form which includes payment of a non-refundable application fee and submission of the following:

- 3.1 A passport-style photo;
- 3.2 Confirmation of successful completion of the National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) administered by the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) [or by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) from 2020 through 2023];
- 3.3 A certified photocopy of their graduate / post-graduate degree, diploma or certificate in a specialty recognized by the NSRDDA from a post secondary educational institution in Canada or the United States whose specialty program is or has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) or the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
- 3.4 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;
- 3.5 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
- 3.6 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;

- 3.7 For an applicant for initial registration and licensing who has obtained NDSE certification more than 36 months prior to applying: satisfactory proof (e.g., letter from employer, sworn affidavit, etc.) that the applicant meets the currency of practice requirements defined as a minimum of 450 hours of clinical practice within the 36 months preceding the date of application;
 - 3.8 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
 - 3.9 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.9.1 be signed;
 - 3.9.2 be dated;
 - 3.9.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
 - 3.9.4 have been written within the previous 12 months;
 - 3.10 Translation of documents (if applicable).
4. If an applicant obtained their undergraduate dental education (e.g., DDS/DMD) from a dental program accredited by the:
 - 4.1 Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)
 - 4.2 American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
 - 4.3 Australian Dental Council (ADC) effective March 30, 2010,
 - 4.4 Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ) effective December 15, 2011,
 - 4.5 Irish Dental Council effective December 5, 2012, or
 - 4.6 an international dental program meeting the eligibility requirements to register for the NDEB Equivalency Program or another bridging program approved by the Board;

and successfully obtained a National Dental Examining Board (NDEB) certificate for general dentistry, they should upload the following documents:

- a certified copy of graduation certificate from their undergraduate dental program;
- a letter from the Dean certifying their graduation from the dental program; and
- a copy of their NDEB certificate.

5. An applicant for registration and licensing as a dental specialist who does not hold as NDEB general dentistry certificate but holds an NDSE certificate would, upon successful registration, be issued a Specialty Licence Limited to that specialty.
6. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
7. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable initial registration fee and the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
8. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

Document History

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTAL SPECIALIST – CURRENTLY LICENSED AS A DENTAL SPECIALIST ELSEWHERE IN CANADA

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “Act” means the [*Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)*](#).
- 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA)
- 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [*Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting*](#)
- 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [*Regulated Health Professions General Regulations*](#).
- 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
- 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [*Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting*](#).

2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.

3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a general dentist for the first time in Canada must complete an online application form which includes submission of the following:

- 3.1 A passport-style photo;
- 3.2 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;
- 3.3 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
- 3.4 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;
- 3.5 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
- 3.6 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.6.1 be signed;
 - 3.6.2 be dated;
 - 3.6.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
 - 3.6.4 have been written within the previous 12 months;

3.7 Translation of documents (if applicable).

4. An applicant for registration and licensing as a dental specialist who does not hold an NDEB general dentistry certificate but holds an NDSE certificate would, upon successful registration, be issued a Specialty Licence Limited to that specialty.
5. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
6. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable initial registration fee and the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
7. In compliance with the Nova Scotia [*Fair Registration Practices Act \(FRPA\)*](#), applicants currently licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction are not required to provide:
 - a copy of their general dentistry certificate from the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB);
 - a copy of their graduation certificate from a dental program; or
 - a letter from the Dean certifying their graduation from the dental program.
8. In compliance with the Nova Scotia [*Patient Access to Care Act \(PACA\)*](#), applicants currently licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction are not required to pay:
 - an initial application fee; or
 - an initial registration fee
9. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

[Document History](#)

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTISTS – FIRST APPLICATION AS A GRADUATE DENTAL STUDENT¹ IN CANADA

1. Definitions
 - 1.1 “Act” means the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).
 - 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA).
 - 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
 - 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#).
 - 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
 - 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.
3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a general dentist for the first time in Canada must complete an online application form which includes payment of a non-refundable application fee and submission of the following:
 - 3.1 A passport-style photo;
 - 3.2 A copy of their acceptance letter from Dalhousie University accepting them into the program;
 - 3.3 A certified² copy of their graduation certificate from a dental program accredited by the:
 - 3.3.1 Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)
 - 3.3.2 American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
 - 3.3.3 Australian Dental Council (ADC) effective March 30, 2010,
 - 3.3.4 Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ) effective December 15, 2011,
 - 3.3.5 Irish Dental Council effective December 5, 2012, or
 - 3.3.6 an international dental program meeting the eligibility requirements to register for the NDEB Equivalency Program or another bridging program approved by the Board;
 - 3.4 A letter from the Dean certifying their graduation from the dental program;
 - 3.5 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;

¹ A “graduate dental student” is an individual who has obtained their undergraduate dental degree (e.g., DDS, DMD) and is enrolled in a postgraduate program such as a dental specialty training program or a residency.

² Information on certifying documents can be found [at this link](#).

- 3.6 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
 - 3.7 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;
 - 3.8 For an applicant for initial registration and licensing who has obtained NDEB certification more than 36 months prior to applying: satisfactory proof (e.g., letter from employer, sworn affidavit, etc.) that the applicant meets the currency of practice requirements defined as a minimum of 450 hours of clinical practice within the 36 months preceding the date of application;
 - 3.9 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
 - 3.10 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.10.1 be signed;
 - 3.10.2 be dated;
 - 3.10.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
 - 3.10.4 have been written within the previous 12 months.
 - 3.11 Translation of documents (if applicable).
- 4. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
 - 5. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable initial registration fee and the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
 - 6. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

Document History

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.

POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF DENTISTS – ALREADY LICENSED AS A GRADUATE DENTAL STUDENT¹ ELSEWHERE IN CANADA

1. Definitions
 - 1.1 “Act” means the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).
 - 1.2 “Board” means the board of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA).
 - 1.3 “Bylaws” means the [Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
 - 1.4 “General Regulations” means the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#).
 - 1.5 “Licensing year” for dentists means December 1 to November 30.
 - 1.6 “Regulator-Specific Regulations” means the [Regulations Respecting Dentistry and Dental Assisting](#).
2. Registration and licensing of dentists shall be carried out in accordance with the *Act*, *General Regulations*, *Regulator-Specific Regulations* and *Bylaws*.
3. Applicants for registration and licensing as a general dentist for the first time in Canada must complete an online application form which includes payment of a non-refundable application fee and submission of the following:
 - 3.1 A passport-style photo;
 - 3.2 A copy of their acceptance letter from Dalhousie University accepting them into the program;
 - 3.3 A certified copy of their Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship card, proof of permanent residency OR provide details about their current citizenship status and a certified copy of the authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada which permits them to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada;
 - 3.4 Verification of BLS (for healthcare providers) obtained within the previous 12 months;
 - 3.5 Verification of professional liability insurance (i.e., malpractice insurance) through CDSPI with a minimum of \$3 million coverage;
 - 3.6 A vulnerable Sector Check and a Criminal Record Check (performed within the previous 12 months);
 - 3.7 Two written character references from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least the previous 48 months, the letters which must:
 - 3.7.1 be signed;
 - 3.7.2 be dated;

¹ A “graduate dental student” is an individual who has obtained their undergraduate dental degree (e.g., DDS, DMD) and is enrolled in a postgraduate program such as a dental specialty training program or a residency.

- 3.7.3 indicate how long the reference has known the applicant; and
- 3.7.4 have been written within the previous 12 months.

3.8 Translation of documents (if applicable).

- 4. An applicant who is currently or has previously been licensed as a healthcare professional in another jurisdiction (province, territory, or country) must request that a certificate of standing be sent directly to the NSRDDA office from each of those jurisdictions.
- 5. Once an application has been approved, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable initial registration fee and the annual licensing fee, which shall be reduced to 50% of the annual licensing fee if licensing after May 31.
- 6. An individual who is unsuccessful in their application to be registered and licensed has the right to have this decision reviewed by the Registration and Licensing Review Committee. The process for this is outlined [at this link](#).

Document History

Adapted from policies previously established by the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia and adopted by the NSRDDA Board on May 30, 2025.