



## **Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology**

Suite 455, 5991 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 1Y6  
www.nsbep.org

Telephone: (902) 423-2238  
Fax: (902) 423-0058

### **Oral Examination Information for Candidates**

#### The Oral Examination Committee

Your committee will consist of two psychologists from the Board and a third psychologist from the community. Once your committee has been established, the Assistant to the Registrar will contact you with the names of the committee members and the date and time of the examination

The examiners will review your candidate file prior to the start of the examination.

#### The Format for the Examination

The Chair of the committee will introduce all parties and explain to you the three possible outcomes. These are pass, pass with conditions or fail (see below for more details). At this point you will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

The examiners conduct a semi-structured interview. You should be familiar with the four principals of the Canadian Code of Ethics. You are not expected to be able to recite the many standards that make up the Code but you are expected to be familiar with them. You are also expected to be able to apply the ethical decision making process to an ethical dilemma related to your area of practice. You will be asked to talk about your practice and to answer a series of questions reflecting issues that may arise in the course of it. You will also be expected to respond to questions involving familiarity with public policy related to your work, such as The Children and Family Services Act.

This examination will generally take between one and two hours. At the conclusion of the examination you will be asked to leave the room so that the committee members can deliberate. After they have reached a decision you will be invited back into the room. You will be informed about the results of the examination and the Chair of the Committee will generally inform you of the rationale for the decision reached.

## The Outcomes

- Pass
- Conditional Pass
- Fail

### Pass:

The chair and committee members will provide you with feedback. You will be welcomed to Register of Psychologists.

### Conditional Pass:

Under 14 (6) of the Psychologists Act (2000): *The Board may fix conditions, limitations and restrictions applicable to persons whose names are entered on the Registers.*

In the case where the Oral Committee identifies areas of deficit that are containable and do not limit readiness for or have negative implications for general practice, they may approve you to the Register of Psychologists but place a condition or restriction on your registration that would limit your practice in some manner. The reason for the restriction/condition will be explained to you and you will have the opportunity to ask questions. Normally you would also be informed of what would be required of you before the Board would consider an application to have the restriction/condition lifted.

### Fail:

Should you fail, the examiners will discuss this decision with you and give you the opportunity to ask questions. They will summarize the examination results and refer you forward for a Full Board Oral. The Assistant to the Registrar will provide you with the date and time that this will take place. It generally occurs within the next month or two as the intent is to serve as a reliability check with respect to the first result rather than to provide you with an additional preparation time.

At the Full Board Oral, the Board has the same three decisions available as the Oral Examination Committee. If they confirm the failure, you will generally not be allowed to re-take the oral examination until you have completed some form of remedial process. A remedial plan is developed on an individual basis to meet your specific needs. The Assistant to the Registrar will provide you with additional information should this be the outcome of your examination.

Should you fail on your second attempt and should the second Full Board Oral confirm the failure, you may be removed from the Candidate Register under 14. (7) of the Psychologists Act for failing to meet a condition of your Candidacy.