



Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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Registration Requirements and Criteria for Assessing Applicants Psychologists Registered in Alberta & the Northwest Territories

This document is intended for applicants who are applying using their registration as a psychologist in Alberta and the Northwest Territories that enables them to practice psychology.

For greater clarity, this section is **not intended** for those who:

- possess registration as a psychologist outside of Alberta or the Northwest Territories
- hold registration in a category that does not authorize the practice of psychology, e.g., retired registration, non-practising registration, etc.
- possess registration in another jurisdiction but not with a psychology regulatory body, e.g., counselling, marriage and family therapy, etc. In this case, applicants are instead referred to the [NS College of Counselling Therapists](#).

Transfer of Registration Requirement

In order to qualify for a transfer of registration to Nova Scotia under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), psychologists in Canada must possess full registration as a Psychologist or Psychological Associate, in good standing, in another Canadian province or territory, which is a signatory of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA),

Additionally, if an applicant holds a certificate of registration as a psychologist in another jurisdiction, the standards of which the Board determines to be equivalent to the requirements of Subsections 15 (1) or (2) of the Act, the Board may waive any or all [requirements in Subsection 15\(1\) or \(2\) of the Act](#).

Psychological work experience

As per the standards of practice in Nova Scotia, psychologists shall limit their delivery of services to those areas of competence as defined by verifiable training and experience.

As such, applicants would typically be authorized for the same area(s) of practice, activities, and populations that they possess in their home jurisdiction. The Board will

review the Confirmation of Standing Form completed by the home jurisdiction and compare this to the areas of practice and populations that the applicant has declared on the Declaration of Psychological Practice with their application in Nova Scotia.

If registration is generic in the home jurisdiction, and the applicant feels there could be a discrepancy between registration in the home jurisdiction and their intentions for practice in Nova Scotia, they are encouraged to submit to the Board documentation of their training and experience working with the particular populations or activities. A good starting point would be for the applicant to provide a copy of their CV that fully documents all relevant work experience. If the declared practice area(s) and/or population(s) are not consistent with those possessed by the applicant in their home jurisdiction, and not consistent with their experience and training, the Board may decline to approve the area of practice or population that is not supported by the application. The Board has the ability to [restrict the practice](#) of a psychologist where appropriate.

Some applicants have been under the impression that during the application they should declare activities and populations for which they are unfamiliar with because they might like to pursue such work in future. The intention of the Declaration of Psychological Practice, which is part of the Online Application for Registration, is meant to realistically consider what one would be carrying out in the immediate future.

It is understood that one's employment may change over time. Following placement on the Register, it is possible to expand one's populations or activities within one's overall area of practice, provided this is carried out in a manner consistent with professional standards.

Language Proficiency

The Psychologists Act requires one to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency. As such, one must be reasonably fluent in the English or French Language, depending on the language spoken by the intended population to be served. This requirement is informally considered throughout the Board's review of the Application. As well, if one's first language is not English or French, he/she may be required to make arrangements to complete a language proficiency exam, depending on the language of the population that will be served.

Evidence of good character

[This requirement](#) is assessed throughout the Application, and specifically via background checks (criminal and child abuse), a background questionnaire, references, and reviewing information about any registration history in other jurisdictions.

Demonstrate an understanding of professional practice and ethical issues, and have an understanding of local practices and conditions

Prior to registration with the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, applicants are required to attest that they have reviewed the relevant local jurisprudence, standards, and resources. For information purposes, a document on the Attestation Process is

accessible directly below.

http://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Information_Attestation.pdf

Assessment, Evaluation & Diagnosis Competency

- NSBEP will conduct an individual assessment of the education, training and experience of applicants from Alberta and the Northwest Territories to determine whether they have the skills, knowledge, and ability to perform required competencies in assessment and diagnosis.
- Applicants determined not to have sufficient skills, knowledge and ability will be required to complete a period of supervised practice of up to 400 hours following certification
- [Click here for the text version of the Legitimate Objective](#)

Broad Steps

1. Applicants who are graduates of CPA and APA accredited doctoral programs are deemed to meet requirements of all Core Competencies. Therefore, graduates of such programs are considered to meet the requirements for Assessment, Evaluation, and Diagnosis. Such individuals need only provide an original copy of the graduate transcript verifying completion of such a program. Other than completing the Online Application Form and its associated process, no other additional steps in relation to the Legitimate Objective are required of such individuals.

2. Applicants who are identified by their regulatory body as meeting the requirements to declare “formal assessment” as a professional activity may be exempt from additional steps in relation to the Legitimate Objective. These requirements may have been fulfilled in the applicant’s home jurisdiction as part of the supervised practice required of provisional registrants who chose to declare “formal assessment” as a professional activity, as documented in the provisional registrant’s supervision plan, and reported as completed in the supervisor’s final evaluation. If available, such applicants must request that copies of their supervision plan and supervisor’s final evaluation be sent directly to NSBEP from the regulatory body to verify their fulfillment of these requirements.

3. All other applicants (where steps 1 & 2 do not apply) are required to complete the supplemental form and material required for the Assessment, Evaluation and Diagnosis Competency, in addition to the Online Application Form and its associated processes.

Click here for the version that can be completed in a word processing application (right click and save to your computer)

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Assessment_Core_Competency_Diagnosis.docx

Check here for the PDF fillable version (right click and save to your computer)

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Assessment_Core_Competency_Diagnosis.pdf

5. Once the application is complete, the Board will review the application.

6. In the event that supervision is required, [here is a link to the process](#).

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