



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

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### **Registration Requirements**

As per the Psychologists Act (2000), applicants for registration as psychologists are required to show they have obtained a master's, doctoral or equivalent degree in psychology that is acceptable to the Board from an educational institution approved the Board.

(1) The degree in psychology obtained by the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- i) The program must be an integrated, organized sequence of study, standing as a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution. Wherever it may be administratively housed, the institution's officers must identify it as a psychology program, and the majority of its faculty as psychologists.
- ii) The program must have required an undergraduate degree in psychology (or equivalent courses in psychology) as part of the entrance requirement. To clarify, this criterion does not simply require the applicant to possess an undergraduate degree in psychology but an undergraduate degree in psychology (or equivalent courses in psychology) must be an admittance requirement of the program.
- iii) The faculty of the program must have clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.
- iv) The program should have a body of resident students who are enrolled in that program. Programs that are primarily based on-line are not acceptable to the Board. For further clarification, the Board has adopted the Section on Residency from the Model Licensing Act recently approved by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. It states:

“Residency means physical presence, in person, at an educational institution or training facility in a manner that facilitates acculturation in the profession, the full participation and integration of the individual in the educational, and training experience and includes faculty student interaction. Training models that rely exclusively on physical presence for periods of less than one continuous year (e.g. multiple long weekends and/or summer intensive sessions), or that use video conferencing or other electronic means as a substitute for any part of the minimum requirement for physical presence at the institution do not meet this definition of residency.”

**Note:** The minimum period of one continuous year of residency is in addition to any practica or internship completed as part of the program requirements.

v) Curriculum requirements of the program must include adequate theoretical content in psychology and supervised practicum, internship, field or laboratory training appropriate to psychology. In order to meet these requirements, the master's level degree must be at least two years in duration.

The program must include practica and/or internship directly supervised by psychologists.

Coursework titles/descriptions must use clear psychological terminology/abbreviations such as the words "psychology", "psychological" "psych."

vi) In addition to the foregoing, the applicant must demonstrate sufficient [foundational knowledge](#) in four general areas: Knowledge of the biological bases of behaviour; Knowledge of the cognitive-affective bases of behaviour; Knowledge of the social bases of behaviour; and Knowledge of the psychology of the individual. This must be demonstrated with at least one full course or two half courses, in each of the four areas. Introductory level courses are not acceptable for meeting this requirement.

vii) In addition to the foregoing, applicants are assessed with respect to competency in [five core areas](#): Assessment and Evaluation; Intervention; Research; Ethics and Standards; and Interpersonal Relationships. Course work and experience in these areas must be listed.

(2) The Board will consider whether the educational institution has recognized standing or accreditation.

(3) Degrees in education, counseling, guidance, family studies, mental health studies, child studies, rehabilitation and other such designations, are not normally considered degrees in psychology.

### **Course/University Information:**

To be registered as a psychologist in NS you must have a graduate degree in psychology from a program that meets the above requirements. Currently on-line graduate programs are not acceptable for registration.

The MASP (School Psychology) program at the Mount meets the requirements noted above; the Education Psychology (M.Ed) does not.

At Acadia, the counseling M.Ed is not accepted, but the clinical psychology (M.Sc.) is an acceptable program for registration as a Psychologist. The educational programs at either of these universities may lead to qualifications as a guidance counselor or school counselor but do not lead to psychology registration or prepare you to take the prerequisite examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.

Applicants who do not possess a degree which meets the requirements specific to psychology, but instead possess a master's degree in counseling, might consider checking with the [Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists](#) for registration eligibility. NSBEP does not evaluate individual programs until an application for registration is completed.

If accepted on the Candidate Register the applicant has a period of time which to fulfill any conditions set out by the Board, to acquire a specified amount of supervised experience and to pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the Oral Examination required for acceptance on the Register of Psychologists. The EPPP must be successfully completed, on or before, the end of the candidates second year of candidacy.

All Candidates must receive supervision for at least 2 hours per month. Candidates with a master's degree in psychology acceptable to the Board must complete 4 years of supervised practice. Candidate's with a doctoral degree in psychology acceptable to the Board must complete 2 years of supervised practice. However, one of the required two years of supervised practice required by the doctoral program may be applied to the 2 year requirement, provided the internship and supervised experience have been adequately and responsibly supervised in a manner satisfactory to the Board. (An internship program approved by the CPA or APA would meet the requirements.) In the case of a Candidate Registrant, this will reduce the minimum required period of supervised practice to 1 year on the Candidate Register.

A requirement under the Psychologists Act is that all registrants must carry adequate professional liability insurance. Once registered, proof of liability insurance must be provided to the Board within 30 days.

Persons who possess the qualifications for registration may apply to be registered in Nova Scotia. To acquire the application forms and for more information about the application process, please visit the [Application section of the website](#).