



Note: This document was originally issued in January 2020 and has been revised in April 2026 to reflect the legislative framework established by the Regulated Health Professions Act (S.N.S. 2023, c. 15) and the Psychology Regulations (N.S. Reg. 252/2025), which came into force on November 24, 2025. Employers and applicants who relied on previous versions of this document should note that the governing legislative framework has changed and should review this document accordingly.

Information for Employers

In order to assist employers, applicants and candidate psychologists with having accurate expectations about registration timeframes and requirements (and to reduce the administrative burden of excess/unnecessary emails/calls for all parties), NSRP would also like to share information about registration with employers of psychologists.

Applications for Registration

While individuals cannot be registered until they have completed the requirements of their degree, they are encouraged to start the application process in advance to better allow sufficient time to meet all requirements for a completed application.

Convocation Policy

For applicants who have completed all requirements for their degree, but have not yet convoked, NSRP will accept a pre-convocation transcript for the purposes of registration. The transcript must be accompanied by a signed letter from the Senate or Registrar of the University or Director/Dean Graduate Studies, confirming the date that all of the applicant's degree requirements have been successfully completed as well as the expected date of convocation. This letter and the transcript must be sent to NSRP directly from the university. If the individual's degree is not conferred within six months of the expected convocation date, or if at an earlier time NSRP determines the degree will not be conferred, such registration will be considered null and void. Individuals must provide verification to NSRP once the degree has been conferred.

Acquisition of Doctoral Degree

If one is ultimately planning to become registered on the basis of a doctoral degree in psychology, but already possesses a master's degree in psychology acceptable to the registration and licensing decision maker, they can apply for registration on the basis of their master's degree. After completing all requirements of the doctorate, they could request that NSRP

approve their doctoral degree. Supervision completed on the conditional register after successful completion of all requirements for the doctorate will be considered post-doctoral supervision.

Oral Exams

All candidate psychologists must pass an oral exam before placement on the practising register.

Transfer Interviews

Psychologists registered in another jurisdiction seeking full registration in Nova Scotia must complete a Transfer Interview prior to registration. Psychologists registered in another Canadian jurisdiction which is a signatory to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement are required to complete an Attestation instead of the interview. The Transfer Interview is not required for those who are approved for placement on the conditional register.

Temporary Registration

Psychologists registered in another jurisdiction may request temporary registration called Courtesy Registration, which allows them to work for up to 40 practice days while they are waiting to complete their interview.

NSRP completes about 24–30 oral exams and transfer interviews each year, and typically conducts between 2–4 oral exams and transfer interviews each month, with the exception of one month in the spring and one month in the summer. Oral exams are not pre-booked. That is, the minimum period of supervision must be completed and then all required documentation forwarded to NSRP before the candidate psychologist will be approved and scheduled for the exam.

Submission Deadline

All required materials must be received by NSRP no later than the 15th of each month to be included in that month's review. This applies to applications for registration, requests for oral exams, and any other registration items.

Registration Review Process

Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis. NSRP cannot pre-approve applications or issue eligibility letters in advance of the review. Applicants sometimes request that a pre-approval letter (or similar) be sent to the employer before their application has been reviewed — this is not feasible. NSRP appreciates that employers require proof of registration, but eligibility cannot be confirmed until the review is complete. NSRP makes every effort to process applications efficiently and reviews are completed by the end of the month in which materials were received. Clarifying information about registration timeframes is provided in the registration information on the NSRP website at www.ns-rp.ca.

Notification of Registration Application Results

Typically applicants are notified of the results of their application review within two weeks of the review completion date. However, in some circumstances, this process may take longer.

Work Prior to Registration

Any employment position taken prior to registration is not sanctioned by NSRP, as individuals without registration status are not regulated by NSRP. Their practice would not fall under NSRP's regulatory oversight until they are entered in a register of NSRP.

NSRP does not prevent individuals from working prior to registration. However, no person may engage or offer to engage in the practice of psychology, or describe their activities as "psychology" or "providing psychological assessment," unless they are a registrant or otherwise authorized under the Regulated Health Professions Act and Psychology Regulations. Protected titles — including "Psychologist," "Candidate Psychologist," and "Psychologist (Candidate Register)" — may only be used by those authorized to do so under the Psychology Regulations.

The Psychology Regulations recognize "psychology technician" as a title available to non-registrants assisting a registrant. More broadly, the Regulations permit non-registrants to assist in the practice of psychology through delegation or assignment of tasks by a registrant, provided this is done in accordance with requirements approved by the Board. The practice of psychology in such arrangements remains that of the registrant, who assumes professional responsibility and accountability to NSRP for the quality and safety of services provided.

The fact that NSRP does not prevent such arrangements should not be construed as approval or endorsement of any particular position or activity.

A separate provision applies to students enrolled in approved education programs. Under the Regulated Health Professions Act (Section 62(3)(a)), a student who is authorized by their program's administrators to engage in practice as part of that program may do so without being registered with NSRP. This permission is not unconditional — the NSRP Registrar has authority under the RHPA to impose conditions or approvals on such practice where considered appropriate. The absence of such conditions does not constitute NSRP approval or endorsement of any particular arrangement. Authorization for the student's practice rests with the program administrators, not NSRP. Students practising under this provision must identify themselves clearly to clients as students and must not use any title protected under the Psychology Regulations or describe their activities in a way that suggests registration status with NSRP.

Any individual working in such a capacity prior to registration must be transparent with clients and the public about their registration status with NSRP. The supervising psychologist assumes professional responsibility for services provided by non-registrants under their supervision. Employers and individuals should satisfy themselves that any title used does not contravene the Regulated Health Professions Act or the Psychology Regulations. Legal advice may be appropriate where there is uncertainty. Employers and individuals are responsible for ensuring appropriate liability insurance is in place.

For guidance on the supervision of non-registrants, please refer to NSRP's guidance document Registrant Responsibilities in Supervising Non-Registrants, available at https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Supervision_NonRegistrants.pdf.

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