



Transfer Examination Information Psychologists Transferring from another Jurisdiction

General Information about the Transfer Examination

The Transfer Examination is conducted virtually using Zoom. It is a closed-book oral examination. No external aids, notes (written or electronic), or reference materials may be consulted during the examination. Examinees are asked to ensure that their immediate workspace is clear of such materials and that any additional electronic devices are turned off for the duration of the examination. Recording in any form is strictly prohibited, and the content of the examination is confidential.

The Transfer Examination Committee

Your committee will consist of one psychologist who is a member the Board and will serve as Chair, and two other psychologists. Once your committee has been established, the NSRP Office will contact you with the names of the committee members, the date and time of the examination and instructions for the video platform.

Fee

The fee is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and payable one week in advance of the exam. The NSRP accepts payment online by Interac Transfer, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. To pay your fees online, visit the Applicants section of the website (<https://www.ns-rp.ca>) and select the Online Payments for Applicants tab.

Preparation:

The NSRP uses the [Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists](#), which is different from codes used in the US. In addition to being familiar with the Canadian Code, you will also need to be familiar with the Code's decision making process for dealing with ethical dilemmas.

You will be asked questions about the Code and the decision-making process during your exam. Please ensure that you have reviewed the Criteria for Evaluating Psychologists Transferring from another jurisdiction is provided later in this document. It is important for applicants to complete the NSRP's [Attestation Process](#) prior to their exam.

The Attestation Process is required in order for applicants to review and familiarize themselves with local jurisprudence. As such, completion of this process involves reviewing the NSRP's document "Standards of Practice" and signing an attestation to this effect.

Applicants may find it helpful to complete the course Being an Ethical Psychologist from the Canadian Psychological Association. You can obtain information about this course from the website of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Here is the URL: <https://forward.captus.com/cpa/sitepages/courses.aspx> (You will need to scroll down on the resulting page to locate the referenced course)

The Format for the Examination

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

The examiners conduct a semi-structured exam. You are expected to recite the four principles 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** (pages 4-5, Fourth Edition, Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists) **to a hypothetical ethical dilemma/scenario that will be provided to you by your committee.**

You may take up to five minutes to make notes or to think about your response to the ethical dilemma/scenario provided during the exam. If necessary, the Committee will let you know when you have one minute remaining. You will be asked to discuss how you would approach and resolve the ethical dilemma/scenario, along with identifying which aspects of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists are under consideration in the specific ethical situation provided to you. 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 exam will generally take 1.5 hours. At the conclusion of the exam, you will be placed in the Virtual Waiting Room so that the committee members can deliberate. After they have reached a decision, you will be admitted back into the Meeting 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
- Pass with conditions
- Fail

Pass:

The Chair and committee members will provide you with feedback. You will be welcomed to Register of Psychologists (pending any outstanding requirements, any other stipulations of the NSRP, e.g., payment of the fee, etc.)

Pass with conditions:

Under Regulated Health Professions Act and the Psychology Regulations, the Regulator may fix conditions, limitations and restrictions applicable to persons whose names are entered on the Registers. (RHPA s. 43; Psychology Regulations ss. 12 & 13).

In the case where the Transfer Examination Committee identifies areas of deficit, the Committee may recommend to the Registrar of NSRP that the NSRP 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 NSRP 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. You will need to pass the examination before you can be placed on the Register of Psychologists.

Supervised Practice Requirement

All individuals who pass the Transfer Examination on or after March 1, 2026 complete a six-month period of supervised practice in Nova Scotia (full-time or equivalent) under an NSRP-approved supervisor while registered on the Register of Psychologists.

Revisions:

December 10, 2025
16th September 2022
23rd October 2020

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Criteria for Evaluating Psychologists Transferring from another jurisdiction

GENERAL:

Psychologists must be able to:

- identify the four basic principles of the [Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists](#), how they are ordered and why they are ordered
- demonstrate awareness of the ethical decision making process and recognize what constitutes an ethical dilemma/scenario
- demonstrate an awareness of the types of issues most likely to occur within their practice setting
- demonstrate awareness of an ethical decision making process and apply the ethical decision making process to a hypothetical ethical dilemma/scenario that will be provided by the Committee

- explain what is meant by limits of competence and provide an example of a limit that applies with respect to them
- provide a summary of their practice and identify their knowledge of theory and best practice in each of the core competency areas.
- Identify how they will have access to other psychologists for the purposes of workplace consultation.
- Identify [legislation](#) relevant to their area of practice in Nova Scotia.

APPLICATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS:

In addition to knowing the four principles, the psychologist should be able to:

- Articulate that all four principles are taken into account and balanced in ethical decision making. They should also be aware that the principles are ordered according to the weight each generally should be given when they conflict but that the complexity of ethical conflicts precludes a firm ordering of principles.
- Apply the ethical decision making process to a hypothetical ethical dilemma/scenario that will be provided by the Committee, and clearly articulate which principles were in conflict and why; how they balanced the four principles and; the basis for their chosen decision.
- While it is not necessary to identify the steps in the ethical decision making process by name, psychologists should give evidence of an understanding of all aspects of the process.

LIMITS OF COMPETENCE:

A psychologist should be able to:

- Describe in their own words what is meant by the phrase “*limits of competence*”.
- Define their limits of competence including populations served.

Last Revised: September 2022