



Licensure of Applicants Educated in the United States Not Currently Licensed in Canada

Policy # R-09.2	Approved December, 2020	Authority Board of Directors	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrar • Registration Committee
Related Policy & Procedures F-04.0	Revised M/Y	Supporting Legislation/Regulation/By-Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FRPA 7(a)(c)(d)</i> 	

POLICY

The Registrar is responsible for determining if applicants meet the NSCCT requirements for the licensure of applicants who have been educated in the United States and who are not currently licensed in Canada as set out in this Policy, and making a recommendation to accept or deny an Applicant’s application to the Registration Committee for final ratification.

Having met these requirements, Applicants who hold licensure in jurisdictions outside of Canada will be licensed in the category recommended by the Registrar and ratified by the Registration Committee. The Registrar/Registration Committee will present a list of applicants approved under this Policy to the Board as part of their annual report.

Applicants educated in the United States who are currently licensed in a Canadian licensing jurisdiction other than Nova Scotia, are governed by NSCCT Policy R-08.0 (*Licensure of Applicants Currently Licensed in Canadian Jurisdictions Outside Nova Scotia*).

In order to become registered with the Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists, applicants must hold a graduate degree in counselling or a related professional field from a regionally accredited institution in the United States and meet all NSCCT certification criteria.

Regional accreditation in the United States is carried out by seven organizations that cover different geographic regions of the country. The seven regional accrediting bodies are:

- [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Higher Education \(MSA/CHE\)](#)

- [New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education \(NEASC-CIHE\)](#)
- [North Central Association of Colleges and Schools The Higher Learning Commission](#)
- [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools \(SACS\) Commission on Colleges](#)
- [WASC Senior College and University Commission](#)
- [The Higher Learning Commission](#)

Applicants not graduating from an institution accredited by the above regional bodies must apply using Form F-05.0 *Registered Counselling Therapist Candidate Application (International)*. See policy R-09.0 *Licensure of Internationally Licensed Applicants not Currently licensed in Canada*.

Note: Having graduated from an institution accredited by one of the above listed accrediting bodies is not alone sufficient to guarantee licensure in Nova Scotia. In addition, U.S. educated applicants must provide documentary evidence:

1. Of current licensure from a regulatory body in the Applicant's current jurisdiction. This requirement is typically met by submission of a copy of the license;
2. That the Applicant has successfully completed a course of study equivalent to a Canadian Masters Degree, with required core content specific to the practice of counselling therapy as described in Schedule S-05.0 *Schedule of Required Course Content for RCT-C Applicants*) Typically the program will be equivalent to at least one (1) year of full-time study which includes a practicum component comprised of at least 120 hours of direct client contact time. This criterion is typically satisfied by copies of the diploma, transcript and program overview including specific course descriptions (Form F-02.1 *Registered Counselling Therapist Candidate Application Graduate Course Description Form*);
3. That the Applicant has successfully completed a period of supervised post-graduate practice of not less than 2000 hours (including at least 800 hours of direct client counselling and a minimum 50 hours of clinical supervision). And that this practice period took place prior to licensure. This requirement can be satisfied by a letter from the Applicant's supervisor along with attestation from the relevant educational institution or governing body indicating that the supervisor was acting in an official capacity;
4. From the Registrar (or equivalent authority) of the licensing body under which the Applicant is licensed in his/her/their originating jurisdiction attesting that:
 - the Applicant is a member in good standing;
 - the Applicant is not the subject of any unresolved disciplinary matters;
 - there are no previous, current or pending sanctions or licensing restrictions imposed upon or are due to be imposed upon the Applicant;
 - the licensing body knows of no unresolved disciplinary matters to which the Applicant is subject within another jurisdiction, nor is the body aware of any

previous, current or pending sanctions or licensing restrictions imposed upon or due to be imposed upon the Applicant by any other jurisdiction.

5. Payment of the current annual NSCCT membership fee for the relevant category as outlined in the schedule listed in Policy S-01.0 (*Schedule of Fees*);
6. Of professional liability insurance policy coverage (minimum \$1,000,000) Policy R-02.0.

Note: If required by the Registrar/Registration Committee, applicants may be asked to provide a third-party credential assessment and document verification provided by one of the accepted agencies list in Schedule S-04.0 *Schedule of Approved Credential Assessment Services*.

Code of Ethics and Practice Standards

With the understanding that the specific practice standards and ethical expectations of Counselling Therapists may vary widely across international jurisdictions, the College, under its legislative obligation to protect the public interest, is committed to ensuring all internationally educated Applicants are familiar with the *Code of Ethics* and the *Standards of Practice* adopted by the NSCCT. To this end, Applicants who are deemed, after review of the above criteria by the Registrar, to be thus far acceptable for admission to the College, are required to:

1. Thoroughly acquaint themselves with the *Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association Code of Ethics (2020)* and the *Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association Standards of Practice (2015)*;
2. Read and sign the Declaration and Attestation of Document Review (Section of the application form F-01.0)

Notice of Decision and Right of Appeal

The Registrar will notify Applicants of any decision regarding admission to the College in writing within 60 days of receiving a fully complete application package.

Applicants have a right to request a review of the Registrar/Registration Committee decision regarding their application. Appeals are made directly to the Chair, Registration Appeal Committee.

Neither the Registrar nor any member of the Registration Committee involved in the initial registration decision will be permitted to sit in consideration of an appeal of that decision.

PURPOSE

To help increase public access to mental health services in Nova Scotia by facilitating the licensure of appropriately trained Counselling Therapists from the United States.

To fulfill NSCCT's role in protecting the public interest by ensuring that Counselling Therapists not currently licensed in Canada meet the standards of practice and licensure expected of Counselling Therapists in Nova Scotia.

To ensure that all new NSCCT licensed Counselling Therapists are familiar with the College's high ethical and practice standards.

To ensure that Counselling Therapists educated in the United States and not currently licensed in Canada, are assessed for licensing based on clear, objective and accessible criteria.

To ensure NSCCT compliance with FRPA Regulations.