Dental Assistants

Pathway to Registration for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEP) in New Brunswick

Dental Assistants (Level II) are regulated professionals in New Brunswick (NB). Registration with the New Brunswick Dental Society (NBDS)—the regulatory authority—is required to use the designation "dental assistant" or similar titles and designations as outlined in An Act Respecting The New Brunswick Dental Society and the NBDS bylaws and rules.

Dental assistants assist dentists in all aspects of patient care, including chairside and intra-oral procedures, radiography, sterilization and infection control.[1]

For work opportunities and other information, visit NBHealthJobs.com or NBjobs.ca.

STEPS TO REGISTRATION

PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Step 1 - Language Proficiency: The NBDS does not require a language proficiency test for registration. However, strong working proficiency in English or French[2] is necessary to complete the certification process and to provide effective patient care. Language testing may be required for immigration purposes or for admission to academic upgrading programs.

Step 2 – Academic Credential Assessment: The minimum educational requirement to practice in New Brunswick is completion of a Level II Dental Assistant program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). The CDAC has reciprocal agreements with other accrediting bodies, primarily the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in the United States. Graduates of non-accredited programs must demonstrate equivalency through the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB). Candidates must apply to the NDAEB, submit the required documentation, and pay the credential assessment fee. Required documentation includes a credential verification report sent directly by a recognized agency such as World Education Services (WES) or National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB).

Eligible applicants will receive an NDAEB Eligibility Letter. Applicants who are not eligible will be directed by NDAEB to voluntarily attend an educational upgrading program accredited by CDAC.

Step 3 – Examining Board Certification: Graduates of non-accredited programs must pass the Clinical Practice Evaluation (CPE) (Part I) to become eligible for the Written Examination (Part II). Candidates may choose to complete a Canadian dental assisting upgrading program accredited by CDAC instead of taking the CPE.

Candidates must apply for each examination through the NDAEB website once registration opens. Both the CPE and the Written Examination are offered quarterly at multiple locations across Canada. The Written Examination may also be completed remotely with an approved third-party proctor.

[1] NBDS provided definition.
[2] English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

Candidates successfully who complete both assessments receive an NDAEB Certificate. Current fees can be found here.

PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

Step 4 – Licensure: After obtaining NDAEB certification, candidates must apply to the NBDS by completing the online application, submitting the required documentation, and paying the applicable annual dues.

Navigation Services: To obtain assistance through the process, connect with your health professions navigator at NBHealthJobs.com.

REGISTRATION COSTS AND TIMELINE[3]

Total fees to become licenced by the NBDS as a Level II Dental Assistant are approximately $3,340 CAD. Credential assessment may take up to 6 weeks after all documents are received. The full process may be completed in under one year, depending on when the exams are scheduled.

Pre-arrival: You may begin the academic credential assessment process with NDAEB before arriving in Canada.

WORKING IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

To work legally in Canada, you must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or hold a valid work permit. For immigration assistance, visit Immigration New Brunswick.

[3] Fee and timeline estimates are as of November 2025 and are subject to change. Individual situations may increase costs and timelines—some examples include: document translation into English or French, international couriers, travel and living related to education and exam, any professional liability insurance requirements, etc.