Dentists

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

Dentists are regulated professionals in New Brunswick (NB). Registration with the New Brunswick Dental Society (NBDS)—the regulatory authority—is required to use the designation "dentist," "dental surgeon", "D.D.S.", "D.M.D." or other similar designations as outlined in An Act Respecting The New Brunswick Dental Society and the NBDS bylaws and rules.

Dentists are oral health professionals who provide a wide range of preventive, diagnostic, and surgical services related to the teeth, mouth, jaws, and maxillofacial structures.[1] They work in private practice or may be employed in hospitals, clinics, public health facilities or universities.

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

STEPS TO REGISTRATION

For information regarding registration as a Dental Specialist, please refer to this fact sheet.

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 Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) / Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). The CDAC has reciprocal agreements with accrediting bodies in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland, and individual agreements with Yeditepe University (Turkey) and King Abdulaziz University (Saudi Arabia). Graduates of non-accredited programs must demonstrate equivalency through the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB).

Candidates from non-accredited programs must first create an NDEBConnect account and submit all required documents, including documents sent directly by their university and current regulatory body. Once deemed eligible, candidates may pursue one of two pathways.

Option 1 –NDEB Equivalency Process: Candidates must sequentially register for, pay the required fees, and pass three examinations: the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK), the Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ), and the National Dental Examination of Clinical Competence (NDECC). The AFK and ACJ are multiple-choice exams offered twice per year through select Prometric test sites in Canada and internationally. The NDECC is a one-and-a-half-day clinical assessment offered four times per year in Ottawa, Ontario. Current fees can be found here.

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

Option 2 – Accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program: Several accredited Canadian universities offer advance placement dental programs for internationally educated dentists. Candidates are typically placed in the second or third year of the program and graduate with a DDS or DMD degree. Third party entry requirements and fees will apply.

Step 3 – Examining Board Certification: After academic equivalency has been established, candidates must register for the Virtual OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) through their NDEBConnect account. This six-hour computer-based examination is offered multiple times per year at Prometric test centres in Canada and the United States. Successful candidates receive an NDEB certificate. Current fees can be found here.

PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

Step 4 – Licensure: After obtaining NDEB certification, candidates must apply to the NBDS by completing the online application, submitting the required documentation, and paying the 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 be licensed by NBDS through the NDEB Equivalency Process are approximately $15,850 CAD. Credential assessment may take up to 10 weeks after all required documents are received. The full process may take 2 years or longer depending upon examination scheduling. Fees for an accredited Qualifying / Degree Completion Program vary significantly by university—expect in the order of $250,000 CAD. Timelines for these programs often exceed three years.

Pre-arrival: You may begin the academic credential assessment process with NDEB and possibly complete the AFK and ACJ exams 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.

New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

[3] Fee and timeline estimates are as of March 2026 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.