



Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists

Policy Title: 3.7 Exam Eligibility	
Date Approved: December 12, 2023	Category: Registration
Date of next revision: December 2026	Authority: Respiratory Therapists Regulations S8(1), S17(1), S18(1(a, h)) NSCRT Bylaws Section 4(b)

Policy Statement:

The Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists (NSCRT) fulfills its public protection mandate by ensuring new applicants for registration meet standards for entry to practice in Nova Scotia. Successful completion of a Board approved registration examination is an essential requirement to ensure that applicants have demonstrated adequate entry-level knowledge. This policy outlines the process to verify that applicants have met the examination eligibility requirements.

Policy/Procedure:

1. Applicants for licensure with the NSCRT are required to meet the registration requirements as detailed in the Nova Scotia Respiratory Therapists Act and Regulations, NSCRT Bylaws and policies. The current criteria include, but are not limited to:
 - a) graduation from a Respiratory Therapy program approved by the Board (See policy 3.6 Approval of Canadian Education Programs), and
 - b) successful completion of a Board approved registration examination.
2. Currently the NSCRT accepts the Health Professionals Testing Canada (HPTC) examination, formerly the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care (CBRC) examination, as the entry to practice examination.
3. A person may be granted a temporary graduate license by the Registrar prior to completing the approved examination. A temporary graduate license may be issued for up to 18 months – renewal requirements apply.
4. First time exam writers who are graduates of an approved Respiratory Therapy program within two (2) years prior to the date of the exam are automatically eligible to write the HPTC examination and may apply directly to the HPTC.
5. The following applicants to write the exam must have their eligibility determined by the NSCRT:



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- a) Graduates of Board approved Respiratory Therapy programs who were unsuccessful in previous HPTC exam attempt(s)
 - b) Foreign trained applicants who have not graduated from one of the Board approved Respiratory Therapy programs.
6. In order to be considered for eligibility by the NSCRT to write the HPTC exam, individuals under section 4(a)(b) must:
- a. Submit an application for a temporary graduate license to the NSCRT, including payment of applicable fees; and
 - b. Satisfy the application requirements (e.g. meet the education, fluency, currency, good conduct requirements and be eligible to work in Canada as a Respiratory Therapist)
7. Temporary graduate licensees that are unsuccessful at the HPTC exam will be eligible for additional attempts (up to a maximum of three attempts in total, including initial attempt) upon the HPTC receiving confirmation in writing, directly from the NSCRT, that the graduate is eligible to re-write the examination.
8. Following unsuccessful attempts at passing the HPTC exam in 18 months, an applicant may submit a request in writing to the NSCRT for a subsequent attempt. The request must include an upgrading study plan for review and approval by the Credentials Committee. The purpose of the review is to verify that the applicant has undertaken a systematic approach in preparing to re-write the exam and to provide the applicant with feedback concerning the content of their study plan which may assist them in successfully completing the examination.
9. Following successful completion of the exam and to qualify for an active-practice license, the temporary graduate license holder is required to demonstrate their successful completion of the exam by providing a copy of their HPTC exam certificate or exam results document to the College, excluding their score. These results may be provided by the applicant to the College as a photocopy, fax or PDF document.