



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION - GENERAL CERTIFICATE (LICENCE)

The Legislation governing the practice of dentistry in Ontario is contained in the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the *Dentistry Act, 1991* and its regulations. Through this legislation the Government of Ontario has continued to place the responsibility for the registration of dentists with the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. While this material is intended to assist applicants with completing their application forms, we encourage you to also review Regulation 205/94, as amended O. Reg. 75/12 (Registration Regulation). The full Regulation can be found on the College's website at www.rcdso.org or www.e-laws.gov.on.ca. If there is any discrepancy between this information sheet and the current Registration Regulation then the requirements stated in the Regulations shall prevail.

The application form is only valid for three (3) months once signed and notarized. A person may apply for a general certificate of registration by submitting a completed and notarized application form, the non-refundable \$250.00 application fee, and documents attesting to the following:

1. The applicant has a degree in dentistry evidencing successful completion of a course in dental studies of at least four years' duration at a university based dental school. **A certified copy of your diploma (see FAQ #1 on certified documents) must be provided plus an original letter from the Dean of the university certifying your date of graduation.**

International applicants who in addition to a four year dental program have completed an Advanced Standing, Degree Completion or Qualifying program at the undergraduate level, must submit **a certified copy of their original dental degree in addition to a certified copy of the advanced standing/degree completion program degree and an original letter from the Dean of the accredited/recognized university certifying the date of graduation.** Information respecting both programs must be recorded under the "Dental Education" section of the application form.

If the international applicant also completed a **mandatory internship, house job or residency program** at the end of their dental program or in conjunction with their dental program, they must submit a certified copy of the completion certificate, letter from the school, or work book.

2. The applicant,
 - (i) holds a certificate of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada ("NDEB") issued before January 1, 1994, or

- (ii) has successfully completed the National Dental Examining Board examinations leading to a certificate of the National Dental Examining Board* at a time when those examinations were approved by the College.

For (i) or (ii) above, you are no longer required to submit a certified copy of the certificate from the NDEB. We are now able to verify this information directly.

Graduates of non-accredited (international) dental programs must first successfully complete an accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program OR the NDEB Equivalency Process in order to be eligible to take the NDEB Written and OSCE Examinations. Accredited general dentistry programs are those taken in Canada, the United States, Australia for those who graduated on or after March 2010, New Zealand for those who graduated on or after December 14, 2011 and Ireland for those who graduated on or after December 5, 2012. For graduates of international programs please also refer to the “Career Map” and other related information on the College’s website – www.rcdso.org – in the “Applicant” and “Internationally Trained” sections.

Note: The requirement of paragraph 2 above (NDEB) is non-exemptible with one exception:

Amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and Schedule 2 of the *RHPA*, Health Professions Procedural Code ("Code") have been enacted by virtue of the passage of Bill 175 (an Act to enhance labour mobility between Ontario and other Canadian provinces and territories). These changes have had the effect of eliminating, for some applicants, certain registration requirements otherwise required to obtain from the College a General or Specialty Certificate of Registration. To qualify for these benefits, applicants must have unrestricted (permanent) registration (licensure) in another province or territory in Canada. The requirements eliminated principally relate to obtaining / undergoing material additional training, experience, examination or assessments. To obtain the benefits of the legislated changes applicants must be in good standing in all jurisdictions where the applicant holds or held licensure. For a greater understanding of the changes, applicants should review *The Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009* and respective amendments to the *RHPA*.

For international candidates: Information concerning the National Dental Examining Board assessments and examinations plus the two-year advanced standing programs may be obtained from:

National Dental Examining Board of Canada
80 Elgin Street, 2nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6R2 CANADA
Telephone: (613) 236-5912 Website: <http://www.ndeb.ca>

Please note that the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario can only provide registration

information specifically relating to the Registration Regulations and procedures of Ontario. If you wish further information regarding other jurisdictional requirements, you can find a list of the regulatory bodies and dental schools for Canada at the Canadian Dental Association www.cda-adc.ca.

For information regarding American dental schools and regulatory boards, please contact the American Dental Association www.ada.org. For information about Australia, the Australian Dental Council - www.ADC.org.au. For information about New Zealand, the New Zealand Dental Council - inquiries@dcnz.org.nz, www.dentalcouncil.org.nz. For information about Ireland - Email info@dentalcouncil.ie and www.dentalcouncil.ie.

In Ontario, the following universities offer full 4 year dental programs and 2 year advanced standing programs. For information regarding their full admission requirements to their programs, fees, documents and so forth:

<p>Faculty of Dentistry University of Toronto 124 Edward St Toronto ON M5G 1G6 Phone: 416-979-4900 Fax: 416-979-4566 Website: http://www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/</p>	<p>Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Western University Dental Sciences Building London ON N6A 5C1 Phone: 519-661-3330 Fax: 519-661-3875 Website: http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry/</p>
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3. Since being issued the National Dental Examining Board certificate or since obtaining a licence that allows you to practice independently and without restriction in Canada, there has been no three-year period during which the applicant has not engaged in the practise of dentistry on a continuous and regular basis in Canada, the United States of America, Australia or New Zealand. Those applicants who fall into this category may be required to complete an assessment designated by the College at his/her own expense. If this applies to you, please contact the College for more details.
4. The applicant is reasonably fluent in either English or French. Those graduating from accredited programs or a two-year qualifying program have already had to prove language proficiency. **For those coming through the NDEB Equivalency Process, it will be necessary to provide evidence of language proficiency if your program was not taught in English.** The College currently accepts TOEFL – a minimum score of 600 PBT, 250 CBT or 100 ITB. For IELTS, a minimum band of 6.5 in the General test.
NOTE: Completion of the IELTS “Academic” version will not be accepted.

5. The applicant has successfully completed the **examination in ethics and jurisprudence**. The online instructional course and evaluation is now available from the College's website at www.rcdso.org and is accessible by applicants for registration purposes. Please note that in cases where an applicant has previously taken this course that the course results are valid for a period of three years from the date of completion.

6. The applicant is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada or has received the appropriate authorization under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) to permit the applicant to engage in the practise of dentistry in Canada. If a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, a certified copy of a Canadian passport, birth certificate, citizenship card (both sides) or proof of permanent residency status must be submitted. If not a citizen or permanent resident, a certified copy of the authorization issued by Immigration Canada which permits you to engage in the practice of dentistry in Canada (i.e. work permit) must be submitted. Canada Immigration Website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>.

Also note that according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's work and study permit application process (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/medical/index.asp>), "to protect the health and safety of Canadians, as well as reduce and prevent excessive demand on Canada's health and social services," individuals applying as "workers in the health sciences field" or "medical students admitted to Canada to attend university" are required to undergo a medical examination and a satisfactory medical assessment before a work/ study permit can be issued. If applying for a work/study permit, please ensure that you notify the CIC visa office that you intend on pursuing a career in the health services as a dentist.

7. Where the applicant is or has been registered/licensed to practise dentistry in another jurisdiction, **or** has engaged in the practice of dentistry anywhere in the world, the applicant is not and has not been disciplined, suspended, revoked or otherwise the subject of a finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity.

To verify this information the "Certificate of Standing" form, found on our website at www.rcdso.org, must be completed and submitted directly to the College by the Regulatory Authority in each jurisdiction where an applicant has practised or been granted the right to practice.

If you are still practising in the respective jurisdiction at the time you submit your application for registration in Ontario then kindly be aware that this information/form must be current and is therefore only valid for three (3) months. **Reference letters or photocopies of a licence will not be accepted in place of the Certificate of Standing form.** If you are reviewing this information from outside of Canada then it would be to your advantage to have our Certificate of Standing form completed by the appropriate governing authority in your country of origin before immigrating to Canada.

Please note that participation in a **general practice residency or internship** is considered to be

engaging in the practice of dentistry, a letter of standing is therefore required for this period of time. Where licensure in that jurisdiction was not required (i.e., limited permit) then a letter of standing should be provided from the program director of the Hospital or University where the program was completed.

If you completed a **post graduate specialty program**, please request the letter from the Dean of the University. The letter must include the start and end dates of your program, the date your certificate or degree was granted and confirmation that you are in good standing and that you have never been, nor are you now, the subject of complaint, investigation, suspension, discipline, incompetence or incapacity.

8. If applying under a name which is different from the one recorded on the dental diploma, a certified copy of the name change, marriage certificate, or divorce decree (as applicable) must be forwarded with the application.
9. The applicant has made payment of all applicable fees. The applicable fees consist of a **non-refundable** application fee of **\$250.00**, the registration fee of **\$100.00**, and the current annual membership fee of \$2,160.00 for a total of \$2,510.00 (up until June 1 – see below).

Payment of the non-refundable application fee (\$250.00) should be submitted with the application. Payment of the registration fee and the annual membership fee is required before we can issue the certificate of registration. To expedite processing, one certified cheque or credit card number for the total amount may be sent.

NOTE: The annual fee payable by an applicant who has never been a member of this College in any class and is first issued a general certificate of registration shall be:

- (a) **\$2,160.00**, plus above stated \$350.00, if the certificate is issued on or after January 1,
- (b) **\$1,080.00**, plus above stated \$350.00, if the certificate is issued on or after June 1,
- (c) **\$650.00**, plus above stated \$350.00, if the certificate is issued on or after September 1.

A **CERTIFIED** Cheque should be made payable to the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario **and must be issued on a Canadian bank or be a Canadian Money Order**. VISA, MasterCard and AMEX are also accepted. Please provide, in writing, the full credit card number and expiry date plus your signature.

All information is subject to change - your application will be governed by the Regulations, By-laws and Policies in place at the time of submission.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a certified copy? A certified or notarized copy is a photocopy of the original document that has been sworn or declared a certified ‘true copy’ of the original (written or stamped directly on the copy or attached affidavit) and signed and sealed/stamped by a notary public. A lawyer is only able to produce certified copies if he/she is also a notary public. A “Commissioner of Oaths” is able to administer your sworn oath respecting your application form. He/she **is not**, however, authorized to produce certified copies of documents. Please be aware that certain Notaries may be restricted to a certain industry (e.g. banking, real estate, travel agencies) and as such are not legally authorized to certify registration related documentation. Do not use them for it will only delay your application as you will be required to have your documentation certified again. Another common problem occurs when notaries request the applicant to declare the copies as true rather than the notary doing it. This is also not accepted as an applicant cannot swear to the authenticity of his/her own documentation - this is a conflict of interest and the documentation will be rejected.

In most cases the College accepts certified copies of documentation. Applicants are also welcome to bring original documentation to the College and we will photocopy it here and hand it directly back to you. Please call ahead and let us know if you are coming in order to ensure that a staff person is available (also see FAQ #5).

2. How long does it take to process a registration application? Once the College receives a complete application (including all relevant documentation/fees) standard processing time is 3 to 5 weeks but may be longer depending on the time of year the application is received (e.g.: May/June/December). However, we are not responsible for any delay attributed to outside organizations such as other regulatory bodies, schools or Canada Immigration. Applicants must not book patients until registration has been confirmed by the College. It is recommended that you apply with ample time for processing prior to your expected start date. Please note, however, that applications and certificates/letters of standing are only valid for a 3 month period after being signed or issued.

In some cases, it is necessary for the Registrar of the College to refer the application to the Registration Committee if the Registrar:

- has doubts on reasonable grounds about whether an applicant fulfills the registration requirements;
- is of the opinion that terms, conditions or limitations should be imposed on the certificate and the applicant does not consent to the imposition;
- proposes to refuse the application.

If the Registrar is required to refer an application to the Registration Committee the delay time for the application to be reviewed by the Committee is dependent on when the application was received by the College. The Committee meets approximately every two to three months. Note as well, however, that the Regulated Health Professions Act stipulates that the applicant must be given 30 days to make submissions to the Committee. If the Committee makes a decision on the day of the meeting then it will be given to the applicant within 1 week or less. The Committee may also, however, determine that it requires further information before making a decision. The time required to obtain the requested additional information varies from case to case and what has been requested. The nature of additional information can vary from writing to a foreign jurisdiction, waiting for a disciplinary hearing to conclude in another jurisdiction, obtaining an expert opinion or arranging for a health assessment and report or for a clinical assessment if competency is in question. (See also FAQ #7)

3. How will you contact me to inform me about a submitted application? Once we receive your application and supporting documentation, your submissions are reviewed carefully. If there are any deficiencies or missing documentation, you will be notified by the email address or phone number indicated on your application form. Once your documentation is complete, the file is then reviewed for approval. Once the application has been approved, you will receive an email or phone call indicating that your registration has been activated and given your registration number. It is only once you receive this important information that you are able to begin practicing in Ontario.
4. What if my original documents are not in English or French? Documents submitted for registration purposes that are not in English or French must be accompanied by a certified translation. To find a certified translator in Ontario, you can contact the:

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario
1 Nicholas St Suite 1202
OTTAWA, ON K1N7B7
800-234-5030 or 613-241-2846
info@atio.on.ca www.atio.on.ca

For outside of Ontario, please contact your local yellow pages for certified translators. For those outside of Canada or the US, you may also find assistance at a Consulate or Embassy.

Please note that we will require certified copies of the original document(s) accompanied by the original translation.

5. May I obtain copies of the documentation in my file?

Yes. As much of the documentation we collect comes directly from applicants, we urge you to take photo-copies or have multiple certified copies prepared when you are in the process of providing supporting documentation to us. You should not only retain copies for your own

records but you will find in future dealings with other institutions that they too will typically require certified copies of your documentation. Please be aware that once documentation is submitted to the College then it legally becomes the property of the College and will not be returned – this is why we ask for certified copies. This does not prohibit you, however, from coming to the College or sending an original document such as your degree, and asking us to take a copy and we will return the original to you. Please clearly provide written instruction if that is your wish or call and make an appointment.

Paper records are currently kept forever. As more and more institutions of every description move towards electronic record keeping this policy may change in the future. As of this writing, if at any time you wish a copy of supporting documentation in your file then we are again pleased to do so without charge. Simply send us a written request (email or mail) and whether you want it mailed or prefer to pick it up. Please note that we are not authorized to make certified copies of documents.

6. What if I believe I cannot provide some of the documentation that's been requested?

While in some cases this may present a challenge, in the vast majority of cases applicants will be able to obtain the requested documentation. If you believe that the documentation is unobtainable then contact the Registration Department staff and they may be able to assist with contact information in your country of origin or provide guidance on alternative solutions.

7. How could the following Registration Regulation clause affect my application?

14. (1) It is a requirement for the issuing of a certificate of registration of any class that in the opinion of the Registrar or of the Registration Committee, as the case may be, the applicant's past and present conduct afford reasonable grounds for the belief that the applicant,
(a) is mentally competent and physically able to safely practise dentistry;
(b) will practise dentistry with decency, integrity and honesty and in accordance with the law;
(c) has sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to competently engage in the kind of dental practice authorized by the certificate;
(d) can communicate effectively; and
(e) will display an appropriate professional attitude. O. Reg. 407/04, s. 1.

As a regulatory body, the College's primary mandate is public protection. Accordingly, it is our responsibility and lawful duty to ask questions or obtain documentation respecting the past and present conduct of an applicant, even when such enquiries might under normal circumstances be deemed to be personal and private. This process may necessarily delay the application while the situation is being investigated. The following are examples of where the past and present conduct of an applicant may be questioned:

(a) is mentally competent and physically able to safely practise dentistry;

If the applicant suffers from a health condition that raises concerns, such as substance abuse/addiction, a blood-borne pathogen (e.g. Hepatitis B), a mental health disorder, or physical disability that may affect the ability of that person to practice dentistry safely then the Registrar or Registration Committee must consider the effect that disorder or disability will have on the practice when reviewing the application.

(b) will practise dentistry with decency, integrity and honesty and in accordance with the law;

If the applicant's past or present behaviour has called into question whether he/she has appropriate ethics to be a member of the college, e.g. an improper billing history or unnecessary treatment being performed or a history of untruthful communication with patients, third parties or a regulatory body, for example, then the Registrar or Registration Committee must seek insight into why that behaviour occurred.

(c) has sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to competently engage in the kind of dental practice authorized by the certificate;

Where an applicant's past or present conduct has called into question his/her competency or the applicant's refusal to accept responsibility for inappropriate conduct in another jurisdiction is present then the Registrar or the Registration Committee must be satisfied that he/she has undergone sufficient remediation to address any deficiencies.

(d) can communicate effectively;

While this may include the issue of language proficiency it also addresses past or present conduct where the ability of the applicant to communicate adequately with either their patients, third parties or their governing body was a concern. There are few things more important than good communication which affects the practitioner's ability to understand their patient's problem, to then correctly diagnose the problem and transmit that diagnosis so that the patient understands it. Misunderstanding with third parties or regulatory bodies can similarly have profound consequences. Accordingly, the Registrar or Registration Committee must review any evidence of this nature.

(e) will display an appropriate professional attitude.

This speaks to the manner in which applicants have behaved in other regulated environments. To put it simply, professionals are expected to behave like professionals in their behaviour and interaction with the public, third parties and the bodies that regulate them. Inappropriate behaviour can range from active bigotry respecting race, colour, sexual orientation etc. to the extreme of unwelcomed touching or sexual abuse. Past or present behaviour that calls into question the applicant's governability, such as refusal to obey the rules or laws of their

regulator, is also of concern. Evidence of misconduct in any of these areas must be investigated by the Registrar or Registration Committee.

The various illustrations offered above are examples and not meant to be exhaustive or complete. **IMPORTANT NOTE: The mere fact that one or more of these situations may exist does not necessarily mean that an applicant will be denied registration. All applicants will be given the full attention and utmost consideration by the Registrar and Registration Committee. It is currently the policy of the Registration Committee to invite all applicants to attend the committee meeting when their application is being considered. The college attempts to assist all applicants where it is able to do so.**

**FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRATION
DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY**

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