



Nova Scotia
Pharmacy
Regulator

Approved Education Programs Policy

October 2025

BACKGROUND

Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Regulator (NSPR) has the responsibility to approve education programs that qualify applicants for registration and licensure with the NSPR.

In addition, the scope of practice of pharmacy is informed by the knowledge, skills and judgment that are taught in education programs approved by the Board.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Regulated Health Professions Act

2 In this Act, “approved education program” means an education program approved by a regulatory body that qualifies an applicant for registration in the regulated health profession governed by that regulatory body.

Regulated Health Professions Pharmacy Regulations

Scope of practice of pharmacy

7 (1) The scope of practice of pharmacy is the application of specialized and evidence-based pharmacy knowledge, skills and judgment that have been taught in an approved education program or are set out in one or more of the following approved by the Board: ...

Application and criteria for registration in practising register

11 ... (2) In addition to the completed application, an applicant for registration in a practising register must submit all of the following to the registrar:

(a) proof satisfactory to the registration and licensing decision maker that the applicant meets all of the following criteria, except if any or all of the criteria are waived under Section 59 of the Act:

(i) they are a graduate of 1 of the following:

(A) an education program approved for registration in the practising register in which they seek to be registered,

(B) an education program that, in the opinion of the registration and licensing decision maker, is equivalent to an education program approved for registration in the practising register in which they seek to be registered,

(c) an education program that, together with the applicant's additional education and experience and in the opinion of the registration and licensing decision maker, provides the applicant with the competencies to practice in the scope of practice of registrants in the practising register in which they seek to be registered

NSPR Bylaws

1. Definitions

"pharmacy student" means a person enrolled in an approved education program who has not graduated and is registered and licensed with the Regulator under a pharmacist conditional register under the Act, *Pharmacy Regulations* and these bylaws;

"pharmacy technician candidate" means a person enrolled in an approved education program who has not graduated and is registered and licensed with the Regulator under a pharmacy technician conditional register under the Act, the *Pharmacy Regulations* and these bylaws;

PURPOSE

To set out the criteria for education programs that fit within the meaning of an "approved education program" as defined in section 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

POLICY

Education programs that meet the following criteria are approved education programs for the purposes of the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Regulated Health Profession Pharmacy Regulations* and the *NSPR Bylaws*:

- 1) Educational programs in pharmacy that lead to a degree on successful completion, and that is:
 - a) accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs;
 - b) accredited by a body recognized as an accrediting agency by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs; or
 - c) determined by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada to be the equivalent of a program accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs.

- 2) Pharmacy technician training programs that lead to a diploma on successful completion, and that is:
 - a) accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs, or
 - b) approved by the NSPR Board under the *Approval of Bridging Programs to Educate and Train Pharmacy Technicians Policy*.

Approved By NSCP Board: October 1, 2025