

**National Dental Specialty Examination - Candidate Management System -
Application Process**

January 11th, 2024 - Webinar – Questions & Answers

1. How can we access the recording later for people who cannot attend the webinar?

The recording of the webinar will be distributed to the attendees, along with this Question-and-Answer document, during the week of February 5th. If you are an attendee receiving this document, please feel free to forward it to others you may feel are interested or would benefit from this information.

A recording of the webinar held on January 11th, 2024, can be located on the NDSE website: <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/webinars-and-newsletters/>

2. Will there be a reference list or resource list similar to what NDEB had on its website?

The plan is to provide a reference list for the questions that are included in the examinations by specialty in late spring. When this reference list is available it will be posted on the NDSE website and notice of posting the reference list will be sent to those on our NDSE newsletter mailing list and to those engaged in the NDSE application process.

If you would like to be on our NDSE newsletter mailing list, please complete the form at the link below:

<https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/ndse-sub-page/>

3. Is the examination format going to change this year?

The examination format will be very similar to what was in place in 2023.

The specific format of each specialty examination can be found in the NDSE Protocol document located on the NDSE website: <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/specialties/>

The level of information and detail related to the NDSE in the NDSE Protocol is similar to that was available in previous NDSE cycles with NDEB.

4. Is it possible to do the oral examination in French and the written examination in English? Or is only one language selection per examination permitted?

There is no oral component to the NDSE for the 2023 cycle.

It is possible to engage in the Fellowship examination in English and the NDSE in French (or vice versa) during the same examination year. The candidate has the option to select their preferred language for the respective examination at the time of registration as the Fellowship examination and NDSE are two completely separate examinations from credentialing, registration, development, and administration perspectives.

5. Unlike the website, the presentation showed a Program Director can provide the letter to support the DSATP graduate has completed all program components. Previously this was to be signed by the Dean only according to the website.

The two pathways for NDSE Eligibility Requirement are located:

<https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/application/eligibility/>

In terms of pathway 2, which pertains to candidates engaged in a DSATP program, the eligibility requirements state that a candidate must provide a letter of permission from the program director or dean confirming that the candidate is academically prepared to sit for the examination.

These eligibility requirements are reflective of the content included in the presentation accompanying this document and the website.

6. What examination centers will be hosting the examinations? Will the spot be reserved?

Candidates will be asked to select a “Preferred City” from a drop-down list as part of the applicant registration process. This drop-down list will include cities within Canada and the United States. Candidates will not be permitted to sit the NDSE outside of these two countries or through remote delivery in their home or work environments.

7. Where will the examinations be administered on June 18th?

The NDSE will be delivered at Measure Learning testing centers. The selected test sites will be aligned only with the cities that are included as part of the “Preferred City” selection process that the application will engage in as part of the registration process.

Information on the individual test sites, what to expect on examination day and site registration protocols will be available in an update to the NDSE Protocol at the end of March 2024.

8. Do you have to pass the NDSE and Fellowship to practice as a licensed specialist in Canada?

Please direct questions related to obtaining a license to practice in Canada to the respective Dental Regulatory Authority in your province.

9. Is there a limit to the amount of attempts a candidate can have for the examination?

At this present time, there is no attempt limit for the National Dental Specialty Examination.

10. Are examination locations being attributed or assigned on a first come first serve basis?

We will endeavor to be as candidate-centric as possible, working very closely with our examination delivery vendor partner, to ensure we can support the highest percentage of candidates engaged in their NDSE in their preferred city selection.

11. When do we find out if there is an oral component to the NDSE?

At present, the NDSE will have a similar format as 2023, which does not include an oral component. If changes to the format of the specialty examination do occur, they will be communicated in advance accordingly.

The specific format of each specialty examination can be found in the NDSE Protocol document located on the NDSE website: <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/specialties/>

12. If we have a previous application with RCDC for the NDSE do we need to start over?

If you have previously engaged in the credentialing process for the NDSE at NDEB you can identify this as part of the applicant registration process.

If you have a previous application with RCDC for the NDSE and have not applied for the NDSE at the NDEB, and have questions, please direct these questions to NDSE@rcdc.ca.

13. Does succeeding in the NDSE give the title of FRCDC to the applicant?

No. To obtain the FRCDC designation the applicant must successfully challenge the Fellowship examination.

14. How many multiple-choice questions are there on the NDSE?

The question format and the number of questions varies based on the specialty and the component of the examination.

An approximate number of questions per specialty by component will be available as part of the NDSE Protocol update at the end of March 2024.

15. How long is the examination?

6 hours of total testing time. The majority of specialties are divided into 2 3-hour components. One specialty has divided that into 3 2-hour components. Please go to the NDSE website to review the NDSE Protocol and specialty blueprints:

<https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/specialties/>

16. Do we need to show proof that we are in the final year of their residency program? If so, how should this be submitted?

If an applicant is in their final year of residency they need to provide proof of enrollment in a dental specialty training program as outlined in the eligibility requirements, located: <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/application/eligibility/>.

These documents will be required to be uploaded electronically by the applicant into the NDSE candidate management system.

The full list of credentialing requirements can be found in the NDSE Policies and Procedures guide:

<https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/policies-and-procedures/>

17. If I had completed my primary dental degree outside Canada and verified by the NDEB before do I still need to complete the credential verification process? I have concerns that the process within the country where I obtained my primary dental degree will take more than 2 months to verify.

Proof of completion of the primary dental degree is not part of the credentialing requirements for the NDSE.

Eligibility Requirements are located: at <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/application/eligibility/>

The full list of credentialing requirements can be found in the NDSE Policies and Procedures guide: <https://ndse-ensd.ca/en/policies-and-procedures/>

18. Will unsuccessful applicants need to wait an entire year to re-sit the examination?

For 2023 and 2024 there is one administration of the NDSE. It is on the roadmap for future planning to review the operational feasibility of having the NDSE administered more than once in a calendar year.

19. Will there be a format change in 2024 and 2025 to the NDSE?

The NDSE will maintain a written-only format for 2024 and 2025. There will be no oral component during this timeframe.

20. Do you accept electronic submissions of good standing from Regulatory Authorities?

Yes. All applicant credentialing documents will be required to be uploaded to the NDSE candidate management system electronically.

NDS ENSD

National Dental
Specialty Examination

Examen national des
spécialités dentaires