



Continuing Competency Program for Registered Dental Technologists

Introduction

The Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA) is anticipated to migrate under the [Regulated Health Professions Act](#) (RHPA) and concurrently amalgamate with the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS) and Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia (DLBNS) on May 1, 2025. These three legacy organizations will become the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD).

For the purpose of this Continuing Competency Program, the current professional designation of Registered Dental Technician means the same as the new term that will be used once migrated to the RHPA, which is Registered Dental Technologists.

Individuals practising dental technology are expected to maintain current knowledge and skills. The public relies on those in regulated health professions to protect them by keeping informed of emerging best practices and advances in their profession. Registered Dental Technologists (RDTs) are required to engage in formalized learning experiences as one way to ensure their continued competence in the profession.

To align with the regulatory framework of the upcoming transition to the [Regulated Health Professions Act](#) (RHPA) and our simultaneous amalgamation with denturists and dental hygienists, the NSDTA has approved this Continuing Competency Program (CCP) for dental technology, to begin on April 30, 2025.

Section 172 of the RHPA states that:

- (1) “A continuing-competence program approved under a former Act remains approved until such time as amended by the bylaws.”
- (2) “The processes for verification of compliance with a continuing-competence program under a former Act remain in place until such time as amended by the bylaws.”



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Individual Scope of Practice

As part of the Continuing Competency Program (CCP), all Registered Dental Technologists (RDTs) are required to assess their individual learning needs on an ongoing basis and focus their learning activities on these needs. This begins with a clear understanding of one's personal scope of practice – recognizing that while the profession's full scope is outlined in the current NSDTA Act and will subsequently be outlined in the NSRDHDTD's Profession Specific Regulations, not all registrants will be trained or competent in every discipline within this scope of practice.

To ensure safe, effective, and ethical practice, each registrant must critically reflect on their current knowledge, skills, and practice environment to identify areas for professional growth. Determining learning needs allows registrants to create a focused 'learning plan' that supports continuing competency, aligns with individual goals, and meets regulatory expectations. This self-assessment is the foundation of the CCP and an essential component of maintaining high standards of care within the profession.

Required Credit Hours

RDTs are required to obtain 45 credit hours of continuing competency activities in a 3-year period.

Types of Learning Activities

Learning activities must have significant intellectual or practical content related to the practice of dental technology, overall health, or professional responsibility and ethical obligations.

These learning activities can include things such as:

- Courses – in person or virtual, hands-on or theoretical, related directly or indirectly (for instance, business management or equity, diversity, and inclusion training) to the delivery of dental technology services. This includes attendance of scientific presentations at conventions or meetings.
- Annual CPR/BLS certification or re-certification, first aid training (including mental health first aid), or WHMIS.
- The development and delivery of educational training outside of your regular employment or contractual obligations.
- Participation in organized study clubs.
- Publishing of technical or research articles in journals, or of books or chapters of books (such as textbooks) related to dental technology.
- Volunteer participation in professional organizations (including on boards, committees, or as a subject matter expert for special projects related to dental technology), for organizations such as the NSRDHDTD or the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR).
- Enrollment in formal dental technology education in an approved program (in person or distance learning).

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In effect: April 30, 2025



Generally, one credit hour will be awarded for every hour of participation or attendance in any of these learning activities.

It is anticipated that upon migration to the RHPA, the NSRDHDTD will establish a committee that reports to the Registrar to oversee and administer the Continuing Competency Program of all three oral health professions it regulates – dental technology, dental hygiene, and denturism. This committee will determine, on an individual basis, the acceptability and credit hour value of any learning activities that require review.

Continuing competency activities completed as a result of a regulatory disciplinary process do not count toward the 45 credit hours.

Continuing Competence Cycle

For this first cycle, to assist with alignment to a December 31 cycle end date, all individuals who renew a practising licence for June 1, 2025 will have a cycle start date of January 1, 2026. However, any activities completed *after* this CCP comes into effect on April 30, 2025, and *prior* to Jan 1, 2026, will count towards your initial cycle.

Essentially, you will have 3.5 years in your initial CCP cycle for this first cycle only.

RDTs who obtain an initial practising licence after migration to the RHPA, will be subject to the policy set by the NSRDHDTD on cycle start dates.

Record-Keeping and Verification

Each RDT is expected to maintain records of the learning activities they have completed. A paper form will be provided that must be used to document each learning activity. You will be responsible for keeping this paperwork to submit to the regulator in a form approved by the Registrar, and at a time determined by the Registrar.

Documentation for credit hours should include:

- the RDT's name
- date
- presenter's name and qualifications
- topic
- course/presentation description
- length of the presentation **and/or**
- other relevant information if the learning activity is not a course

The NSRDHDTD Registrar or the committee that may be established to oversee and administer the Continuing Competency Program reserve the right to review an RDT's CCP records at any time. Provisions may also be established to conduct random auditing of a percentage of registrant's records in each cycle.



A mechanism to appeal a decision of the Registrar or a committee related to the CCP will be made available to you.

Falsification of any records or information will be considered professional misconduct and be subject to disciplinary action.

Pursuant to the draft By-Laws of the NSRDHDT, all registrants are required to maintain their individual CCP records for six years. For RDTs whose CCP will be effective as of April 30, 2025, this means the six years following April 30, 2025, and after six years has elapsed, for the immediately preceding six years.

Other Considerations

Consideration will be given to other areas of study on an individual basis with proper notification and documentation. It is the RDT's responsibility to receive prior approval for any learning activity that they may question the relevance of before submitting it as part of their CCP record.

You are strongly encouraged to participate in some learning activities each year, spreading the minimum 45 credit hours out over the 3-year cycle period.

Surplus credit hours cannot be carried forward into a subsequent calendar year or CCP cycle.

Failure to meet continuing competency requirements will result in the inability to renew your licence until such time as the requirements are met. (Any applicable reinstatement fees will apply.) Learning activities used to meet this requirement will only count toward the previous cycle for which there was a deficit, and not the new cycle.