

Chapter 2: Classification Policies

Section: 2.2 Eligible Qualifications for Classification	Issue Date: <i>August 1, 2024</i>
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2.2.0 Policy Statement

This policy outlines the qualifications eligible to be assessed for classification in Nova Scotia.

2.2.1 Policy Objective

This policy aims to create consistency, clarity, and fairness in the required evidence of qualifications accepted for classification of early childhood education professions in Nova Scotia, and how they are to be assessed.

Policy Directives

2.2.2 Qualifications eligible for assessment for classification

1. Post-secondary education: EECD accepts **credentials** from **post-secondary** educational institutions, including **certificates, diplomas, and degrees**. EECD accepts coursework completed through an accredited post-secondary institution and practical workplace training, as specified in the [Standards for Early Childhood Education Post-Secondary Programs](#), set by the Minister:
 - a) Coursework: Program coursework must cover all the learning outcomes required to support the scope of practice for ECEs.
 - b) Workplace training: Program practicum components provide opportunities for students to practice and demonstrate their knowledge and skills gained through the curriculum by applying them in an early childhood education setting.
2. Vocational training: EECD accepts vocational credentials from vocational training programs that demonstrate the requirements for learning outcomes, credit hours, and practicum hours.

2.2.3 Canada Free Trade Agreement

1. As per national agreements, Nova Scotia recognizes and accepts the credentials of other provinces, as assessed by their respective ECE Classification/Certification entity.
 - a) Certification equivalencies for other Canadian jurisdictions and other labour mobility considerations are outlined in *Appendix A*, and the *Canada Free Trade Agreement – Labour Mobility Policy*.

2.2.4 Recognition of Prior Learning

1. Applicants without completed credentials, or with significant work experience, are

encouraged to apply for the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** program, which provides assessment of past education and professional experience to determine eligibility for a Level 2 ECE classification in Nova Scotia.

2.2.5 Assessing Credentials

1. EECD will only assess post-secondary credentials from accredited post-secondary institutions and vocational training programs.
 - a) For Nova Scotia or Canadian-trained applicants: Accredited institutions require the completion of secondary school (high school) or GED for admission.
 - b) For internationally trained applicants: Post-secondary accreditation is generally demonstrated through the report provided by a designated Educational Credential Assessment service provider, such as World Education Services Canada (WES).
2. As per Policy 2.5: *Required and Alternative Official Documents* official transcripts and supporting course descriptions must be submitted for review by the granting training institution. EECD does not accept credentials (transcripts) directly from applicants.
3. Classification Services may consider multiple, complete credentials in determining whether an applicant is eligible for ECE classification, e.g., EECD would consider a bachelor's degree in education, and one year certificate in ECE, collectively, to determine whether an applicant meets the criteria for Level 1,2 or 3 classification.
4. All applications will be assessed at the highest applicable level regardless of request on application.

2.2.6 References

- Early Learning and Child Care Regulations (37-37F)
<https://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/elcc.htm>
- Standards for Level 1 Classification:
ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/documents/pd/Standards_Trng_Level_1.pdf
- Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities modules and activities
<https://nsorientation.skillbuilder.co/>
- Recognized Prior Learning Program
<https://aecens.ca/RPL>
- Definitions of academic credentials: English Terminology Guide to Academic Credential Assessment in Canada, cicic.ca
www.cicic.ca/1429/terminology_guides.canada
- Government of Canada, Educational Credential Assessment – Service Providers
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/partners-service-providers/immigrant-serving-organizations/best-practices/foreign-educational-credential-assessment.html>