



NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF

Dietitians AND
Nutritionists

Dual Licensure Position Statement

Introduction

Dual licensure occurs when an individual holds a professional license in more than one health profession. While this can enhance a dietitian's knowledge and skills to support their dietetic practice, it may also create role confusion and accountability issues if adequate safeguards are not established.

Key Considerations

Separation of Roles

To ensure clarity and maintain trust, services provided by a dual-licensed professional must be clearly defined for each role. Clients must be fully informed about the specific professional capacity in which the professional is acting during each interaction or in each employment role. This separation of roles is critical to avoiding confusion and ensuring that each profession's standards are upheld.

Scope of Practice

Individuals holding dual licensure must be mindful of the distinct scope of practice, boundaries and responsibilities associated with each health profession. A dietitian who is also licensed in another health profession must distinguish clearly between their responsibilities in each role and avoid situations where their duties overlap in ways that could confuse or mislead clients. An example is an individual who is both a nurse and a dietitian. When the individual is practising as a dietitian, they may not provide services outside the dietetic scope of practice. Similarly, when acting as a registered nurse, they may not provide dietetic services that fall outside of the nursing scope of practice.

Position Statement

The College holds the position that dietitians with dual licensure are expected to adhere to the highest standards of ethics and accountability in each health profession for which they are licensed. Dietitians holding dual licensure must meet all NSCDN licensing requirements. Similarly, dietetic active practice hours are determined based on the time spent working within the dietetic scope of practice. For more information regarding how practice hours are determined, see the [NSCDN Active Practice Policy](#).

References:

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Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (n.d.). *Dual licensure position statement*.
<https://nscn.ca/wp-content/uploads/DualLicensure.pdf>

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