



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

## POLICY ON TAKING THE BAR ADMISSION COURSE PRIOR TO COMMENCING ARTICLES

### 1.1 Application

1.1.1 Applicants who have not yet commenced articles, but who wish to enroll in the Bar Admission Course, must apply to the Director, Education & Credentials in writing.

Currently, the Bar Admission Course consists of the Bar Examination and the Skills Course (in-person and online modules).

### Considerations on a case by case basis

1.1.2 There may be various reasons that an applicant wishes to enroll in the Bar Admission Course prior to commencing articles. As such, there will be special considerations applicable to each case. The following models will guide the Executive Director in considering these requests.

#### (i) *Applicants with confirmed articling positions*

If an applicant has a confirmed articling position with a start date subsequent to the date of a component of the Bar Admission Course, the request for enrollment will be considered if the applicant has been approved to commence articling and is simply waiting on his or her start date.<sup>1</sup>

#### (ii) *Applicants without confirmed articling positions*

If an applicant does not have a confirmed articling position, the Executive Director will not grant permission to enroll in the Skills Course; however, the Executive Director will consider requests to write the Bar Examination on a case by case basis. The applicant must submit the following documentation:

- a) a completed articling application with principal information omitted,
- b) confirmation that the applicant has a law degree as defined in Part 3 of the Regulations made pursuant to the *Legal Profession Act*, S.N.S. 2004, c. 28,
- c) a written explanation as to why the applicant wishes to enroll in the Bar Admission Course early, and
- d) the applicable fee.

### Three Year Window to Complete Admission Requirements

1.1.3 An applicant must complete all admission requirements (articling and Bar Admission Course) within a three year period. Accordingly, applicants must understand that if they request and are given permission to enroll early in any portion of the Bar Admission Course, the three year window commences at the time they commence the Skills Course or write the bar examination.

*Approved by the Credentials Committee – March 23, 2016*

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<sup>1</sup> Examples:

- the Legal Drafting module of the Skills Course begins in February. We have permitted an applicant who was commencing her articles on March 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll in this module.
- We have permitted an applicant commencing articles on December 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll in the November in-person Skills Course.
- We have also permitted applicants to write the bar exam in advance of their start date.