



Lawyer Licensing Process

Upcoming changes and how they impact lawyer licensing candidates

The Law Society of Ontario



New technology platform

Introduction to the innovative technology platform:
LSO Connects



Licensing process changes

Explanation of the upcoming modifications to the Law Society's licensing process



Benefits and impacts

Improved efficiency and support for licensing candidates, licensees, and the public

LSO Connects: The Law Society's new portal

- **Centralized portal**

LSO Connects consolidates communications and licensing processes into a single, secure platform for the Law Society to interact with licensing candidates, licensees, and the public.

- **User friendly and efficient**

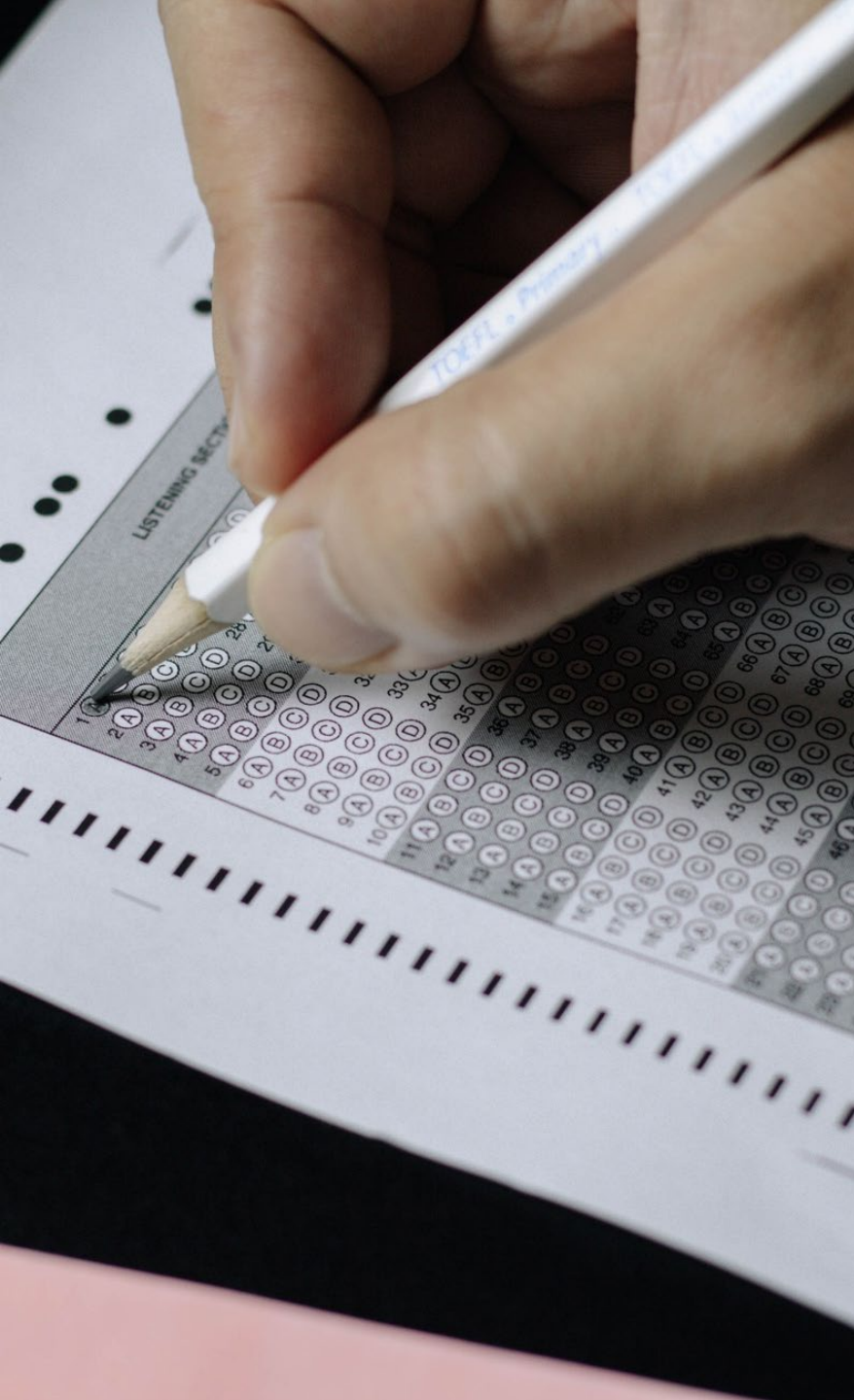
LSO Connects is designed to be more user-friendly, enhancing operational efficiency and simplifying the licensing process.

- **Sole communications channel**

LSO Connects will serve as the sole communications channel between candidates/licensees and the Law Society.

- **Self-service model**

Candidates will have increased flexibility to register for events, such as examinations, and submit service requests through LSO Connects for various components of the licensing process.



Examination changes

- **Registration and deferral**

Candidates will register for and defer examinations through their LSO Connects accounts.

- **Study materials**

Candidates must request and pay for study materials when registering for examinations on LSO Connects.

- **Accommodation requests**

Candidates will make accommodation requests via service requests on their LSO Connects accounts and submit supporting documentation directly.

- **Examination results**

Candidates can access examination results directly on their LSO Connects account.

- **Candidate ID cards**

Candidate ID cards will no longer be issued. Candidates must provide government-issued IDs for identification at examinations starting in fall 2024.

Experiential Training changes



Articling placement records

Articling candidates must submit articling placement records at the start and end of their placement rather than submit articles of clerkship or certificates of service.



Abridgements and exemptions

Candidates submit service requests through LSO Connects accounts to request an exemption from experiential training or an abridgement of an articling term.



Time off during articling

Principals approve time off and ensure excess time is made up during the placement, including abridgements based on compassionate grounds or temporary assignment of articles.

New payment model



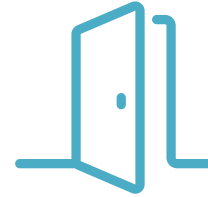
Pay for service model

Make real-time payments for required services through your LSO Connects account, eliminating invoices.



Payment options

Visa, Mastercard, and American Express credit cards; Visa and Mastercard debit cards; and monthly payment plans will be accepted.



No third-party payments

Third-party payments will no longer be accepted.



No other methods

Other payment methods such as electronic funds transfers, cheques, and money orders, will no longer be accepted.

The Law Society is transitioning to a more convenient and flexible payment system for its services.

Payment plans and financial assistance



New monthly payment plans on demand

Candidates can request monthly payment plans for many licensing process components.



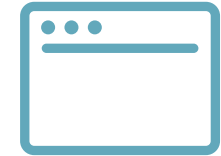
One plan per service item

Each service item, like exam registration or articling fees, requires a separate monthly payment plan.



10-months per plan

Monthly payment plans for lawyer licensing candidates will have a duration of 10 months.



Repayable Allowance Program

Applications for Repayable Allowance Program will now be submitted through LSO Connects.



Supervision agreement requirements

1. Initial Supervision Term

Initial supervision agreements with a duration of six months or less do not require Law Society approval.

2. Extension of supervision agreement

Approval is necessary for supervision agreements beyond six months, with a maximum duration of 12 months.

3. Requesting extension

To request an extended supervision agreement, you must submit a service request through LSO Connects.

4. Eligibility for extension

Extension approval may be granted if you are not under investigation for good character concerns or facing a disciplinary hearing and where the proposed supervisor is an approved articling principal.



Becoming licensed

- **Make selection and register**

Candidates will log into LSO Connects and select their preferred licensing method – either administrative or ceremonial – and register for licensure.

- **Rolling administrative licensing**

Administrative licensing will now occur on a rolling basis.

What to expect: Updates and communication



Check your email address

Ensure your email address is up-to-date to receive an invitation to create a new account.



Monitor your account and the website

Keep an eye on your current online licensing candidate account and [LSO.ca/coming-soon](https://lso.ca/coming-soon) for information, updates and resources.



Website updates

Licensing webpages will be refreshed with new processes and policies when LSO Connects goes live.



[LSO.ca/coming-soon](https://lso.ca/coming-soon)

Questions?



Assistance is available.

Email us at licencesupport@lso.ca to address any questions you may have about the new system and how it will impact your licensing process.