



THE ASSOCIATION OF
REGISTERED NURSES
OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**POLICY
REGISTRATION**

Assessment for Eligibility to Write the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam (CRNE) for Graduates of Internationally Educated Nursing Programs who have Never Been Registered in Another Canadian Jurisdiction

POLICY STATEMENT

1. All applicants must pass the CRNE as one prerequisite for registration, unless the graduate has passed another registration examination approved by Council.
2. The Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island (the Association) only accepts official documents for Parts II, III, IV, V, and transcripts. An official document is one that has been sent in a sealed envelope directly to the Association by the issuing authority and has never been in possession of anyone other than the institution that issued it. The Association does not accept certified true copies of these documents. The Association only accepts official documents for the English Language Proficiency Test. Translations from a certified translator will be accepted.
 - a) Where documents cannot be obtained by an applicant for reasons beyond the applicant's control, the Association will advise the applicant of alternative information that may be acceptable, e.g., notarized affidavit that the school of nursing existed.
3. If the applicant is required to enroll in a competence assessment and/or bridging education program as outlined in Paragraph 6 of the following Procedure they will be informed in a letter from the Association. They will have one year from the date of this letter to enroll in the competence assessment or the bridging education program and they must notify the Association of enrollment date. If they do not meet this timeline their file will be closed, unless they can provide evidence of extenuating circumstances¹.
 - a) In the event that at any time in that year they inform the Association that they do not intend to complete this requirement their file will be closed upon receipt of the information. If the applicant does not complete the competence assessment or the bridging education program within the timeline stipulated by the educational institution offering the program their file will be closed.
4. All decisions are communicated in writing to the applicant along with any appropriate rationale.
5. The Association reserves the right to require a competence assessment at any time they receive information calling the applicant's competence into question.

¹ Examples of extenuating circumstances include: death or crisis in the family, personal illness, and inability to leave their current country of residence. Applicants wishing to extend their eligibility must provide their rationale in writing and any supporting documents required by the Association.

Procedure:

1. Applicants who wish to write the CRNE with the Association can do the following:
 - a) Contact the Association for information. The applicant will be sent either by email or mail at the applicant's request information on the CRNE application process; and/or
 - b) Visit the Association website to obtain information.

2. All applicants must complete the *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses* which can be found on the Association website or can be mailed to the applicant upon request. The Application consists of:
 - a) Part I – *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses*;
 - b) Payment of the Initial Application Fee;
 - c) Proof of legal name and photo identification;
 - d) Part II – *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses: Verification of Original Nurse Registration and Examination Scores*;
 - e) Part III – *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses: Verification of Current Nurse Registration*;
 - f) Part IV – *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses: Verification of Graduation from School of Nursing*;
 - g) Part V – *Application for Assessment of Eligibility For Registration For Internationally Educated Nurses: Statement from Current/Most Recent Employer*;
 - h) Transcripts from the school of nursing;
 - i) World Education Services (WES) Course-by-Course evaluation report; and
 - j) English Language Proficiency Test results;
 - k) A criminal record check from your country of origin issued within the last six months. If the applicant has been living in Canada a criminal record check will be required from the local policing authorities.

3. An applicant who has written the CRNE in another Canadian jurisdiction is required to ask the regulatory body(ies) where they wrote the CRNE to submit a letter directly to the Association identifying the:
 - a) number of times they have written the CRNE in their jurisdiction; and
 - b) CRNE results.

4. Once Part I and the application fee has been received, the Association initiates a file for the applicant by ensuring the following is completed:
 - a) A file folder is started which will contain all documents pertaining to their application.

5. As Parts of the application are received:
 - a) they are verified as an official document;

- b) they are date stamped.
6. Once all applicable Parts of the application are received and verified, the Association reviews the application to determine:
- a) The nursing program is substantially equivalent because:
 - i. the nursing program meets the *Criteria for Assessment of the IEN Nursing Program* (see Appendix A).
The applicant is informed they are eligible to write the CRNE.
 - b) The nursing program is not substantially equivalent because the program had insufficient theory **and** clinical hours in one or more program areas as set out in Appendix B in which case the applicant is required to complete the required bridging education in the program area(s) in which they are deficient;
 - c) The nursing program is not substantially equivalent because the program had insufficient theory **or** clinical hours as set out in Appendix B in which case the applicant is required to complete a focused and/or general competence assessment as set out in Appendix B. Where the competence assessment identifies some deficiencies, the applicant will be required to complete bridging education to address the deficiencies;
 - d) The nursing program is not substantially equivalent for reasons other than 6(b) or 6(c) such that the applicant will be required to complete a competence assessment(s) to determine whether the applicant has the competencies required of a registered nurse working in Prince Edward Island.
 - i. If the results of the competence assessment indicate that the applicant does have the required competencies and has met all other regulatory requirements, the applicant is considered eligible to write the CRNE.
 - ii. If the results of the competence assessment indicate the applicant does not have the required competencies, the applicant will be required to successfully complete one or more of the following:
 - A. bridging education to address identified deficiencies;
 - B. a re-entry program or other education program including a baccalaureate degree program.
7. Where the applicant is required to complete a bridging education program under paragraph 6:
- a) the applicant is sent a letter outlining this requirement, including rationale for the decision;
 - b) the applicant signs and forwards to the Association the *Consent for Release of Information*;
 - c) When the Association receives the above signed *Consent for Release of Information*, the Association forwards the information outlined in the *Consent for Release of Information* to the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre (RN-PDC), the agency that provides the bridging program;
 - d) the applicant then contacts the RN-PDC to arrange to complete the required bridging education program;

- e) if the applicant successfully completes the bridging education program, the RN-PDC will send a copy of the course transcript(s) to the applicant and the Association will advise the applicant that they are eligible to write the CRNE;
 - f) if the applicant does not successfully complete the bridging program then the RN-PDC will notify the Association in writing and the applicant is then informed by the Association that they are ineligible to write the CRNE.
8. When a competence assessment is required under paragraph 6:
- a) the applicant is sent a letter outlining this requirement, including rationale for the decision;
 - b) the applicant is given a description of the assessment;
 - c) the applicant signs and forwards to the Association the *Consent for Release of Information*;
 - d) When the Association receives the above signed *Consent for Release of Information*, the Association forwards the information outlined in the *Consent for Release of Information* to the RN-PDC;
 - e) the applicant then contacts the RN-PDC to arrange an appointment;
 - f) the applicant completes the competence assessment at the RN-PDC;
 - g) The RN-PDC prepares a report and a copy is sent to the applicant and the Association.
 - h) If the Association determines, based on the report, that the applicant has gaps in their knowledge, skills or abilities, they are informed of any required bridging education they must successfully complete before they can be deemed eligible to write the CRNE.
 - i) If the applicant successfully completes the bridging education, the RN-PDC will send a copy of the course transcript(s) to the applicant and the Association and the Association will advise the applicant that they are eligible to write the CRNE;
 - j) If the applicant does not successfully complete the bridging education then the RN-PDC will notify the Association in writing and the applicant is then informed by the Association that they are ineligible to write the CRNE.
9. When the applicant is required to complete a Association approved nursing re-entry program (Grant MacEwan University Refresher Program or the RN-PDC for the IEN Bridging/Re-entry Program) as set out in paragraph 6:
- a) The applicant completes the application for the Grant MacEwan University Refresher Program or the Association sends the referral to the RN-PDC for the IEN bridging re-entry program (at the applicant's choice);
 - b) The applicant forwards the completed application to the Association for the Grant MacEwan University Refresher Program;
 - c) The Association signs the application form in the appropriate location and forwards to the RN-PDC for the Grant MacEwan University Refresher Program;
 - d) If the applicant successfully completes the re-entry program, the educational institution will send a copy of the course transcript(s) to the applicant and the College and the Association will advise the applicant that they are eligible to write the CRNE;

- e) If the applicant does not successfully complete the re-entry program, the educational institution will send a copy of the course transcript(s) to the applicant and the Association will advise the applicant that they are ineligible to write the CRNE.

A: Criteria for Assessment of the IEN Nursing Program

Criteria	Yes/No	Comments
The nursing program ² is post-secondary. (i.e., not a high school program.)		If the program is 100% high school the applicant is <u>not</u> eligible to apply for registration.
The nursing program is post-secondary with a minimum of 24 months in duration.		If no, competence assessment required.
The applicants nursing program included theory and clinical ³ experience at the general registered nurse level across the lifespan and includes:		If no, see <i>Appendix B Competence Assessment Referral Scenarios for IENs</i>
• adult medical nursing (100 theory and 200 clinical minimum)		Applicants who have no adult medical or surgical theory or clinical in their nursing education program are not eligible for registration except when the applicant has post graduate experience in medicine or surgery the applicant may be eligible to complete a competence assessment.
• adult surgical nursing (100 theory and 200 clinical minimum)		
• obstetrical nursing (50 theory and 80 clinical minimum)		
• pediatric nursing (50 theory and 80 clinical minimum)		
• mental health nursing (after January 1966) (50 theory and 80 clinical minimum)		
• community health nursing (50 theory and 80 clinical minimum)		
• geriatric nursing (when program available at RN-PDC) (50 theory and 80 clinical minimum)		
The applicants nursing program contained a minimum of 600 hours of theory and 1200 clinical practice hours in the above 6 program areas. (Once gerontology added will increase to 650 theory hours and 1300 clinical hours.)		If no, see <i>Appendix B Competence Assessment Referral Scenarios for IENs</i>

² Does not include re-entry, or graduate programs.

³ This does not include computerized patients, models, simulators or simulated client situations in the lab. Clinical experience must be face to face contact with clients in various health care settings.

Documents also provide evidence of the following content areas:		If no, send for general competence assessment.
• Health Promotion and Injury Prevention		
• Health and Physical Assessment		
• Leadership Skills		
• Ethics		
• Pharmacology		
• Microbiology		
• Human Growth and Development		
• Nutrition		
• Anatomy and Physiology		
• Pathophysiology		
• Therapeutic Communication		
<p>The College has information that the applicants' program of origin and countries where they have practiced indicates that:</p> <p>a) the role, scope of nursing practice, and the regulation of nursing practice in the country is radically different from Nova Scotia and</p> <p>b) they have not worked sufficiently in another country with a role, scope of nursing practice, and regulation similar to NS.</p>		If yes, complete a competence assessment.



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APPENDIX B: Competence Assessment Referral Scenarios for IENs

Scenario 1:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/ Surgical Nursing	200	400
Obstetrical Nursing	50	80
Pediatric Nursing	50	80
Psychiatric Nursing	50	80
Community Nursing	50	80
Minimum Total Hours Total	≥ 600	≥ 1200
Gerontology Nursing (when available)	50	80
Minimum Total Hours when Gerontology Nursing Added	≥ 650	≥ 1300

No referral required.

Scenario 2:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/Surgical Nursing	✓	✓
Obstetrical Nursing	<50 theory hours in one or more of the specialty program areas	✓
Pediatric Nursing		✓
Psychiatric Nursing		✓
Community Nursing		
Gerontology Nursing (when available)		
Total	≥ 600 or 650	≥ 1200 or 1300

<50 theory hours in obstetrical or psychiatric nursing: refer for focused competence assessment in the program area(s).

<50 theory hours in pediatric nursing: refer for focused competence assessment and general competence assessment.

<50 theory hours in community and gerontology nursing: refer for general competence assessment.

Scenario 3:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/Surgical Nursing	✓	✓
Obstetrical Nursing	✓	<80 clinical hours in one or more of the specialty program areas
Pediatric Nursing	✓	
Psychiatric Nursing	✓	
Community Nursing	✓	
Gerontology Nursing (when available)	✓	
Total	≥ 600 or 650	≥ 1200 or 1300

<80 clinical hours in obstetrical or psychiatric nursing: refer for focused competence assessment in the program area(s).

<80 clinical hours in pediatric nursing: refer for focused competence assessment and general competence assessment.

<80 clinical hours in community and gerontology nursing: refer for general competence assessment.

Scenario 4:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/Surgical Nursing	✓	✓
Obstetrical Nursing	<50 theory hours in one or more of the specialty program areas	<80 clinical hours in one or more of the specialty program areas
Pediatric Nursing		
Psychiatric Nursing		
Community Nursing		
Gerontology Nursing (when available)		
Total	≥ 600 or 650	≥ 1200 or 1300

<50 theory and <80 clinical hours in obstetrical, pediatric, psychiatric, gerontology (when available) nursing: refer to RN-PDC for specialty course in the program area(s).

<50 theory and <80 clinical hours in community nursing: refer for RN-PDC for Professional Nursing in Canada course.

In the remaining scenarios the Totals of <600 theory hours and/or <1200 clinical hours will be interpreted to mean one of the following combinations:

<600/650 theory hours and <1200/1300 clinical hours

<600/650 theory hours and ≥1200/1300 clinical hours

≥600/650 theory hours and <1200/1300 clinical hours

Scenario 5:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/Surgical Nursing	200	400
Obstetrical Nursing	50	80
Pediatric Nursing	50	80
Psychiatric Nursing	50	80
Community Nursing	50	80
Gerontology Nursing (when available)	50	80
Total	< 600 or 650	and/or < 1200 or 1300

Refer for a General competence assessment (2 days).

Note: If results from General Assessment indicate extensive deficits, proceed to 3 focused assessments.

Scenario 6:

Program Areas	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
Medical/Surgical Nursing	✓	✓
Obstetrical Nursing	<50 theory hours in one or more of the specialty program areas	✓
Pediatric Nursing		✓
Psychiatric Nursing		✓
Community Nursing		✓
Gerontology Nursing (when available)		✓
Total	< 600 or 650	and/or < 1200 or 1300

<50 theory hours in Obstetrical, Pediatric or Psychiatric nursing: refer for a General competence assessment and Focused competence assessment in the program area(s).

Note: there is no focused competence assessment for Community or Gerontology nursing