

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: October 2021

Welcome

Katie welcomed everyone to the meeting. The group discussed the ongoing impact of the pandemic on nursing education across the province. This included hybrid models for program delivery, on-site lab and clinical placement availability, increasing clinical group sizes and vaccine policy implementation that has created unique challenges for some students and faculty. Many programs are contemplating the impact of full on-site delivery as early as January 2022.

Terms of Reference

The approved Terms of Reference for the Academic Reference Group was distributed with the agenda. The group discussed our membership term of three years, with the option of a one-year extension. Following this meeting, CNO will reach out to individual members to discuss timing for their membership renewal. CNO has developed a volunteer membership selection process that will be shared with the academic community and advertised on our website. A phased-in membership approach will maintain group continuity, enable group expertise and support new member transition. The final Terms of Reference are posted on www.cno.org.

Program Approval

Academic institutions continue to submit their intention to offer standalone baccalaureate programs to CNO for preliminary approval, with more new programs expected to be approved in 2022 and 2023.

If you are interested in starting the [preliminary approval](#) process, please notify [Katie Dilworth](#), CNO's Manager of Education, of your intent to offer a new program(s) at least one year before commencing the program.

Recommendations for annual program review for all nursing programs and categories will be reviewed at the December Council meeting, including comprehensive review for applicable programs that have just completed this process.

Registration Exams

A reminder that the final CPNRE exam window is Nov. 8 to Nov. 28, 2021, with REx-PN launching on Jan. 4, 2022. All PN schools are invited to 1:1 meetings with the REx-PN team to increase understanding, ask questions and provide feedback. Thanks to all academic stakeholders and specifically the members of the REx-PN Transition group for their contributions to the development of this new RPN regulatory exam. Please review the [REx-PN webpage](#) for more information.

Modernization of Applicant Assessment project

CNO has started a multi-year comprehensive review of its application process to review and update policies, create or improve process efficiencies and reduce the time required for an applicant to be eligible to register in Ontario. This work will focus on four of the eight registration requirements: Education, Evidence of Practice, Language Proficiency and Police Criminal Records Checks. CNO will be regularly consulting with stakeholders, including Ontario educators, to potentially expand existing program capacity and/or create new opportunities to help address competency gaps for internationally educated nurses.

Standards Modernization project

CNO continues to modernize its nursing practice standards to ensure accessibility, defensibility and relevancy to current practice. Under the new evolving framework, the *Code of Conduct*, which was first approved in December 2018, will be updated to ensure relevance to current nursing practice, health system realities and changing expectations. Given the Code is meant to be overarching and set out the key accountabilities of a nurse, topic specific practice standards will be situated underneath the Code, as appropriate, to contain the necessary detail to support the breadth of CNO's regulatory work to protect the public. Topic specific practice standards have not been confirmed. This draft framework continues to evolve and be informed by many sources of evidence and stakeholder perspectives. CNO looks forward to consulting with academic stakeholders to inform next steps. You can learn more about this work on our [Modernizing Standards page](#).

Quality Assurance (QA) update: QA everyday and Assessment selection

[Quality Assurance \(QA\)](#) is a key regulatory function that strengthens the quality of nursing practice through daily reflection. The multi-year change includes this year's focus to develop a more supportive approach to provide coaching for members selected for QA Practice Assessment. We also continue to work on the new QA online platform, which will support nurses' continuous learning through accessible and interactive resources and tools, track program participation and data collection. These features will be rolled out starting in 2022

2022 Annual Membership Renewal

The 2022 Annual Membership Renewal opens soon. CNO will post the start date along with more renewal information on [cno.org](#) in early November.

Academic Reference Group

CNO would like to thank the Academic Reference Group members for their ongoing participation and support. Your contributions help ensure that nursing education program graduates in Ontario can practice safely, competently and ethically.

Want to know more about any of these topics?

You can find more information on CNO's [Education](#) webpage.

Or email [Program Approval](#) with your questions.