

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

January 24, 2022

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of academic stakeholders and representatives of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who share information and collaborate on nursing regulatory issues of mutual interest and concern.

The group includes 10 Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The goal of the group is to provide an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Welcome

Katie welcomed everyone to the meeting. The ongoing stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and CNO thanked the academic community for their tremendous efforts to ensure excellence in nursing education during these incredible times.

Program Approval

At the December meeting, Council approved nursing program annual and comprehensive reviews for 2021. All entry level nursing programs should have received their annual or comprehensive reports in early December. Please contact one of the Education Consultants if there are any questions about your report.

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.

Any school 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.

Registration Exams

REx-PN launched on January 4, 2022, as the new regulatory exam for PNs in Ontario. Exam eligible RPN applicants can schedule an appointment to write the exam any day of the week. This new exam is a valid, reliable method to evaluate whether applicants are prepared to work safely as practical nurses in Ontario.

CNO thanks all academic stakeholders and specifically the members of the REx-PN Transition Group for their contributions to the development of this exam. In late 2021, CNO met with PN program deans, associate deans/chairs, program coordinators and faculty to help clarify questions and provide information. Please review the [REx-PN webpage](#) for more information.

Modernization of Applicant Assessment project

In October 2021, CNO shared information about the Modernization of Applicant Assessment project [add link to website].

On January 4, 2022, information was shared on [cno.org](#) about CNO's new language proficiency policy effective March 7, 2022. When implemented, the

GROUP MEMBERS

We encourage you to share your feedback with any member of the Academic Reference Group:

Sandra DeLuca
Fanshawe College, Western University

Laurie Gedcke-Kerr
Queen's University

Sylvie Larocque
Laurentian University/Université Laurentian

Kumaran Mahathevan
Centennial College

Paula Mastrilli
George Brown College

Mary McGrory
Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

Linda Patrick
University of Windsor

Karen Poole
Lakehead University

Katherine Trip
University of Toronto

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Katie Dilworth
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Nathalie Peladeau
College of Nurses of Ontario

Irene Wu-Lau
College of Nurses of Ontario

new policy will improve the applicants' experience as the assessment process will be clearer and more efficient, reducing assessment delays.

CNO also shared information about a new [Supervised Practice Experience Partnership program](#), launched in partnership with Ontario Health. This program will enable applicants with outstanding evidence of practice and language proficiency requirements to participate in a supervised practice experience. Applicants in the program will have the opportunity to meet these two final registration requirements and move forward with registration.

Updates will continue to be shared throughout 2022 as this work continues to evolve.

Standards Modernization project

With ongoing changes to health care needs of patients and the nursing profession, CNO shared work happening to modernize its practice standards to better reflect current practice realities and public expectations. You can learn more about this work on our [Modernizing Standards page](#).

Refresh of CNO Student and Educator web pages

In late 2021, CNO refreshed our [Students](#) and [Educators](#) website pages. Content, resources and helpful links have been reorganized and translated into French, to ensure information is easily accessible for our stakeholders.

Academic Reference Group

The group discussed the need to recruit five new Academic Reference Group (ARG) members while we said good-bye to four very valued members who have completed their committee term. CNO wishes to thank these members for their valued expertise and contributions, which have informed our regulatory role in so many ways. We also extended a big thank you to all ARG members for their ongoing participation and support. Your contributions help ensure that nursing education program graduates in Ontario can practice safely, competently and ethically.

Information about CNO's recruitment for new ARG members can be found on our [Volunteer opportunities](#) page.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2022, 0930-1130 hrs

Please share this update with other nursing educators at your school.