

# COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

October 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 12 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 and thanked members for their continued engagement with the Academic Reference Group.

### New Executive Director/CEO

CNO acknowledged Silvie Crawford as our new Executive Director (ED) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Silvie is a dynamic and collaborative leader who brings the right mix of experience and leadership to this role, along with a keen understanding of regulation in the health care system.

### Program Approval

All entry level nursing program approvals were updated at September Council, based on their annual and comprehensive review. Academic institutions continue to move forward with the development of new standalone baccalaureate programs. CNO expects to review more new programs throughout 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 nursing program at least one year before commencing the program.

### Registration exams

REx-PN launched on January 4, 2022, as the new regulatory exam for RPN registration in Ontario. Exam eligible RPN applicants can schedule an appointment to write the exam any day of the week. Please review the [REx-PN webpage](#) for more information.

CNO's Education team has started meeting with Practical Nursing programs to discuss their REx-PN results. Please contact [Katie Dilworth](#), CNO's Manager of Education, to arrange a meeting if you have any questions about your report.

NCLEX-RN will be launching a new exam format, Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) effective April 2023. For more information about these exam changes, available resources and supports, please check the NCSBN website for more information <https://www.nclex.com/next-generation-nclex.htm>.

### Posting accepted 'gap-filler' courses/programs

As part of the Modernization of Applicant Assessment project, CNO has published [accepted gap-filler programs/courses](#) that meet the education needs of internationally educated applicants. This list includes the entry-to-practice competencies that can be met for each program/course. Providing this information will help ensure our registration practices for internationally educated applicants are evidence-informed, fair, inclusive, and effective.

### Temporary Class

On September 29, Council approved regulation changes to enable CNO to register nurses in the Temporary Class who have met all registration requirements except for the education equivalency requirement and completion of the registration exams. These applicants will have successfully completed an approved foundational education program in their home jurisdiction. CNO is waiting for the government to enact these changes by the end of October

## GROUP MEMBERS

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

**Renee Berquist**  
St. Lawrence College

**Annie Berthiaume**  
Collège Boréal

**Mariève Chartrand**  
Collège La Cité

**Sandra DeLuca**  
Fanshawe College, Western University

**Wendy Ellis**  
George Brown College

**Erin Kennedy**  
Western University

**Sylvie Larocque**  
Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

**Kumaran Mahathevan**  
Centennial College

**Linda Patrick**  
University of Windsor

**June Raymond**  
Cambrian College

**Alison Thompson**  
Lakehead University

**Katherine Trip**  
University of Toronto

**Anne Marie Shin**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Katie Dilworth**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Neshma Dhanani**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Nathalie Peladeau**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Donna Rawlin**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Irene Wu-Lau**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

2022. Once registered in the Temporary Class, these new members will practice under terms, conditions and limitations while working towards achieving education equivalency to be eligible for registration in the General Class.

### Reinstatement

On September 29, Council approved the regulation changes granting CNO's Executive Director the authority to reinstate former CNO registrants who have been out of practice longer than three years if this decision supports public interest. CNO is waiting for the government to enact these changes by the end of October 2022.

### Standards Modernization project

CNO's first priority in [modernizing practice standards](#) is to update the *Code of Conduct*. In September 2022, Council reviewed the revised *Code of Conduct* for information and discussion. It has been circulated for public consultation, including academic stakeholders. CNO is currently reviewing stakeholder feedback to inform additional revisions. Council will make final decisions about the revised *Code of Conduct* at its December meeting. More details will be shared when available.

### Nurse Practitioner ELC revisions

Canadian nursing regulators are revising the current Nurse Practitioner (NP) entry-level competencies (ELCs) as part of a [national project](#) to implement a new model for NP regulation in Canada. Between June 15 and July 15, 2022, each jurisdiction engaged with NPs and other stakeholders to obtain feedback regarding the draft NP ELCs. The consultative process included academic stakeholders and a national NP validation survey distributed to identify frequently performed competencies which are important to public protection. Thank you to all participants, we appreciated your time and invaluable feedback, which informed final NP ELC revisions. The NP ELCs are scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the CCRNR Board this Fall. Once approved, CNO will continue to consult and collaborate with stakeholders regarding the new NP ELC implementation.

### New Jurisprudence Exam

CNO will be changing the current [Jurisprudence Exam](#) to a new exam, the *Jurisprudence Learning Module and Test*. This new exam format is expected launch in Summer 2023. It will include online, interactive learning modules and tests designed to support the applicant's understanding of the law, legal obligations and health professional responsibilities and accountabilities to the public. There will be more opportunity to provide feedback for this new exam at future Academic Reference Group meetings in 2023.

### Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) Program continues to meet its' regulatory requirement of promoting continuing competence and quality improvement for members. CNO continues to randomly select members for review and is planning to launch a new learning management system in 2023 to support a more modern approach to QA Assessment and communication with members. Please continue to monitor the [QA Program web](#) section for updates.

### Academic Reference Group Membership Recruitment

Three valued members of our group will complete their committee term in January 2023. CNO wishes to thank these members for their valued expertise and contributions, including all ARG members for their ongoing participation and support. CNO will be recruiting three new members over the next few months. Information about CNO's recruitment for new ARG members can be found on our [Volunteer opportunities](#) page.

Next meeting is scheduled for January **23 or 30**, 2023, 0930-1130 hrs

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