

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

JANUARY 15, 2018

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of educators 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.

The Group reconvened for the first time in 2018 to discuss ongoing projects and new programs for the year.

Program Approval update

Terri Swabey gave an update on the Program Approval process. The Pilot project is underway and the data collection will be completed by the end of Jan. 2018. There were delays due to the Ontario College strike in 2017, however pilot approvals are on track for the March Council meeting. Visit the [Program Approval](#) web page for further details.

New Applicant Portal for Registration

Suzanne Vogler presented information about the future applicant portal and the automation of the Verification of Course Completion (VCC) process for Ontario students. The collaboration with Ontario College Application Service (OCAS), will automate the exchange of information on the VCC between the Colleges, Universities and CNO. We will be sending a communication to schools shortly and will be reaching out to registrars to consider all possibilities to help launch this new VCC process smoothly. The applicant portal and automated VCC will be operational in late spring/early summer 2018.

Practice Support Redesign

The practice support team thanks members of the Academic Reference Group for its feedback and support during the redesign project. The model has been finalized and all details can be found on the [Practice Support](#) web page.

Entry-to-Practice (ETP) Competencies

ETP Intake works to protect the public interest by ensuring that applicants who apply for certificates of registration as RN's, RPN's and NP's in Ontario have the competence and character to practise safely. The developed assessment process is evaluated frequently to balance fairness to the applicant and public protection. Individuals considering a career as a nurse in Ontario should review the [Requisite, Skills and Abilities](#) (RSA) Fact Sheet and assess their ability to meet the criteria. Anyone who has questions about whether or not they have the RSAs for admission or progression through a nursing educational program are

GROUP MEMBERS

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

Michelle Acorn
University of Toronto

Sandra DeLuca
Fanshawe College, Western University

Laura Gedcke-Kerr
Queen's University

Sylvie Larocque
Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

Paula Mastrilli
George Brown College

Mary McGrory
Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

Linda Patrick
University of Windsor

Karen Poole
Lakehead University

Patricia Brown
Centennial College

Janet Anderson
College of Nurses of Ontario

Farah Ismail
College of Nurses of Ontario

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

encouraged to contact the educational institution to which they intend to apply to discuss potential accommodations. The College, in turn, works with prospective members to determine reasonable accommodations provided that accommodation does not compromise client safety and well-being. Thank you to the Academic Reference Group and others in the Academic community for their questions and feedback about this subject area.

NCLEX French

No additional information since the October Academic Reference Group update. Plans are being made for a spring 2018 meeting between CNO and French schools, more details to follow.

One Year Review

Annual review of the Terms of Reference took place. No changes were made. The Academic Reference Group is one of a number of ways the College works with stakeholder groups, to receive valuable input and to have a mutually beneficial opportunity to share new information.

Input from the Academic Reference Group, COUPN, CAATS and the Academic Sector have contributed to a number of regulatory initiatives and policy work. For example, Program Approval, NPs prescribing controlled substances, RN Prescribing, Practice Support Redesign, PN exam and Accommodations.

Plans for the group in 2018 include:

- exploring more formal ways to review the impact of engagement with the Academic sector; and
- future rotation of membership

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

Suggested Links

- [October 2017 Update](#)
- [Program Approval](#)
- [Practice Support](#)

Entry-to-Practice Competencies:

- [Competencies for entry-level Registered Nurse practice](#)
- [Entry-to-Practice Competencies for Ontario Registered Practical Nurses](#)
- [Entry-Level Competencies for Nurse Practitioners](#)