

## Registration

# Preparing to Write the RN or RPN National Exam

### Introduction

This fact sheet was developed to help internationally educated applicants prepare to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) or the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE).

The College of Nurses of Ontario (the College) recommends that applicants begin their preparation by evaluating their learning needs, and upgrading their skills and knowledge where needed. An essential component of this evaluation is learning about how nursing is practised in Ontario, and about the social and cultural issues that are involved in nursing. A solid understanding in these areas will better prepare the applicant to write the exam.

### How to Prepare

The following is a list of some suggestions and strategies to consider when preparing to write the CRNE and the CPNRE. Applicants may choose to use all or some of these suggestions, or may decide to develop their own preparation strategies.

- Take an English or French language course that emphasizes both written and oral skills. The national examinations are only available in English or French and consist of multiple-choice questions.
- Review the College's practice standards and guidelines, which are available at [www.cno.org/standards](http://www.cno.org/standards).
- Enrol in an examination preparation course to review content and techniques for responding to multiple-choice questions.
- Enrol in a program to become familiar with the practice of nursing in Ontario. Look for a program offered at a government-approved College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT). These courses contain both classroom and practical experience, and they are an excellent way to learn about current nursing practice in the Ontario health care system. The instructor can help identify areas

where you need to enhance your nursing knowledge and skills. Contact the school(s) you wish to attend for further details.

- Purchase the examination study guide from the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) for the CRNE and Assessment Strategies Incorporated for the CPNRE (the PN Exam Prep Guide). These are the organizations that create and score the registration examinations. Their study guides include sample questions, answers and explanations, a survey to identify strengths and weaknesses, study tips and strategies for writing the exam. The CRNE study guide is available in school bookstores or can be ordered by calling 613 237-2133, toll-free in Canada 1 800 361-8404, or by faxing 613 237-3520. The PN Exam Prep Guide can be purchased online at [www.ASITest.ca](http://www.ASITest.ca) or by phoning 1 888 562-5561.
- RN applicants can also visit CNA's Web site at [www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca) and take their LeaRN CRNE Readiness Test, which uses previous CRNE test questions and gives overall results on how prepared individuals are to write the CRNE. RPN applicants can gauge their readiness with the CPNRE Predictor Test at [www.ASITest.ca](http://www.ASITest.ca). (Note: there is a charge for both of these tests.)
- Review content from your nursing educational program. Focus on health and wellness promotion and illness prevention across the lifespan. Pay particular attention to issues involving the nurse/client relationship, curative/supportive care, rehabilitation and professional practice.
- Become a member of a nursing peer support group. These groups can provide suggestions for preparing to write the exam.

### The CARE Program

If you are an internally educated nurse, you may also find CARE (Creating Access to Regulated Employment) a helpful resource. CARE can help you prepare for the registration exams and to practise nursing safely and confidently in Ontario.

As a participant of the CARE program you will receive:

- guidance, information and support on how to pursue your nursing goals in Canada;
- an Exam Readiness Assessment that will help you learn more about how to best prepare for the exam and focus your studying;
- exam strategies and tips for success;
- an evaluation and review of your knowledge and skills;
- nursing-specific communication skills and vocabulary;
- a first-hand look at how nursing is practised in Ontario through volunteer employer placements;
- small group tutoring;
- job search and employment preparation assistance; and
- opportunities to establish professional networks, contacts and support.

To learn more, visit the CARE for Nurses Centre at [www.care4nurses.org](http://www.care4nurses.org).

### Other Resources

This list of resources is provided as a service to applicants. It is not a complete list of reference materials and is not an endorsement by the College of Nurses of Ontario.

The **Registered Nurses Association of Ontario** (RNAO) is the professional voice for Registered Nurses in Ontario. The association protects the profession's interests and integrity while it influences and reflects changes in the profession and in the health care system.

E-mail: [info@rnao.org](mailto:info@rnao.org)  
Website: [www.rnao.org](http://www.rnao.org)

The **Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario** (RPNAO) is the professional association for Registered Practical Nurses in Ontario. The association advocates for RPNs working in diverse settings and promotes interprofessional working relationships while enhancing the competencies of RPNs and the nursing profession.

E-mail: [info@rpnao.org](mailto:info@rpnao.org)  
Website: [www.rpnao.org](http://www.rpnao.org)

Approved Nursing Programs (RN/RPN) in Ontario  
[www.cno.org/programs](http://www.cno.org/programs)

Internationally Educated Nurses  
[www.cno.org/international](http://www.cno.org/international)

Standards of Practice  
[www.cno.org/standards](http://www.cno.org/standards)

RN Entry to Practice Competencies  
[www.cno.org/documents](http://www.cno.org/documents)

RPN Entry to Practice Competencies  
[www.cno.org/documents](http://www.cno.org/documents)

### For more information

To learn more, contact the College of Nurses of Ontario at:

E-mail: [cno@cnomail.org](mailto:cno@cnomail.org)

Tel.: 416 928-0900

Toll-free in Ontario: 1 800 387-5526

Fax: 416 928-6507

Website: [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org)