

Program Approval Framework: An Introduction

May 2016

Overview

- Legislative responsibilities
- Current processes
- Trends and Challenges
- Change
- Review
- Program Approval Framework
- Intended Outcomes
- What's Next

Regulation in Nursing Education

- Council's authority to approve programs
- Entry-to-practice requirement
- Importance of nursing education
- Assurance of members' educational preparation to practise competently in Ontario

Current Processes

Program Approval	RN	RPN	NP
Approval body	CASN	CNO	CNO
Program reviewer(s)	External	Internal	External
Program review frequency (years)	7	1	7
Last process review by the College	2000	2011	2007

Trends & Challenges

- Quality initiatives in education
- Increasing numbers of new nursing programs
- Public safety and transparency

The Need for Change

- Gather evidence to build on a common approach
- Clear expectations for program approval
- Sustainable over time

Comprehensive Review

- Literature review
- Jurisdictional review
- Accreditation review
- Review outside of nursing
- Stakeholder feedback

Purposes of New Approval Approach

- Supports Council's approval authority and decisions
- Regulatory-focused standards for measure
- Structure, process and outcome evaluation model
- Comprehensive evaluation that includes a monitoring component
- Applicable to all nursing programs in Ontario

Standards

Standard I: Program Structure

- Policies, Governance structure

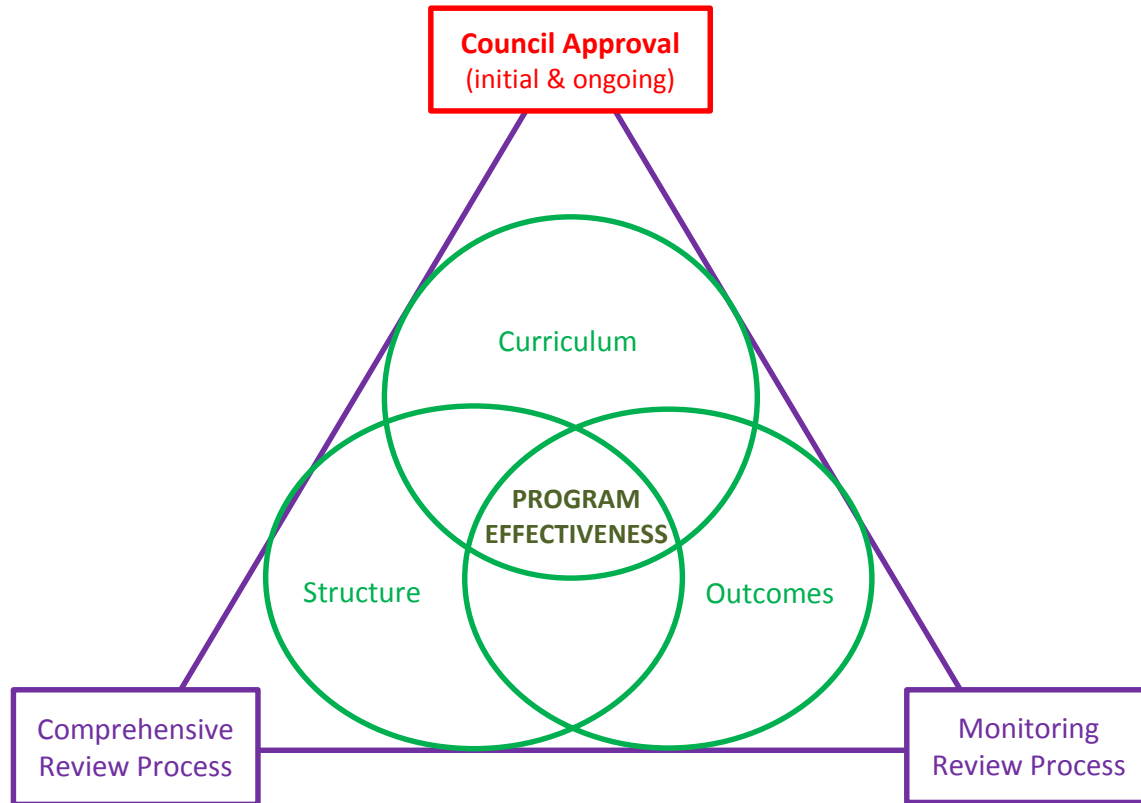
Standard II: Program Curriculum

- Competencies and evaluation mechanisms

Standard III: Program Outcomes

- Knowledge, skill and judgment

Program Approval Framework



Intended Outcomes

- A common approval framework
- It's consistently applied to all nursing programs
- It's transparent
- It's sustainable over time
- Supports Council's approval authority and decision making

What's Ahead?

Stakeholder engagement

- Validation Survey

Development:

- Evaluation design
- Evaluation blueprint
- Evaluation tools



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