

# CNA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



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# **GREETINGS FROM THE CERTIFICATION TEAM!**



# Mission



## **CNA is the national and global professional voice of Canadian nursing**

We represent registered nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed and registered practical nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and retired nurses across all 13 provinces and territories. CNA advances the practice of nursing and the profession to improve health outcomes in a publicly funded, not-for-profit health system by:

- Unifying the voices of nurses
- Strengthening nursing leadership
- Promoting nursing excellence and a vibrant profession
- Advocating for healthy public policy and a quality health system
- Serving the public interest



# CNA Certification Program overview



- Flagship program since 1991 (neuroscience)
- Only bilingual national credentialing program for nurses
- 13,833 nurses are CNA certified in one or more of **22 nursing specialties; renewal required every 5 years**
- Collaboration with 22 national nursing specialty associations
- Shift to computer-based testing in 2016
- Now offering proctored exams that you can take from home
- Recent international interest



APPLY/RENEW  
NOW



# General competencies



- **Medical assistance in dying**  
(change in legislation)
- **Substance use**  
(request from Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction)
- **Cultural safety/Indigenous Peoples**  
(Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action)



# Our partners



## **Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties**

- 42 national nursing specialty associations
- Certification program advisory committee

## **Yardstick Assessment Strategies Inc.**



# Nursing specialty certification



Number of Valid CNA Certifications  
by Specialty/Area of Nursing Practice and Province or Territory

(as of March 15, 2021)

SPECIALTY	AB	BC	MB	NB	NL	NS	NT	NU	ON	PE	QC	SK	YT	Canadians Abroad	TOTAL
Cardiovascular Nursing	64	78	19	53	7	46			145	6	24	22		2	466
Community Health Nursing	97	89	36	16	152	26	2		302	12	5	26	15	1	779
Critical Care Nursing (Adult)	145	76	54	20	22	54	3	1	493	11	65	23	1	7	975
Critical Care Pediatric Nursing	26	24	14		10	14			30	1	14	6		1	140
Emergency Nursing	141	73	55	38	41	81	8	1	351	8	36	43	4	4	884
Gastroenterology Nursing	23	31	3	6	9	5	1		62	3	5	6			154
Gerontological (RN/NP) Nursing 1	345	437	128	37	40	83	1		682	48	31	17	1	2	1852
Gerontological (LPN/RPN) Nursing 2	6	13	3	2		3			48						75
Hospice Palliative Care Nursing	98	200	33	25	9	77			516	20	49	19	4	1	1051
Medical Surgical (RN/NP) Nursing 1	37	22	25	11	23	28	2		91	9	19	16		2	285
Medical Surgical (LPN/RPN) Nursing 2	3				1				4			2			10
Neonatal Nursing	19	16	7	3		6			29	3	7	2			92
Nephrology Nursing	105	155	35	18	36	33	8		479	14	41	8		3	935
Neuroscience Nursing	41	18	9	8	6	3			122		29	14		1	251
Occupational Health Nursing	132	25	12	10	38	16			249		6	23		3	514
Oncology Nursing	91	70	70	26	22	60	1		919	20	203	47		4	1533
Orthopaedic Nursing	66	9	4	20	5	11			39	2	1	1			158
Pediatric Nursing	12	7	2		4	10	1		27	3	5	2			73
PeriAnesthesia Nursing	30	10	4	3	4	8	3		42	4	2	2			112
Perinatal Nursing	49	34	25	15	11	33	7		194	11	18	14	9	2	422
Perioperative Nursing	170	126	49	41	46	96	8		414	13	27	22	2	3	1017
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	63	51	13	64	85	132	4	2	1164	39	28	7	1	6	1659
Rehabilitation Nursing	9	23	10	8	6	10			68	5	2	3			144
Wound, Ostomy and Continence	31	36	7	11	4	15	3		117	4	10	14			252
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6587</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13833</b>

1 For registered nurses and nurse practitioners 2 For licensed/registered practical nurses

Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Certification and Professional Development  
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# Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties



- Aesthetics
- Cardiovascular
- Community health
- Continence advisors
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Critical care
- Emergency
- Environment
- Family practice
- Self-Employed
- Gerontology
- Harm reduction
- Hemophilia
- Hepatology
- History
- HIV/AIDS
- Holistic
- Indigenous nurses
- Infection prevention
- Informatics
- Legal nurse consultants
- Medical surgical
- Mental health
- Neonatal
- Nephrology
- Neuroscience
- Nurse Practitioners
- Occupational health
- Oncology
- Operating room
- Orthopaedic
- Parish
- Palliative care
- Pediatric
- PeriAnesthesia
- Perinatal women's
- Rehabilitation
- Rural and remote nursing
- Students
- Transfusion medicine
- Vascular access
- Wound, ostomy and continence



# Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties







## **New requirements to make certification more accessible**

We want certification to be more accessible to nurses while maintaining our established high quality and credibility. We've heard from you that the CNA Certification Program must evolve to match changes in nursing curriculums and practice. That's why the eligibility specialty experience hours required for nurses to apply for certification will be reduced.



# New exam eligibility requirements



**Two options** (applies to all exams except wound, ostomy and continence):

- 1,950 hours of experience in your nursing specialty within the last five years (formerly 3,900 hours).
- 1,000 hours of experience in your nursing specialty within the last five years plus 300 hours of formal education, which can be a specialty post-basic course or program at a college/university (as opposed to the former 2,925 hours of specialty experience plus education).

**Wound, ostomy and continence** (no change):

- Proof of a successful completed full scope wound, ostomy and continence nursing education program



# Why do nurses get certified?



- Employment opportunity and/or requirement
- Professional development and growth
- Recognition of specialized knowledge
- Aligns with jurisdictional continuing competence requirements

**Initial certification** achieved by successfully completing CNA's specialty practice exam, which is composed of over 165 items. (Nurses' input is sought after each exam cycle.)



# Initial exam fees



**CNA member fee: \$570**

**Non-member fee: \$756**

**Exam rewrite for CNA member: \$365**

**Exam rewrite for non- member: \$484**

**Exam writing appointment fee (ProctorU or Pearson VUE): \$105**

Applicable taxes will be added to the above fees.



# Important dates



## Spring Exams

**Apply from January 14 – March 8**

**Exam writing window: May 1 – 15**

**Receive your results in June**

## Fall Exams

**Apply from June 1 – September 1**

**Exam writing window: November 1 – 15**

**Receive your results in December**





# How to apply



Search

HOME

NURSING PRACTICE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CERTIFICATION

POLICY & ADVOCACY

MEMBERSHIP

EVENTS

## Want to write for *Canadian Nurse*?

Nurses and nursing students: check out the updated guidelines with details on new and existing article categories, then send us your manuscript or story idea! We're relaunching in early 2019 in a new online format.

Want to write for *Canadian Nurse*?

Celebrate National Nursing Week, May 6-12!

CNA Webinar Series:  
Progress in Practice





# How to apply



Search

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## Certification

Why I Became Certified

Initial Certification

Renewing Your Certification

Exam Preparation

Feedback and Improvements

Employer Zone

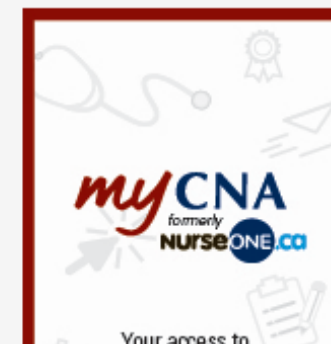
[Home](#) > Certification

## CNA Certification Program

"Certification really gives that extra knowledge that makes a difference in your nursing care." [Read what certified nurses say](#) about the value of their credential.

### Apply

Apply for or renew your certification now! If you're ready to apply for or renew your certification, log in to [MyCNA](#) (formerly NurseONE). Before doing so, you





# How to apply



Search

[HOME](#) [NURSING PRACTICE](#) [PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT](#) [CERTIFICATION](#) [POLICY & ADVOCACY](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [EVENTS](#)

## Certification

Why I Became Certified

### Initial Certification

Certification Nursing Practice  
Specialties

Initial Exam Eligibility Criteria

Initial Exam Fees

Financial Support

Application Process

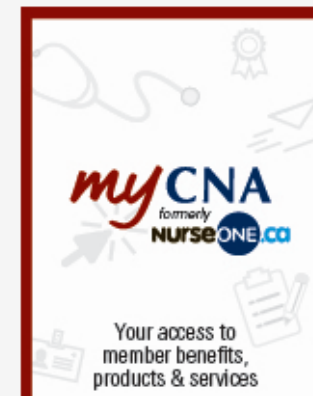
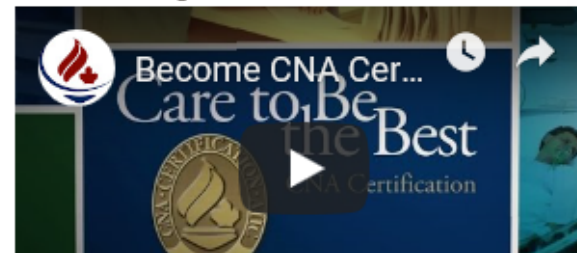
Renewing Your Certification

[Home](#) > [Certification](#) > Initial Certification

## Initial Certification

*"I have found that having my certification has helped me be the successful candidate for positions that I have applied for over the years."* [Read what certified nurses say](#) about the value of earning their credential.

Thank you for your interest in the CNA Certification Program and for pursuing your specialty certification credential!





# After you apply



- 1) Wait for our email. We will contact you after you submit your application to confirm your eligibility.
- 2) Book your exam with ProctorU or Pearson VUE
- 3) Prepare for the exam. Try our computer-based testing demo (100 practice questions).
- 4) Write the certification exam.





# Exam preparation



## Certification

Why I Became Certified

Initial Certification

Renewing Your Certification

Important Dates

### Exam Preparation

Exam Competencies and  
Blueprints

General Competencies

Bibliographies

Specialty Associations

[Home](#) > [Certification](#) > Exam Preparation

## Exam Preparation

The CNA Certification Program is designed to evaluate the knowledge and skills expected of a nurse with experience in a given specialty. The exam will test you on national standards created by nursing experts rather than a core curriculum of study.

### Study resources

Because the exam will assess your experience, your preparation will be based on what you already know. You should therefore study to refresh your knowledge of your nursing specialty, especially those practice areas you haven't been exposed to recently.



# Computer-based testing Info



## Demonstration guide and specialty practice test

- Available before you take the exam
- Contains 100 practice questions in the same computer-based testing (CBT) environment used by Pearson VUE exam centres

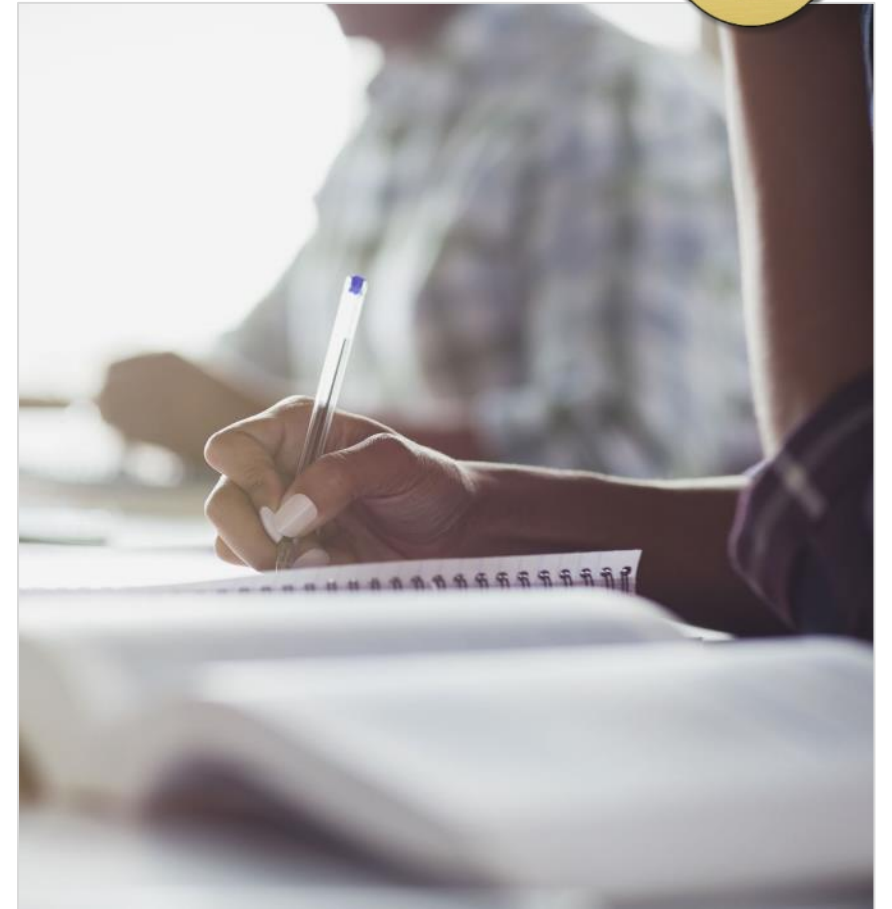
The screenshot shows a web-based testing interface. On the left is a vertical toolbar with icons for question navigation (numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and a search icon. The main area displays a question: "Which type of cloud is most likely to produce rain?". Below the question are four text input fields containing the options: "Cirrus", "Cumulus", "Nimbus", and "Stratus". The "Nimbus" option is highlighted with a yellow background, indicating it is the selected answer.



# Study tips



- Review competencies
- Perform a self-assessment to determine your level of knowledge about each competency
  - Self-assessment should reflect your knowledge of the theory and evidence, not just your clinical experience
- Determine priorities for your study based on your self-assessment and the exam blueprint

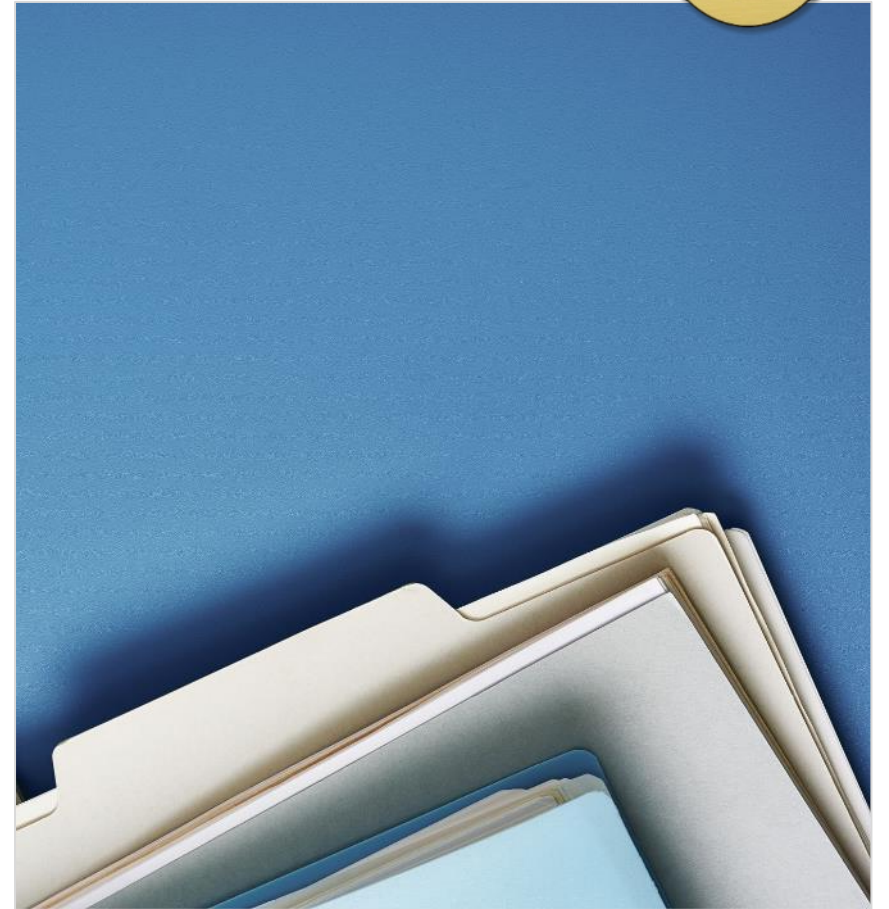




# Create a study plan



- List all the topics you want to review and create a realistic study schedule
- Study your weakest subjects first, but stick to a time limit
- Make a commitment to stay with your plan, revising only when required
- Plan to complete your overall study at least two weeks before exam date

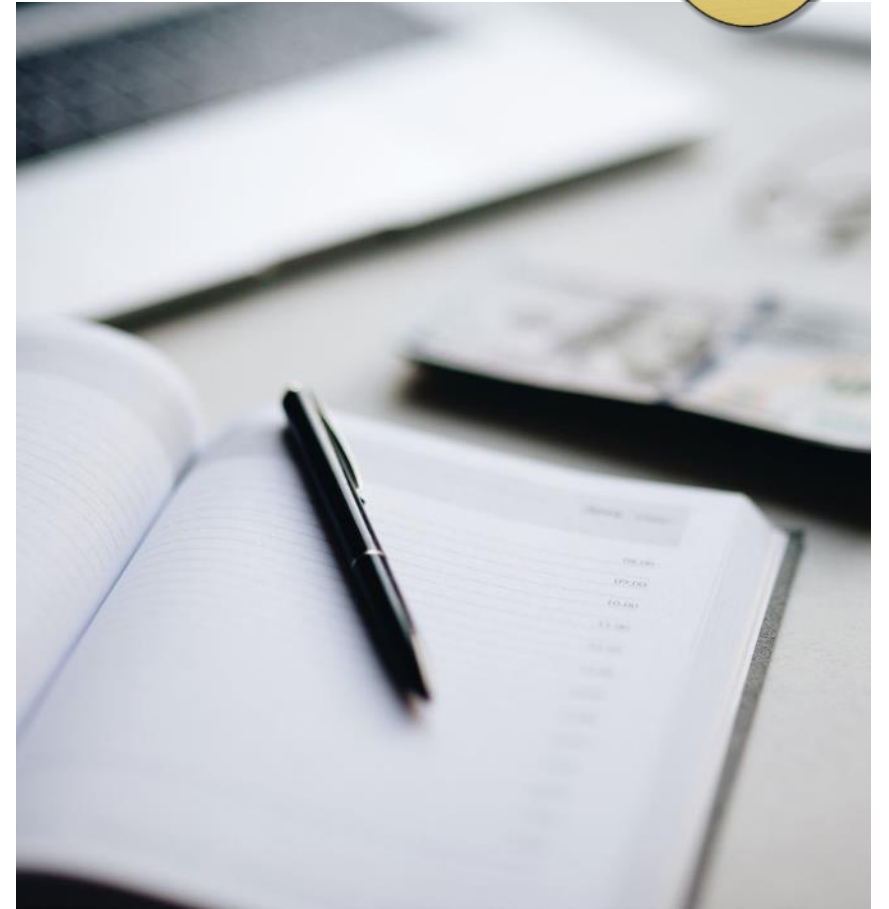




# Preparation



- Create a learning environment
- Customize based on your learning style
- Use multiple learning strategies
- Study with others





# Exam results



- Email sent three weeks after the last day of the exam administration period
- Official result letter sent six weeks later
- Successful candidates receive letter, certification pin and certificate
- Unsuccessful candidates receive letter and exam performance profile





# Why do nurses renew their certification?



- Professional pride
- Desire to be current in one's specialty practice
- Requirement for employment
- Worked hard for initial certification and renewal by CL hours deemed feasible

**Renewal** is required **every five years** and can be achieved through proof of 100 hours of continuous learning (CL) in the specialty practice or by rewriting the exam. (Nurses' input is sought after each renewal cycle.)



# Renewal Fees



## Renewal by continuous learning hours

**CNA member fee:** \$317

**Non-member fee:** \$420

## Renewal by exam

**CNA member fee:** \$570

**Non-member fee:** \$756

**Exam writing appointment fee** (ProctorU or Pearson VUE): \$105

Applicable taxes will be added to the above fees.



# Continuous learning activities



**Focused on your specialty nursing earned during the 5-year term.**

Examples of CL activities include the following:

- Conferences, teleconferences, seminars, workshops
- Employer in-services
- Leadership of a certification exam study group
- Professional committee membership or participation
- Presentations/lectures/poster
- Preceptorship
- Academic courses and independent study
- Involvement in the CNA Certification Program as a mentor or participation in exam development activities
- Membership in a national specialty association (4 CL hours/year)



# Continuous learning activities



## CNA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

### CONTINUOUS LEARNING FOR CERTIFICATION RENEWAL: ACTIVITIES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty/Area of Nursing Practice: \_\_\_\_\_ Certification #: \_\_\_\_\_

Use of this form is recommended; however, CNA accepts other forms and tools used to record learning. Please submit in a format similar to the following. Although the list of CL activities is only submitted to CNA every five years, documenting the activities annually will help you achieve the criteria for CNA certification renewal.

*We recommend that you keep an ongoing log of CL activities during the course of your five-year certification term.*

Date	Learning Opportunities	Sponsor/Provider/Institution	Number of CL Hours	Office Use Y/N

*\*Eligibility criteria include completion of at least 100 hours of continuous learning (CL) activities related to your nursing specialty/area of nursing practice.*

*\*You can claim and project your CL activities up to the end of your five-year certification term.*



# Financial incentives



**[getcertified.cna-aiic.ca](http://getcertified.cna-aiic.ca)**

Visit our **Financial Support** web page (under the **Initial Certification** and **Renewing Your Certification** sections)

## **CNA employer and group incentives**

Employers who sponsor 10 or more nurses to become certified qualify for group discounts on certification initial exams and renewals

## **Canadian Nurses Foundation's certification award**

## **Specialty nursing associations membership incentives**





# THANK YOU MEEGWETCH



**Stay connected  
and engaged with us**

