

	APPROVAL OF RN & NP NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS POLICY
	Date Effective: December 2019
	Revised: December 2023; April 1, 2026
	Next Review Due: December 2026

Background

The Regulated Health Professions Act (2013) states that an applicant “must meet any applicable requirements with respect to education set out in the Regulations.” The Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses Regulations state an applicant for registration as a registered nurse or NP is required to have successfully completed a nursing education program approved by Council or a nursing education program Council considers substantially equivalent. The Act and the Regulations require the College to approve any nursing education program that applies to an applicant entering the College.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set the requirements for nursing education programs that lead to entry to practice for registered nurse or nurse practitioner designations and to guide Council in their approval. This policy applies to undergraduate degree programs, graduate degree programs (NP), re-entry/refresher programs and bridging programs for the internationally educated applicant.

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 The Council of the College will conduct a formal review process of each degree program for approval every 5 years by a methodology chosen by Council. The policy requirements found in this document are the ongoing requirements of the programs for approval.
- 1.2 The College will collaborate with the faculty/staff of the educational program, due for review, to determine the dates for the review.
- 1.3 Assessors will be chosen by the College for the review and the names of the assessors will be provided to the Dean 3 months prior to the review visit, to allow the program to identify any conflicts.
- 1.4 Degree programs are required to provide an annual report to the College.

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- 1.5 Non-degree programs will be assessed based on an annual report provided to the College.
- 1.6 The required qualifications for a dean of nursing of a degree and/or graduate program include registration with PEICNM, an earned doctoral degree with a least one degree in nursing, at least 5 years combined experience in nursing practice, education and an established research program that contributes to the advancement of nursing.
- 1.7 The required qualifications for a Faculty member teaching in a degree and/or graduate program are: current registration in good standing with PEICNM, a minimum of a nursing master's degree in a relevant field with at least one degree in nursing, at least 3 years experience in nursing, demonstrated potential to develop a program of research, and conduct research and scholarly activities that contribute to the advancement of nursing education, nursing practice, nursing knowledge and curriculum development.
- 1.8 The required qualifications for a clinical nursing instructor of a degree, refresher or bridging program include registration with PEICNM, a bachelor's degree in nursing, and at least three years experience in nursing practice in the clinical practice area of instruction.
- 1.9 Nursing educational programs must have a mission, philosophy, conceptual framework, and goals and objectives that are congruent with professional nursing standards, codes of ethical conduct and entry level competencies approved by Council.
- 1.10 The mission, philosophy, conceptual framework, goals, and objectives of the program must be clearly stated and serve as a basis for the development, delivery, and evaluation of the programs.
- 1.11 Those working in nursing educational programs (faculty, Clinical Nursing Instructors and staff) must regularly review and revise program content to reflect current trends in society, nursing, education, and health care delivery locally, nationally, and globally.
- 1.12 The policies of the nursing programs must be fair, reflective of current trends, and accessible to the public. Policies must be in place for, but not limited to, student recruitment, admission, advancement, discipline, criminal record check and retention.

- 1.13 Nursing programs must have the human, physical, financial, technological, clinical resources, facilities, and services so that students can achieve the competencies required for entry level practitioners as determined by PEICNM.
- 1.14 There must be a sufficient number of nursing faculty/instructional staff to develop, deliver, and evaluate the curriculum of the program.
- 1.15 Clinical learning activities and placements must provide sufficient opportunities for students to meet curriculum objectives and achieve the competencies required for entry level practitioners as determined by PEICNM.
- 1.16 Simulated learning activities may be used in conjunction with clinical placements.
 - 1.16.1 The Educational Institution may consider one hour of simulated learning to equal two hours of clinical experience.
 - 1.16.2 The Educational Institution must have policies and procedures to assure quality and consistency of simulation-based experiences for nursing students, including the development of simulations and a standardized method of facilitating and debriefing simulation experiences.
 - 1.16.3 Simulation may replace up to 25% of clinical practice hours per course.
- 1.17 For the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, the following objectives for clinical learning activities must be met:
 - 1.17.1 There must be a minimum of 1,600 hours of relevant clinical practice experiences in a variety of practice settings including acute care, long-term care, and community;
 - 1.17.2 The nursing component as measured by credits and course hours must comprise at least 60% of the program;
 - 1.17.3 The student to instructor ratio must not be greater than 7:1 in one clinical setting.
- 1.18 For the Master of Nursing -- Nurse Practitioner stream, the following objectives for clinical learning activities must be met:
 - 1.18.1 There must be a minimum of 700 hours of relevant clinical practice;
 - 1.18.2 Learning activities and clinical placements must occur in a variety of primary health care settings.
- 1.19 For a Refresher/Bridging Program, the following objectives for clinical learning activities must be met:

- 1.19.1 For internationally educated learners, there must be a minimum of 160 hours of relevant clinical instructor-led clinical practice and 160 hours of preceptor-led clinical practice;
- 1.19.2 Some International Educated learners may be required to have an additional 80 hours of specialty preceptor-led clinical practice;
- 1.19.3 For Canadian educated learners, there must be a minimum of 160 hours of relevant preceptor-led clinical practice;
- 1.19.4 Learning activities and clinical placements must occur in a variety of interdisciplinary primary health care settings.

- 1.20 Students in a nursing program must demonstrate throughout the course of study, progress towards achieving the entry-level competencies and standards for nursing practice required for beginning practitioners, as determined by PEICNM.

- 1.21 Students, graduates, consumers, members of the public, employers, educators, and researchers have opportunity to participate in curriculum development and evaluation of the nursing program.

- 1.22 Resources, including books, journals, computers, information technologies, audio-visuals and other learning resources must be current, available, accessible, and in sufficient quantity to meet the curriculum objectives.

- 1.23 Physical facilities such as classrooms, office space, nursing skills labs, seminars and conference rooms, and computer and laboratory spaces must be adequate to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

- 1.24 The program must monitor, record, and respond to enrolment trends, including but not limited to, the number and characteristic of applicants, the admission and attrition rates.

- 1.25 The program curriculum must reflect the requirements of professional nursing practice including jurisprudence.

- 1.26 The curriculum must describe the full program of studies including the structure of the curriculum and course offerings.

- 1.27 Systematic and continuous evaluation of all curriculum components, including the goals/objectives, content, course time frames, learning activities and performance evaluation methods, must be performed to ensure ongoing development and enhancement of the curriculum.

- 1.28 When the program plans major revision in content, process or time frames for curriculum delivery, there must be consultation with PEICNM.
- 1.29 When a new nursing education program is being developed, the program developers must do so in consultation with PEICNM.
- 1.30 Program admission requirements, including prerequisites, must be met by the students and provide reasonable assurance of success in the program.
- 1.31 Student progress toward achieving the goals/objectives of the program and entry level competencies as required by PEICNM must be evaluated, documented, and communicated systematically to students throughout the program.
- 1.32 Policies and procedures relating to student advancement, failure, withdrawal, appeal, re-admission, and graduation/completion must be established and followed.
- 1.33 Processes must be in place to monitor and respond to trends in graduates' performance on the entry to practice registration examinations.
- 1.34 Processes must be in place to regularly monitor and respond to input from employers and graduates regarding graduates' readiness to meet nursing practice requirements in the workplace.
- 1.35 The program must provide opportunities for students to learn about the Calls of Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the impact on health and health outcomes for clients, families, and nursing practice.
- 1.36 The program must incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion principles throughout the curriculum.