

Canadian Examination for Baccalaureate Nursing

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) is pleased to announce the launch of a voluntary, bilingual national exam for graduates of baccalaureate programs of nursing.

To what end?

CASN's mandate is to promote high quality nursing education in Canada. To this end, graduates of Canadian baccalaureate nursing programs are invited to take this exam. Success provides official recognition through **national certification** of the following achievements:

- Mastery of the essential components of baccalaureate education for nursing in the Canadian context.
- Academic readiness to pursue further education for advanced nursing roles at the master's level.

What is tested?

The exam assesses candidates' mastery of the essential components of *CASN's National Nursing Education Framework* for baccalaureate education. These incorporate **national academic expectations** for baccalaureate level education and **professional nursing competencies**.

The specific educational outcomes tested are entry-level expectations targeting :		
Four Key nursing roles 1. Evidence-informed knowledge worker: <i>relevant knowledge and abilities to use research</i> 2. Entry-level clinician: <i>practice expertise</i> 3. Communicator & collaborator: <i>communication and collaboration</i> 4. Health professional change agent: <i>leadership including advocacy, professionalism and ethics</i>	The continuum of care in a diversity of settings: including acute and long-term care institutions, public health agencies, community centres, home care, mental health facilities, and primary health care.	Care of individual clients of all ages, families, communities, and populations.

What type of exam is it? The exam is computer-based with multiple choice questions including audio and visual items as well as case scenarios. It assesses the following:		
Knowledge <i>Recall and understanding of relevant content</i>	Application <i>Ability to apply relevant knowledge and the nursing process to clinical situations</i>	Clinical reasoning & judgement <i>Cognitive process of observation, reflection, analysis to interpret clinical data</i> <i>Synthesis of data to determine optimum course of action</i>

How is the exam developed?

Extensive psychometric expertise guides the design, development and administration of this rigorous high stakes certification exam. In addition, state-of-the-art software for computer-based bilingual testing in Canada is used.

The exam methodology includes:

- competency and blueprint development; practice analysis
- subject matter expert panels representing the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, the National Interprofessional Education Group, Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada), and the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association;
- pilot testing and statistical review (begins January 2019);
- in-depth psychometric analyses and validation; and
- panel reviews for workplace applicability and cultural sensitivity.

Who develops the exam?

A **national advisory stakeholder group** guides the process. Members represent nursing service, education, and regulation and are from all regions of Canada and from other health professions.

An **exam committee** of experienced test developers in nursing and other health professions is responsible for the exam blueprint.

What makes it a bilingual exam?

- English and French panels of nurse educators and clinicians develop questions: 75% are written in English and translated, and 25% in French and translated.
- A rigorous Canadian translation method for high-stakes exams and experienced translators ensure an equivalent exam in English and French.
- The exam software allows candidates to toggle from one language to the other.
- All exam resources are in both official languages.

What will it cost candidates?

- As low as possible (not a profit generating exam)