
	Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut  Page: 1 of 5	Registration Policy  Policy Description: Registered Nurse Requirements  Policy Number: R01
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<b>Effective Date: April 4, 2016</b>  Signature   <b>Review Date: April 2019</b>	<b>New Policy</b> ____ <b>Revision:</b> Partial ____ <b>X</b> Complete ____
<b>Applies To:</b> All applicants for registration as a Registered Nurse with the RNANT/NU.	
<b>Purpose:</b> This policy outlines the requirements for registration as a registered nurse in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. These requirements are in addition to, or in clarification of, those found in the Nursing Profession Act (2003), Nunavut Nursing Act (1998), and RNANT/NU Bylaws.	

**Definitions:**

**Good Character** – refers to the moral and ethical qualities expected by the general public of a professional nurse. Examples of such qualities include: integrity, trustworthiness, commitment to caring for others, honesty, accountability, reliability, ability to distinguish right and wrong, avoidance of aggression to self and others, and taking responsibility for one’s own actions (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2010).

**Good Standing** – Per Bylaw 2 s3(1)(f)(ii), an individual is in good standing if deemed to be in good standing by all current or former regulatory authorities where registration was held. Additionally, the individual is not currently the subject of any investigations, undertakings, conditions or consensual agreements related to continuing competence requirements or discipline.

**Fitness to Practice** – all the qualities and capabilities of an individual relevant to their capacity to practice as a registered nurse, including but not limited to, freedom from any:

- (i) cognitive;
- (ii) physical;
- (iii) psychological;
- (iv) emotional condition; or
- (v) dependence on alcohol or drugs impairing her or his ability to practice nursing (CNA, 2008).

**English Fluency** - defined as the primary language used to read, write, listen, and speak.

**Policy:**

The following items are required for registration as a registered nurse with the RNANT/NU:

- (1) The applicant must pay the fee as outlined in Policy R16.
- (2) The applicant must provide:
  - a) **A copy of one of the following for proof of identification:**
    - i. a birth certificate or Canadian certificate of registration of birth abroad; or
    - ii. passport or another Government issued photo ID (e.g., Driver’s License); or
    - iii. notarized statutory declaration of identity.

**Note:** Where there has been a name change, one of the following is required:



- a marriage certificate, or
- divorce decree, or
- notarized statutory declaration of legal name change

**b) Evidence of fluency in English**

Upon application to the RNANT/NU for registration, all applicants must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by meeting **one** of the following requirements:

- 1) Graduation from an approved Canadian nursing program where theory and clinical instruction was in English (on-line or distance education programs are not acceptable for evidence of fluency); or
- 2) Successful completion of the national nursing examination in English; or
- 3) Employer reference showing evidence of safe practice for the last two years as a registered nurse, where services were provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting was English; or
- 4) Applicant met the English language proficiency test requirement at the time of registration with another Canadian jurisdiction and has continued to work in an English-speaking environment since that time; or
- 5) Demonstration of English language competence through successful completion of one of the following tests of English within the last 2 years:
  - Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)
  - International English Language System (IELTS) Academic Version

The scores on these tests used to determine proficiency in the English language are:

Test	CELBAN	IELTS Academic
Writing	7	7
Speaking	8	7
Listening	10	7.5
Reading	8	6.5
Total	N/A	7

- i. The applicant cannot mix and match various tests or test components to achieve a passing score. All components of the IELTS Academic test must be completed in one test sitting. The CELBAN test components are required to be taken in two separate sittings.
- ii. An official copy of test results must be submitted with the registration application.



- iii. The registration applicant is financially responsible for all costs related to English testing.

Note: All registration documentation provided to the RNANT/NU should be provided in English. It is the financial responsibility of the registration applicant for any English translation costs.

**c) Evidence of sufficient nursing hours of practice**

The applicant must either:

- i. provide one or more Employer Reference Form(s) completed by previous employers of the applicant. This will certify the applicant engaged in the practice of nursing for a minimum of 1125 hours in the last five years immediately preceding the application; or
- ii. satisfy the RNANT/NU he or she has completed a suitable equivalency to 1125 hours of nursing practice in the five years immediately preceding the application as defined in the RNANT/NU policy.

**d) Satisfactory references**

(1) In this sub-paragraph (d):

- i. "Form A" means the Employer Reference Form attached to this policy
- ii. "Form B" means the Colleague Reference Form attached to this policy
- iii. "Form C" means the Instructor Reference Form attached to this policy

(2) Satisfactory references of both character and fitness to practice in the described form from one of the following is required:

- i. The most recent employer in Form A where the nurse was employed by one employer for the preceding five years and had worked for a minimum of 300 hours for that employer;
- ii. The most recent employer in Form A and a colleague, who had worked with the nurse for a minimum of 2 years, in Form B where the nurse was employed by one employer in the preceding five years for a minimum of 300 hours but the period of employment was less than five years;
- iii. The two most recent employers both in Form A where the nurse was employed by more than one employer in the preceding five years and had worked for each employer for a minimum of 300 hours;
- iv. A colleague, who has worked with the nurse for a minimum of 2 years, in Form B where the nurse was employed in the preceding five years by an employer who is prevented by policy from completing a reference in Form A;
- v. Two colleagues, each who had worked with the nurse for a minimum of 2 years, both in Form B where the nurse was self-employed for the preceding five years;
- vi. An instructor in Form C where the applicant has not been employed since successfully completing an approved Nursing Program or equivalent or a nursing refresher program or equivalent.


**e) Evidence of completion of a basic nursing education program that has been:**



- i. approved by the RNANT/NU; or
  - ii. approved by the applicant's original Canadian jurisdiction and verification of eligibility for registration in a Canadian jurisdiction; or
  - iii. approved by another Canadian jurisdiction and the member is registered in good standing in the Canadian jurisdiction in which he or she most recently practised nursing; or
  - iv. deemed equivalent by the Registration Committee (a combination of nursing practice and education) to one of the above.
- f) Evidence of successfully passing the Entry-to-Practice Exam or one of the approved equivalent exams including:**
- i. Professional Examination of the Ordre des Infirmieres et Infirmiers du Quebec for the period 1946 – 1979; or
  - ii. The State Board Test Pool (SBTP) for the period 1956 -1982; or
  - iii. CNAT Five Part Nursing Examination for the period August 1970 - June 1980; or
  - iv. CNAT Comprehensive Examination for Nurse Registration/Licensure for the period August 1980 – June 1995; or
  - v. Nurse Registration/Licensure Examination for the period August 1995 – January 2000; or
  - vi. Professional Examination of the Ordre des Infirmieres et Infirmiers du Quebec commencing January 1, 2000; or
  - vii. Canadian Registered Nurses Exam (CRNE) for the period January 2000 –December 2014; or
  - viii. National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX – RN) commencing January 1982.

**Conditions and Exceptions:**

- (1) An applicant that has disclosed a criminal conviction for an offense under the Criminal Code (Canada), the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada), or the Food and Drugs Act (Canada) must provide sufficient evidence about the conviction to the Director of Regulatory Processes and Policy as outlined in Policy 1.1: Criminal Convictions.
- (2) If an applicant has not disclosed on the registration application a previous or current investigation, undertaking, conditions, suspension, or revocation of her or his licence in all jurisdictions where they have been employed, the application may be denied by the Registrar. The applicant could choose to appeal this decision and have their application reviewed by the Registration Committee.
- (3) Registration Update
  - a) Applications for registration will be kept on file for a one-year period. This period commences from the date of receipt of the processing fee.
  - b) Unprocessed applications will be shredded after one year.

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- c) Information will be valid for six months following receipt of the processing fee. After six months, the applicant will be required to provide new updated application documents.

**Authority and Accountability:**

This policy is issued under the authority of the RNANT/NU Board of Directors and as governed by the Nursing Profession Act (2003), 22; and RNANT/NU Bylaw 2, s(2) and s(3). The Board of Directors has the authority to revise this Policy as required.

The Director of Regulatory Services and Policy and Registration Committee are accountable to the Board of Directors, and ultimately to the membership, for the implementation of this policy and may delegate any related administrative tasks. The Director of Regulatory Services and Policy/Registration Committee must respond to an application for a certificate of registration within six weeks of receipt of all required documentation.

**History:**

This policy replaces the former policies:

- 1.1 Initial Registration, issued in May 1986, revised October 2000; September 2008.
  - 1.6 Good Character, last revised in December 1999.
  - 1.7 Fitness to Engage in the Practice of Nursing, last revised December 1999
- R1: Registered Nurse Requirements, replaced previous policies - issued in September 2008.  
Revisions: May 2010; March 2015.

**References:**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2010). *Determination of good moral character – Policy No. NH-09-01*. Retrieved from: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/quality/boards/nha-09-01-policy-determination-gmc.pdf>

Canadian Nurses Association (2008). *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*. Ottawa: Canada, Author