

Registration Requirements for Nurses Educated Outside of Canada

The College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) is the regulatory body for registered nursing in the province of Alberta, Canada. All nurses who are educated outside Canada need to be registered with CARNA and obtain a practice permit to be eligible to practice as a registered nurse in Alberta.

Language Requirement

- Evidence of competence in, and comprehension of, the English language

Nursing Education Requirement

- Successful completion of a professional nursing education program that was approved in the jurisdiction where the program was completed.

Previous/Current Registration Requirements

- Registered nurse status in the country where you obtained your nursing education
- Registration in good standing from other jurisdictions where you have practiced nursing in the last 5 years

Practice Requirements

- Have completed within the last 5 years (not including the current year),
 - a. 1,125 hours of registered nursing practice; or
 - b. a nursing degree or a nursing program satisfactory to the CARNA Registrar

Substantially Equivalent Competency Requirement

- Evidence of competence to practice that is substantially equivalent to the competencies required of all Alberta nurses (i.e., having a combination of education, experience, practice or other qualifications that meets the Alberta entry-to-practice competency requirements)

Fitness to Practice

- No health problems that impair your ability to practice

Good Character

- Evidence of good character based on a satisfactory employer references
- No outstanding relevant criminal charges or convictions

Exam Requirement (fee approx. C\$500)

- Achieve a passing score on the Canadian Registered Nurses Examination (CRNE)

For Application Forms and Additional Information

Go to www.nurses.ab.ca and click on Registration.

How to Apply to become a Registered Nurse in Alberta

1. Submission of Documents

For us to begin processing your application, CARNA must receive the following:

- Your completed Application for Registration
- Your application fee (C\$212)
- Copies of the following documents:
 - Birth certificate or notarized document attesting to date of birth
 - Photo identification, e.g. passport details page
 - Marriage certificate or other notarized documentation if you use a different last name than that listed on your birth certificate and/or transcripts/ verification documents.

In addition, you must arrange for the following documents to be forwarded directly to CARNA from source:

- Verification of Registration from the jurisdiction where you obtained your nursing education
- Verification of Registration from all jurisdictions where you have practiced in the last 5 years
- Nursing Education Transcript from your initial nursing program
- Transcripts from any additional nursing education institutions
- English Language results where applicable

2. Preliminary Review

If CARNA is able to determine your competence to practice from the information submitted, the Registrar will decide on your eligibility for registration.

If CARNA cannot satisfactorily determine your competence to practice from the information submitted, you may be required to complete a Substantially Equivalent Competence (SEC) assessment, a process administered in Calgary, Alberta. When the SEC results are forwarded to CARNA, the Registrar will decide on your eligibility for registration. (Fee: TBA)

3. Decisions on Eligibility

- a) **Eligibility to Apply for a Temporary Permit (TP)** (Fee C\$190)
You are eligible to apply for a “TP with conditions” to practice in Alberta as a Graduate Nurse. The conditions include the achievement of a passing score on the CRNE and submission of a satisfactory Canadian employer reference. Once the conditions are met, you will be eligible to apply for registration as a Registered Nurse in Alberta.
- b) **Deferred approval of eligibility for registration**
CARNA may require you to meet additional requirements such as achievement of English language fluency or additional educational preparation. Once these requirements are met, you would be eligible to apply for a TP with conditions.
- c) **Eligibility Denied**
Failure to meet the requirements will result in the application for eligibility being denied.

In order to be fair and equitable to all applicants, each application for registration is assessed individually. As a result, the time required for registration to be established can vary significantly from applicant to applicant.