



CNA Certification Program Information



CANADIAN
NURSES
ASSOCIATION®

January- December 2020

Mission

CNA is a powerful, unified voice for the Canadian nursing profession

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

Canada's Nursing Workforce

301,000

Registered nurses

6,000

Registered psych nurses

5,300

Nurse practitioners

119,000

Licensed practical nurses

About CNA

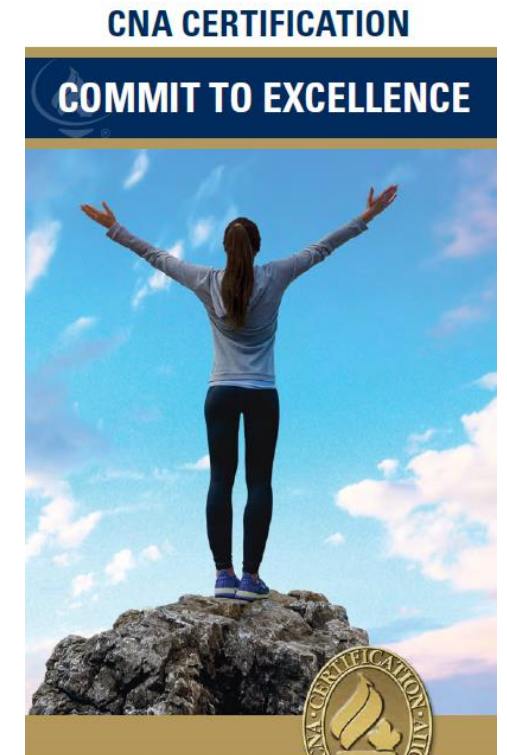
- 112 years old, making it Canada's second-oldest national professional organization
- 135,000 members from coast to coast
- Only association to have nurse members in all 13 jurisdictions
- 5th-largest country member of the 133-member International Council of Nurses
- 43 member of the Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties
- 22 nursing specialty certification groups
- 18 nursing specialty certification examinations

What does CNA do?



About the CNA Certification Program

- Flagship program since 1991
- Only bilingual national credentialing program for nurses
- **15,065** nurses are CNA certified in one or more of **22 nursing specialties; nurses renew every five years to maintain their credential**
- Collaboration with 22 nursing national specialty associations
- Shift to computer-based testing in 2016



Care to Be
the Best.



getcertified.cna-aiic.ca

About the CNA Certification Program



Two new exams in 2019

- Gerontological nursing (for licensed/registered practical nurses)
- Pediatric nursing (registered nurses)

Five retired exams in 2019

- Gastroenterology, neuroscience, orthopaedic, perianesthesia and rehabilitation
- Nurses certified in any of the above specialties can maintain their certification credential via renewal by continuous learning every five years

In 2020

- Starting in January, registered psychiatric nurses can apply to write their nursing specialty certification exams in gerontology as well as in psychiatric and mental health.
- New exam in Medical surgical nursing (for licensed/registered practical nurses) will be available as November

Evidence of Certification's Impact



Organizational impacts

- 2.5% increase in patient satisfaction scores after 60% increase in certified nurses (Coleman et al., 2010)
- 16.7% to 8.1% reduction in hospital nurse turnover after 60% increase in certified nurses (Coleman et al., 2010)
- Certified nurses have increased access to job-related power and higher perceptions of empowerment (Niebuhr & Biel, 2007)

Evidence of Certification's Impact



Improved patient outcomes

- 2% decrease in the odds of mortality and failure to rescue for every 10% increase in certified nurses (Kendall-Gallagher et al., 2011)
- Significantly lower rates of geriatric unit patient falls with two or more certified nurses (Lange et al., 2009)
- Two inpatient oncology units, evidence of improved symptom management (pain, nausea and vomiting) in patients cared for by certified nurses compared with non-certified nurses (Coleman et al., 2010)

Evidence of Certification's Impact



Impact on the nurse

- Certified nurses have increased access to job-related power and higher perception of empowerment (Niebuhr et al., 2007)
- Certified specialty nurses have increased confidence and self-perception (Wilkerson, 2011)
- The individual benefits of nurse certification can be summarized as personal achievement, job satisfaction, validation of knowledge, challenge, greater earning potential, commitment to professionalism, and access to a broad range of job opportunities (Wade et al., 2009)

CNA Specialty Certification

**Total number of
certified nurses by
specialty (2019)**

Specialty	Total
Cardiovascular Nursing	533
Community Health Nursing	813
Critical Care Nursing (Adult)	1107
Critical Care Pediatric Nursing	139
Emergency Nursing	974
Gastroenterology Nursing	203
Gerontological (RN/NP) Nursing 1	2053
Gerontological (LPN/RPN) Nursing 2	50
Hospice Palliative Care Nursing	1130
Medical Surgical Nursing	377
Neonatal Nursing	72
Nephrology Nursing	1031
Neuroscience Nursing	300
Occupational Health Nursing	565
Oncology Nursing	1613
Orthopaedic Nursing	175
Pediatric Nursing	51
PeriAnesthesia Nursing	130
Perinatal Nursing	485
Perioperative Nursing	1127
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	1763
Rehabilitation Nursing	167
Wound, Ostomy and Continence	207
Total	15065

Certification Process

Voluntary process



Specialty experience may have been gained in any of the following five practice areas: direct patient care, education, research, policy or administration.

Certified nurses renew every five years to maintain their credential. Most nurses renew by submitting a record of their continuous learning hours. Renewal by rewriting the certification exam is also available.

Certification Process

- Online applications — initial, renewal and inactive status
- Computer-based testing
- Pearson VUE test centres across Canada. For nurses located far from a test centre, a special accommodation testing site will be organized by Meazure Learning.
- Financial incentives for employers, group discounts, national specialty association members, etc.

National Credential Designation

CNA-certified nurses can use their specialty designation after their name:

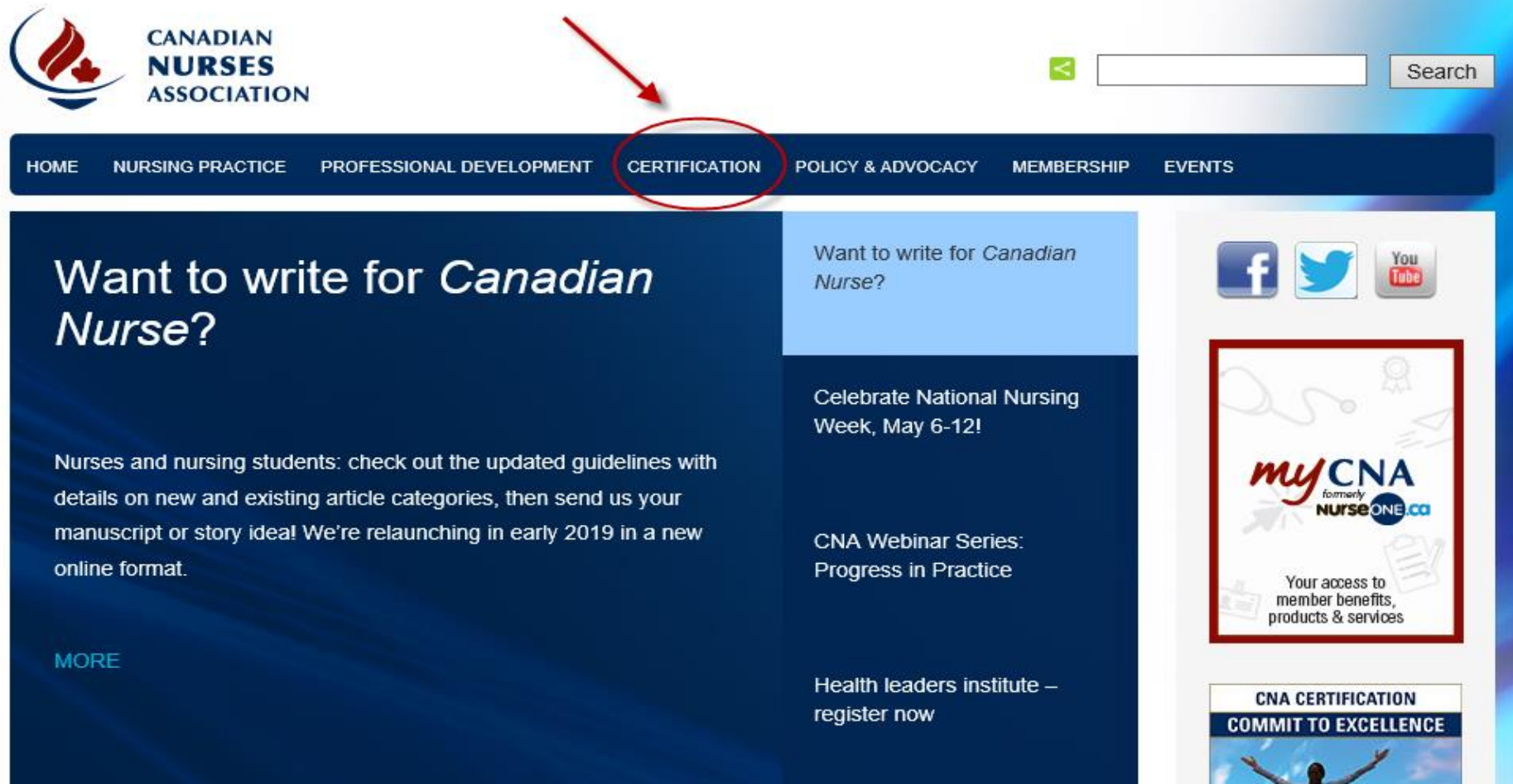
Florence Nightingale, RN, BScN, CON(C)

Jeanne Mance, inf.aut., B.Sc. inf., CSIO(C)

Important Dates

2020	Application window	Exam window	Results
Spring	January 20 – March 2	May 1 – 15	June
Fall First exam in medical-surgical nursing for licensed/registered practical nurses	June 1 – September 10	November 1 – 15	December

Application



The screenshot shows the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) website. The header includes the CNA logo and the text "CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION". A navigation bar contains links: HOME, NURSING PRACTICE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, **CERTIFICATION** (circled in red with a red arrow pointing to it), POLICY & ADVOCACY, MEMBERSHIP, and EVENTS. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

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.

[MORE](#)

Want to write for *Canadian Nurse*?

Celebrate National Nursing Week, May 6-12!

CNA Webinar Series: Progress in Practice

Health leaders institute – register now

myCNA formerly nurseONE.ca

Your access to member benefits, products & services

CNA CERTIFICATION COMMIT TO EXCELLENCE

Application



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

Exam Preparation

Feedback and Improvements

Employer Zone

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

Initial Certification

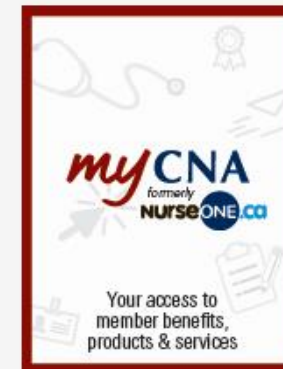
"I have found that having my certification has helped me be the successful candidate for positions that I have applied for over the years." [Read what certified nurses say](#) about the value of earning their credential.

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

Apply

Application period now open!

If you're ready to apply for certification, log in to [MyCNA](#) (formerly NurseONE). Before applying, you may want to learn more about the [application process](#).



Application



Search

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

[Home](#) > [Login](#)

Login

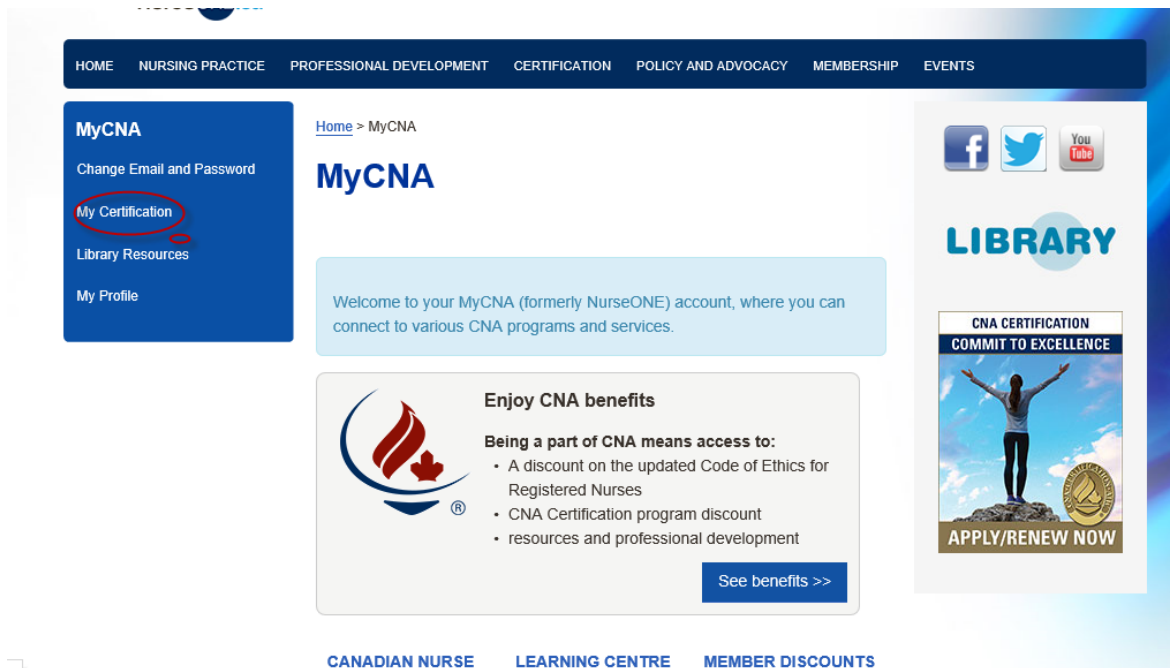
Welcome to MyCNA (formerly NurseONE), where you can join CNA, apply for or renew your CNA certification and access Canadian Nurse and other services. See the full list of CNA benefits at cna-aiic.ca/benefits. If you have a NurseONE profile, use the same e-mail and password here for MyCNA. If you have not yet created your profile, click Register. For any questions, please contact us at 1-800-361-8404 or members@cna-aiic.ca.

Login

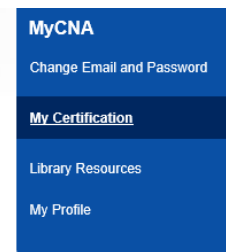
Email **Required**

Password **Required**

Application



The screenshot shows the MyCNA homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with links: HOME, NURSING PRACTICE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION, POLICY AND ADVOCACY, MEMBERSHIP, and EVENTS. On the left is a blue sidebar with the 'MyCNA' logo and links for 'Change Email and Password', 'My Certification' (circled in red), 'Library Resources', and 'My Profile'. The main content area features the 'MyCNA' logo, a welcome message, and a section titled 'Enjoy CNA benefits' with a list of perks and a 'See benefits >>' button. On the right is a 'LIBRARY' section with social media icons and a 'CNA CERTIFICATION COMMIT TO EXCELLENCE' graphic with an 'APPLY/RENEW NOW' button. At the bottom are links for 'CANADIAN NURSE', 'LEARNING CENTRE', and 'MEMBER DISCOUNTS'.



A vertical blue sidebar menu for the MyCNA website. It contains the following links from top to bottom: 'MyCNA', 'Change Email and Password', 'My Certification' (highlighted with a blue background), 'Library Resources', and 'My Profile'.

[Home](#) > [MyCNA](#) > My Certification

My Certification

[Help with your online certification application](#) [PDF, 397.4 KB]

Renewal discount

If you are a certified nurse applying for renewal this year, apply by June 1 and save 10% on your renewal fee!

Enter voucher code **RCL-CNA-2019** at the payment page.

Current status

If you currently are or have been previously certified, the **My Certification** table shows your status. If you want to renew a certification that does not appear in this chart, please [email](#) us your certificate number and full name and we will contact you within 3 business days to confirm that you can continue your application.

Application status

If you are applying for certification for the first time or renewing, scroll down to the **My Applications** table for the status of your application(s). Before you've paid, you can edit your application(s) at any time by choosing "Edit" in the drop-down menu. This function is not available after you've paid.

My Certification

[INITIAL EXAM APPLICATION](#)

Certification Specialty	Certification Number	Status of Certification	Valid Until	Action	Proof of Certification
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After you apply

We will contact you after you submit your application with instructions on how to:

- Book your exam test centre with Pearson VUE
- Prepare for the exam
- Try the computer-based testing demo
- Write the certification exam

Exam Preparation

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

Certification
[Why I Became Certified](#)
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[Exam Preparation](#)
[Exam Competencies and Blueprints](#)
[General Competencies](#)
[Bibliographies](#)
[Specialty Associations](#)
[Mentorship Program](#)
[Study Groups](#)
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[Employer Zone](#)
[Certification Policies](#)

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

Exam Preparation

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

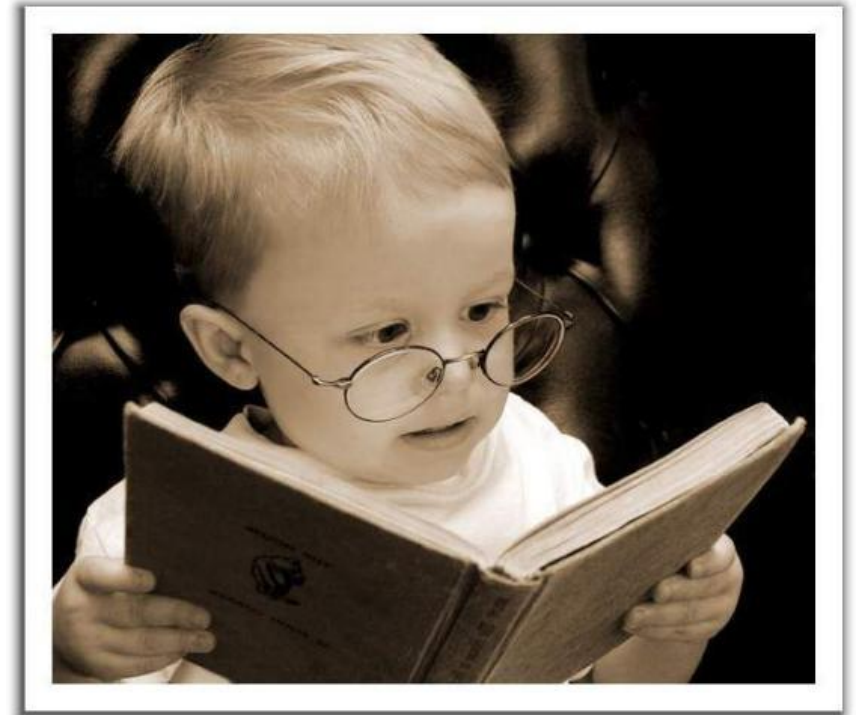
Because the exam will assess your experience, your preparation will be based on what you already know. You should therefore study to refresh your knowledge of your nursing specialty, especially those practice areas you haven't been exposed to recently.

We want you to succeed on the certification exam! There are many resources that can help you prepare.

- [Exam Competencies and Blueprints](#)
- [General Competencies](#)
- [Bibliographies](#)
- [Specialty Associations](#)
- [Mentors](#)
- [Study Groups](#)
- [Study Tips and Tricks](#)

Study Tips

- Review competencies
- Perform a self-assessment
- Rate each competency according to your level of knowledge
 - Rating should reflect your knowledge of the theory and evidence, not just your clinical experience
- Determine priorities for your study
- Plan your study based on your self-assessment



Create a Study Plan

- List all of the topics you want to review
- Create a realistic study schedule to address each topic
- Study your weakest subjects first, but stick to a time limit
- Make a commitment to stay with your plan, revising as required to accommodate life events
- Plan to complete your overall study at least two weeks before exam date (to allow overall review)

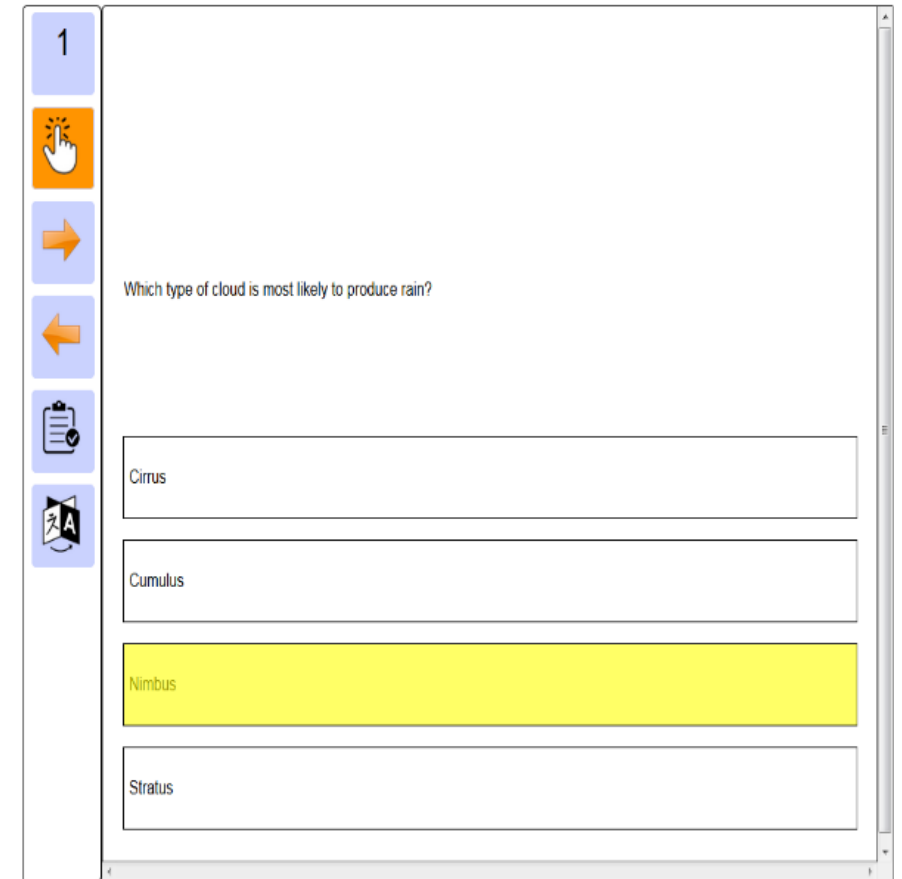
Preparation

- Create a learning environment
- Dive in! But if exam preparation seems too daunting, take small steps and build momentum
- Embrace your leaning style – do what feels right for you
- Use multiple learning strategies
- Study with others
- HAVE FUN!

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 the Pearson VUE exam centre.



The screenshot displays a testing interface with a vertical toolbar on the left containing icons for question navigation (1, back, forward, search, flag) and a main content area. The question asks, "Which type of cloud is most likely to produce rain?". Four options are listed in input fields: Cirrus, Cumulus, Nimbus (highlighted in yellow), and Stratus.

1

Which type of cloud is most likely to produce rain?

Cirrus

Cumulus

Nimbus

Stratus

Computer-based Testing Info

About the CBT certification exam

- 160-165 multiple-choice questions
- Four hours to complete the exam
- You select one of four possible answers for each question
 - Skip questions and come back any time during the test
 - Virtual white board provided so you can mark questions that you want to revisit later on

Exam Results

- Official results email sent three weeks after the last day of the exam administration period
 - Printed letter on CNA stationary sent in the mail later on
- Successful candidates receive letter, certification pin and certificate
- Unsuccessful candidates receive letter and exam performance profile

How to Maintain Your Certification

- The certification credential is valid for five years and must be renewed at the end of the term
- To renew, accumulate 2,925 hours' experience in your nursing practice specialty and do *one* of the following:
 - Provide documentation of completed 100 hours of continuous learning activities related to specialty
 - Rewrite the exam

Continuous Learning Activities

Focused on your specialty nursing earned during the five-year term

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

- Financial Support web page under Get Certified or Renewing Your Certification
- CNA members – discount on your certification application fees

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 — certification award/bursary

Specialty nursing associations — membership incentives, 20% discount on your application fees for 2020



Thank you
Merci
Meegwetch

Stay connected and engaged with us



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