FOCUSED NURSING PREP CLASSES

FREE CHECKLIST

Ontario nursing licence checklist

Six steps from your nursing education to a licence from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). CNO's guideline is about 12 months from application to registration.

For nurses educated outside Canada, including India. Fees in Canadian dollars, as of 23 October 2026.

Tick each box as you go. The small numbers link to the regulator's or exam body's own page for that line; the full list is on the last page.

Before you start: which licence?

B.Sc. Nursing	Registered Nurse (RN). You write the NCLEX-RN. [1]
Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing	RN if CNO finds it equivalent to a nursing degree, from your credential assessment. [1]
GNM diploma	Registered Practical Nurse (RPN). You write the REx-PN. [1]

1 Get your nursing education assessed

CNO will not start your file without the report.

- [ ] Choose an approved assessor: WES, ICAS or ICES, or the NNAS Expedited Service. [2]
- [ ] Already have a WES, ICAS or ICES report from immigration? Ask the provider to send it to CNO. [2]
- [ ] NNAS Expedited costs $750 CAD and issues its report within 5 business days of your last document. CNO accepts reports prepared by TruMerit, so confirm with CNO if another processor handled your file. [2, 3]
- [ ] From India, for WES: your degree or provisional certificate and all years of mark sheets, or a consolidated transcript. Your university sends the marks in a sealed envelope, or WES receives them through an NSDC digital wallet. [4]

2 Apply to the College of Nurses of Ontario

Your employers and nursing council send their forms to CNO directly.

- [ ] Apply online in CNO's Maintain Your Membership portal. The application fee is $433 plus 13% HST in 2026 ($454 in 2027). [5, 6]
- [ ] Note the date CNO confirms your application. You have 2 years from then to meet every requirement, or the file closes and you reapply. [5]
- [ ] If you were registered with a state nursing council, such as the Punjab Nurses Registration Council or the Gujarat Nursing Council, ask it to send CNO a verification of registration. [5]
- [ ] Ask each hospital you worked for in the past 3 years to send CNO a verification of nursing practice form. Since 12 January 2026, only paid nursing work counts. [7]
- [ ] Get a police criminal record check. CNO accepts it for 6 months from its date of issue. [5]
- [ ] Have anything not in English or French translated. The translator sends it to CNO, which does not accept translations done by applicants. [5]
- [ ] Keep your CNO portal login to yourself, including from exam preparation services. We never ask for it. [5]

3 Write the NCLEX-RN, or the REx-PN for practical nurses

English, recent practice and Transition to Practice can be met after the exam, so many nurses write the NCLEX-RN first.

- [ ] Wait for CNO's portal message that your education is substantially equivalent. You can only book the exam after it. [8]
- [ ] Register with Pearson. The NCLEX-RN is $360 CAD ($570 if you register on or after 1 Feb 2027); the REx-PN is $350 CAD. [9, 10, 11]
- [ ] Book your seat while your Authorization to Test is valid: on average, 90 days. [12]
- [ ] Writing in India? NCSBN's October 2026 list names centres in 15 Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mohali and New Delhi. An international centre adds a $150 CAD scheduling fee, and changes to the appointment can only be made by phone with Pearson. [9, 13]
- [ ] CNO posts your result in the portal, in most cases within a week. If you need a retake, you can write the NCLEX-RN once every 45 days, up to 8 times a year, and each retake is a new registration fee. [9, 14]

4 Meet the English requirement

- [ ] IELTS Academic or General Training: 7 overall, 7 in speaking and listening, and 6.5 in reading and writing, all in one sitting. [15]
- [ ] An IELTS score from your immigration file counts only if every part meets these minimums. [15]
- [ ] CELBAN, OET and PTE Academic also count, each with its own minimums. For IELTS, a One Skill Retake within 60 days replaces that one score. [15]
- [ ] No test? Nursing education taught in English with real clinical hours, or nursing practice in English, in the past 2 years can count instead. Simulation and virtual clinical hours do not. [15]
- [ ] The test organisation sends your results to CNO directly. [15]

5 Pass the jurisprudence exam and a Transition to Practice course

Both are online, and both can run while you prepare for the NCLEX-RN.

- [ ] Jurisprudence exam: a five-chapter online module, then 50 multiple-choice questions, open book and untimed. The fee is $40 plus tax ($42 in 2027), with unlimited attempts within 30 days of paying. A pass is valid for 5 years. [16]
- [ ] CNO sends the jurisprudence payment link through your portal after you apply. Contact CNO if you have no exam instructions within 10 days. [16]
- [ ] Transition to Practice: a CNO-approved online course, usually 7 to 14 weeks with no clinical placement, valid for 5 years. Eight providers are approved, and each sets its own fee. [17, 18]

6 Register

- [ ] Recent practice: paid nursing practice, or graduation, within the past 3 years. Older than that? See SPEP on the next page. [7]
- [ ] Right to work: Canadian citizenship, permanent residence, or a permit that lets you practise nursing in Ontario. For immigration advice, speak to a licensed immigration consultant or lawyer. [5]
- [ ] Pay the initial registration fee, $69 plus HST in 2026 ($72 in 2027), and CNO registers you in the General Class. [6]
- [ ] Arrange professional liability protection of at least $1 million per claim. Many employers provide it. [19]
- [ ] From your first renewal, the annual fee is $368 plus HST in 2026 ($386 in 2027). [6]

What it costs: the fixed fees for an RN in 2026 [3, 6, 9, 10]

Item	Fee (CAD)
Credential assessment (NNAS Expedited)	$750
CNO application	$433 + HST
NCLEX-RN registration	$360 + tax ($570 from 1 Feb 2027)
Writing the NCLEX in India	$150 extra
Jurisprudence exam	$40 + HST
Initial registration	$69 + HST ($72 in 2027)

English tests, translations, courier costs and the Transition to Practice course are extra and vary.

Practice more than 3 years old?

CNO's Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP) covers it: at least 140 hours of supervised practice with an Ontario employer. Your evidence of practice must have expired no more than 5 years before you apply to SPEP, and SPEP can meet the English requirement at the same time. [20]

Working while you wait

CNO's Temporary Class needs an open application, recent practice, English proficiency, a passed jurisprudence exam, the right to work and a job offer from an approved employer. No registration exam is required to enter it. Certificates expire after 8 months unless CNO extends them. [21]

Dates to write down

CNO confirmed my application
you then have 2 years to meet every requirement

My police check was issued
CNO accepts it for 6 months

I paid for the jurisprudence exam
unlimited attempts for 30 days

My Authorization to Test runs out
on average 90 days after it is issued

I took my English test
every part in one sitting

Applying in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador or Nova Scotia? The steps differ: see focusnursing.com/become-a-nurse-in-canada/.



WHERE WE HELP

Step 3 is the one Mandeep teaches

Mandeep Dhaliwal, RN, earned a B.Sc. in Nursing at CMC Ludhiana and is now a Registered Nurse in Ontario. Mandeep has helped 800+ nurses with licensing. The 12-Week Comprehensive Review Program prepares you for the NCLEX-RN or the REx-PN in live online classes, Monday to Friday. The next batch, times and fees are at focusnursing.com/nclex-rn-classes/.

Every application starts with a free profile assessment. After that we can help with your credential assessment ($250 CAD), your CNO application ($250 CAD) or a licence transfer between provinces ($300 CAD). Our fees cover our help only: CNO, your assessor and your exam are paid separately. See the services.

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Sources

Every line in this checklist comes from our guides at focusnursing.com as published on 23 October 2026, and each number points to the page that line rests on. Fees and rules change, so check the source before you pay or submit anything. CNO alone decides your eligibility, so always follow its instructions for your own file. We do not give immigration advice. Focused Nursing Prep Classes is not affiliated with the College of Nurses of Ontario or any other nursing regulator, NCSBN, Ahpra or NNAS. NCLEX and NCLEX-RN are registered trademarks of NCSBN.

1. **CNO: Nursing education requirement** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-requirements/nursing-education
2. **CNO: Approved educational credential assessment providers** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/approved-educational-credential-assessment-service-providers
3. **NNAS: Expedited Service** https://www.nnas.ca/expedited-service/
4. **WES: Credential evaluation and document requirements for India, May 2026** https://www.wes.org/resource-library/blog/credential-advice/wes-indian-credential-evaluations/
5. **CNO: Registration guide for nurses educated outside Canada** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-guides/outside-canada
6. **CNO: Application and membership fees** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/fees/application-membership-fees
7. **CNO: Evidence of practice** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-requirements/evidence-of-practice
8. **CNO: Registered nurse examinations** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/examinations/registered-nurse-examinations
9. **NCSBN: NCLEX fees and payment** https://www.nclex.com/fees-payment.page
10. **NCSBN: NCLEX fee changes effective 1 February 2027** https://www.ncsbn.org/news/nclex-fee-changes-feb1
11. **REx-PN: Fees and payment** https://rexpn.com/fees-payment.page
12. **NCSBN: NCLEX registration** https://www.nclex.com/registration.page
13. **NCSBN: International test centres, October 2026** https://www.nclex.com/files/October_2026_Quarterly_International_Test_Centers_Information.pdf
14. **CNO: Registered nurse examinations FAQs** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/examinations/registered-nurse-examinations/registered-nurse-examinations-faqs
15. **CNO: Proficiency in English or French** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-requirements/proficiency-in-english-or-french
16. **CNO: Jurisprudence examination** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/examinations/jurisprudence-examination
17. **CNO: Transition to Practice requirement** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-requirements/transition-to-practice
18. **CNO: Approved Transition to Practice courses** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/approved-nursing-programs/transition-to-practice-courses
19. **CNO: Professional liability protection** https://www.cno.org/maintain-your-membership/professional-liability-protection-plp
20. **CNO: Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP)** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-requirements/evidence-of-practice/supervised-practice-experience-partnership
21. **CNO: Temporary Class registration guide** https://www.cno.org/become-a-nurse/registration-guides/temporary-class