

# fact sheet

## CANADIAN REGISTERED NURSE EXAMINATION

---

### The Examination

Applicants for nurse registration in British Columbia are required to pass the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination. The examination consists of approximately 300 multiple choice and short answer questions. It measures the competencies required of entry-level nurses for safe and effective practice. Approximately 60% of the questions are presented with a brief description of a case followed by a group of three to five questions. The remainder of the examination consists of single, independent questions, unrelated to a case or to other questions on the examination. Within the examination, 15-25% of the questions are short answer questions, and 75-85% of the questions are multiple choice questions. All short answer questions are case-based. The multiple choice questions are presented in both case-based and independent formats. Refer to the brochure *Information for Candidates Writing the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination* for more detail on the format and method of scoring of the examination.

### Applications

Graduates from British Columbia nursing programs writing the examination for the first time obtain applications from their nursing programs. RNABC provides examination applications to all other applicants.

### Application Deadline Date / Examination Date

Your signed application accompanied by the required fee must be received in the RNABC office by the deadline date for each examination sitting, as shown below.

Deadline Date	Examination Date
April 5, 2005	June 8, 2005
June 10, 2005	August 10, 2005
August 17, 2005	October 12, 2005
November 9, 2005	January 18, 2006

### Examination Length

The examination is eight hours long and is written in one day. The morning and afternoon sessions are four hours each.

### Locations

The British Columbia writing centres for each examination date are listed on this page. Please note that although a writing centre is entitled Vancouver or Surrey, the actual facility may be located in the surrounding area such as Richmond, Burnaby or Coquitlam. If you wish to know the address of the facility prior to selecting a writing centre, please call RNABC for this information. With special permission, you may write the examination in another Canadian jurisdiction. There is no provision to write outside Canada. Contact the RNABC Registration Advisor - Examinations & Students for information about how to request to write in another Canadian jurisdiction.

### Examination Date / Writing Centres

June: Vancouver, Surrey, Prince George, Castlegar, Kelowna, Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo

August: Vancouver, Castlegar

October: Vancouver, Nanaimo

January: Vancouver, Surrey

### Fee (subject to change without notice)

The examination fee is \$440.00. Fees must be received by RNABC on or before the application deadline date. A partial refund or partial credit is issued for a future examination if you are unable to write as scheduled or if you write only a portion of the examination (see registration examination policies).

### Candidates Requiring Special Accommodation

If you have a disability that could adversely affect your performance on the examination, you may request special accommodation to write the examination. Contact the RNABC Registration Advisor - Examinations & Students (prior to the application deadline date) to obtain the request forms.

Some of the larger writing centres may have a separate area where a smaller group of candidates may write the examination. Spaces will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. Please indicate on your examination application if you would like this option if available at your centre.

## Assistance

The *Canadian Registered Nurse Exam Prep Guide* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) includes close to 300 practice questions, including over 75 questions in the new short answer format. The guide provides answers and explanations to help you learn, a performance profile, and valuable test-taking strategies and study tips. It also includes an interactive CD-ROM that allows you to select the questions by format or content category. The Prep Guide can be purchased from the RNABC Helen Randal Library and from many British Columbia college and university bookstores or can be ordered directly from the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

CNA has developed a new tool to assist examination writers called the *LeaRN* CRNE Readiness Test. This tool is a mock online test using former examination questions. For more information on this tool visit the CNA website [www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca)

The RNABC Helen Randal Library has many text books related to the content tested on the examination. If you are an RNABC student member, use your membership card to access the RNABC library. Other applicants may request a library card from an RNABC registration officer. A registration officer can also provide candidates with a list of

examination tutors who assist with preparation for the examination.

## Admission to Examination

To be admitted to the examination, you must show:

1. The candidate identification card that RNABC sends to you three to four weeks before the examination; and
2. Identification bearing your photograph and signature such as a driver's licence or passport. If you do not have such documents, you must show a recent photograph of yourself, such as a passport picture, bearing your notarized signature.

On the examination day, take two medium-soft HB pencils and a soft eraser with you. Do not take any books, notes, calculators or other aids. All electronic devices, including electronic watches, organizers and communication devices such as pagers and cellular telephones are prohibited. Information about the examination writing centre will be sent with your candidate identification card three to four weeks before the examination date.

## Examination Results

The examination result is reported as a pass or fail result only. You will receive your result by mail thirteen to sixteen weeks after the examination. Results are not released over the telephone.

---

## Registration Examination Policies

1. An applicant for registration must pass the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination.
2. An applicant from a British Columbia approved nursing education program must have successfully completed his or her nursing education program in order to be permitted to write the registration examination. The program must have been completed in the previous five years.
3. An applicant who is a graduate from a nursing education program outside British Columbia must meet all other requirements for registration before writing the registration examination.
4. The examination includes experimental questions that are being tested for future use. The answers to these questions do not count in the examination result. Extra time for answering these questions is provided.
5. Cheating on the registration examination is a serious matter and may lead to ineligibility for registration in British Columbia.
6. A candidate who writes only part one of the examination is assigned a 'did not write' status, and a partial refund is issued. A candidate who writes part one and commences part two is considered to have written the examination, and the examination is scored. A candidate who does not write part one may not write part two, and a partial refund is issued.
7. The examination result is reported as a pass or fail result. There is one result for the total examination. Examination papers are not available for review.
8. A failing candidate may request the examination be rescored. The rescoring fee is \$31.50 plus \$2.20 GST. Requests for rescoring must be received within 45 days of the date of release of the results. For further information, contact RNABC Regulatory Services.
9. A candidate is eligible to write the registration examination three times only including all writings of the registered nurse examination in other Canadian jurisdictions. An applicant who has failed the registration examination twice will be required to complete remedial studies prior to writing the examination a third time.
10. An applicant for registration who has failed the registration examination three times shall not be eligible to rewrite the examination, unless in exceptional circumstances the Board of Directors decides otherwise following an appeal, under section 44 of the Nurses (Registered) Act.

REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
2855 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3Y8  
Telephone 604-736-7331 / Toll-free in BC 1-800-565-6505  
Fax 604-738-2272  
Internet [www.rnabc.bc.ca](http://www.rnabc.bc.ca)

© Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia/January 2005/ PUB. NO. 604