

# Steps to Specialty Nursing Certification



Cardiovascular  
Critical Care  
Critical Care Paediatrics

Community Health  
Emergency  
Gerontology

Gastroenterology  
Hospice/Palliative Care  
Psychiatric & Mental Health

Wound, Ostomy & Continence

PeriAnesthesia  
Orthopaedics  
Occupational Health

Neuroscience  
Medical/Surgical  
Oncology

Perinatal  
Nephrology  
Perioperative

Neonatal  
Pediatrics  
Rehabilitation

**Pro Tip**



Some nursing faculties are members of the Canadian Nursing Students' Association. Visit [cnsa.ca](http://cnsa.ca).

**Pro Tip**



During your employee orientation, learn about supports and incentives for certification.

**Pro Tip**



CNA members save \$186 on initial certification fees and \$103 on renewal fees.

**Pro Tip**



Some certifications can only be renewed. For more information, visit our website.

## Nursing Students



Graduate from your program  
Pass your jurisdictional exam  
Secure a nursing position

## Join CNA



Membership open to all regulated nurses and nursing students  
Benefits of CNA membership:

- Discounted certification fees
- Certification resources
- Knowledge
- Advocacy
- Community
- Career resources
- Other perks & discounts

## Regulated Nurses



Attend your employee orientation  
Ask your employer about nursing specialty areas (see list above)  
Visit the CNA website to learn more about certification

## Make Connections



Contact other CNA-certified nurses and/or unit leaders to discuss certification, benefits, eligibility and support  
Contact nursing specialty associations and/or your union/employer to discuss funding for professional development

## Apply



**You're eligible to apply if you have:**

- 1,950 hours of experience in your nursing specialty within the last 5 years  
OR
- 1,000 hours of experience plus 300 hours of formal education within the last 5 years

Check application due dates and apply online

## Prepare for the Exam



Book your exam online; you can write your exam virtually at home or in-person at a test centre  
Check CNA website for study tips and information on how to prepare  
Take online practice exam

## Pass the Exam



**Congratulations, you're certified!**  
Results available 3 weeks after exam  
Check with employer for certification reimbursement  
Follow up with HR re: financial incentives for specialty certification  
Become a mentor

## Renew



Your certification is valid for 5 years  
**You're eligible to renew if you have:**

- 2,925 hours of experience in your nursing specialty during your 5-year term
- 100 hours of continuous learning activities in your nursing specialty (or you can rewrite the exam)