



# PN Program

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PRACTICAL NURSING  
PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

## PN Program - [Accred.CASN.ca](https://Accred.CASN.ca)

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

High quality nursing education is critical to the retention of new graduates in an increasingly complex healthcare system.

To produce high quality graduates, a practical nursing<sup>1</sup> (PN) program needs to attract best-in-class students, adequate public support for seats, programs, and educators, and to be prepared to deliver cutting edge education that meets the highest achievable standards.

<sup>1</sup>Practical nursing programs refer to the entry-to-practice programs for licensed practical nurses and registered practical nurses.



## Want best-in-class? Join the best in the country



CASN Accreditation helps PN programs achieve a new level of quality and status that drives both enrollment from high-quality applicants, and increased public confidence and support.

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN)'s member schools are the elite in the country because they possess nationally accredited programs of nursing. Joining this exclusive class elevates PN program quality to meet national nursing education standards.



**“ Attaining CASN Accreditation status has brought the University College of the North and the Diploma of Practical Nursing Program to a new level of recognition in the province as well as nationally. It was very rewarding to receive this level of acknowledgment!”**

- Sheri Lyn McPhee RN MN NP, Associate Dean Diploma of Practical Nursing  
University College of the North (UCN)

## More than approval

While the approval process administered by regulatory bodies focuses on patient safety and provincial competencies, CASN Accreditation offers a **multi-stage process** that involves rigorous assessment against national standards of academic excellence.



CASN accredited schools benefit from an evolving national program, based on over 30 years of experience, that ensures nursing education programs are **thoughtfully designed**, relevant to the current needs of Canadians, **innovative**, and **promote equity, diversity, and inclusion** in health care.

## Eminence through excellence



As a voluntary but challenging process that reveals strengths in your program and more importantly, areas to focus on, CASN's Accreditation seal means your program meets high academic standards and your school is engaged in a process of continuous quality improvement.

Accreditation tells nursing students and the public that a program has undergone a rigorous self-evaluation and an independent, objective peer appraisal of the overall educational quality.

Accreditation lets the world know that an institution meets or exceeds quality standards and is accredited by a recognized national agency like CASN.



**“ Recevoir l'agrément de l'ACESI témoigne de la qualité du programme du VCC et démontre aux autres programmes, collèges et futures étudiantes que nous offrons un excellent programme de formation d'infirmières auxiliaires.”**

- **Janita Schappert**, RN, BSN, MSN, Dept. Head, Practical Nursing Program,  
Vancouver Community College (VCC)

## Benefits of CASN PN Program Accreditation



### Program quality enhancement to national standards

- Approval from an advisory committee of PN program experts.
- More than regulatory approval. Meets national benchmarks.
- Updates based on evolving health / cultural landscape.



### Evaluation, affirmation, and constructive feedback from experts

- What is done well. Why it is important. What can be improved.
- Quality enhancing processes, approaches, and resources.
- Evidence-based requests for greater support.



### Membership in an elite national accreditation program

- Benefits, recognition, status, access to a national network.
- National and international interprofessional collaboration.
- Continuous monitoring and improvement.



### Optimized program outcomes

- Increased enrollment of high-quality students
- Public confidence, support, and funding
- Graduates who are more competent, confident, safe, and retainable
- Better education. Better nurses. Better healthcare.

**“ CASN Accreditation helps identify gaps in the program and where we need to focus our energy to improve. It helps identify what we are doing well and what we need to work on.”**

- Janita Schappert, VCC

## Do you have a PN Program?

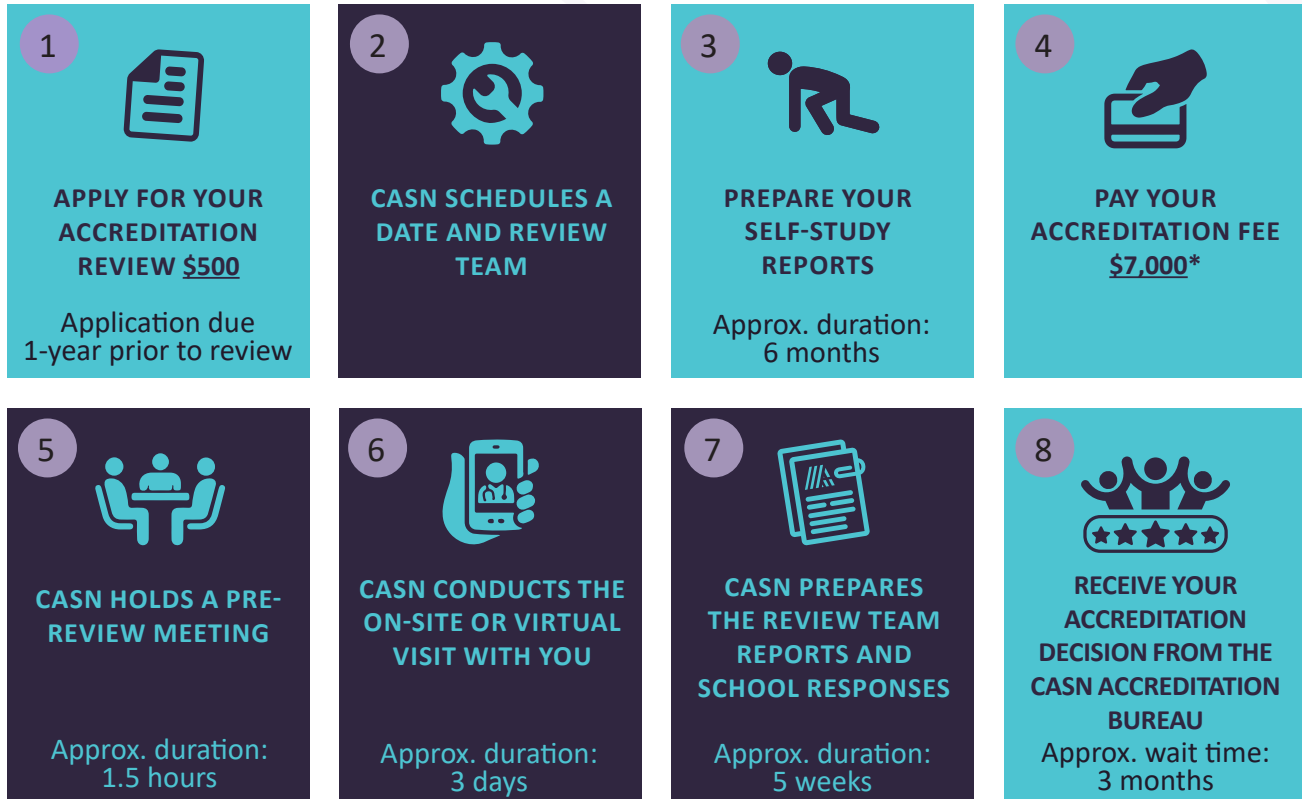
CASN defines an “Practical Nursing Program” as a diploma educational program that prepares students for the role as licensed practical nurses or registered practical nurses as both terms exist in Canada.



We would be delighted to help you determine if CASN PN Program Accreditation is right for you.

## How does the PN Program work?

CASN PN Program Accreditation takes approximately two (2) years to complete, and uses a rigorous, bilingual, peer-reviewed assessment process that follows these steps:



\* Pricing for member schools. All prices are in \$CAD. Pricing is subject to change. Based on one education program conducted by one educational unit in a virtual format. Non-member schools pay an additional accreditation support fee. Discounts offered for concurrent accreditations of additional programs e.g., BScN, PN, NP. Contact us for more information.

## Is it time to get accredited?

Let's talk about your school, your students, where you are in terms of accreditation, and how we can work together to help your program stand out from the crowd! Call 613-235-3150 extension 124 or email Joni Boyd <[jboyd@casn.ca](mailto:jboyd@casn.ca)> today! Joni is CASN's very knowledgeable and helpful Managing Director of Accreditation.



***“The CASN Accreditation process is important for our program as it indicates to potential students and partners that our program meets national standards, and we produce well-qualified and rounded nursing graduates.”***

**- Sheri Lyn McPhee, UCN**

## PN-CASN Accreditation Bureau

The PN-CASN Accreditation Bureau (PN-CAB) is an independent decision-making body for CASN's accreditation reviews. It is composed of experienced faculty, a student, a public representative, a nursing employer, and a member of a nursing regulatory body. For more information on our accreditation program, please contact [Joni Boyd](#).



## Quality Standards

The CASN Accreditation Program for PN Programs is guided by core values and fundamental principles centered around fostering continuous quality improvement and providing quality assurance. Its standards apply to new and existing programs. Check out the complete Accreditation Standards for PN Programs on our website: [accred.casn.ca](http://accred.casn.ca). The standards represent the quality expectations for PN Programs and are stated broadly. The PN Accreditation Program has six standards.

1. Leadership, Governance, and Administration
2. Resources and Environment
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Program Framework and Curriculum
5. Program Outcomes
6. Program Quality Improvement

## Quality Dimensions

Four overarching quality dimensions guided the development of the PN Accreditation Program standards and are infused throughout program:

1. **Relevance:** The structure, processes, and constituents of the educational unit and the education program under review are pertinent, appropriate, and responsive to the current and emerging needs of society and the profession.
2. **Accountability:** The educational unit takes responsibility for the quality of its programs and is answerable in all its relationships. The education program prepares students to be life-long learners who take responsibility for a professional practice that is safe, competent, ethical, and legal.
3. **Relatedness:** There is an alignment and inter-connectedness of all components of the educational unit and education program that promotes the achievement of goals and specified outcomes.
4. **Uniqueness:** While the structure, processes, and constituents of an educational unit and education program are expected to meet standards, how these expectations are met may be of a distinctive or unique character that allows for innovation as well as responsiveness to a particular context.

## CASN PN Accreditation Program Background

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing is the national accrediting body for nursing education in Canada. In 1987, the organization accredited its first undergraduate program and since then the accreditation of nursing education programs in Canada has become a core function of CASN; it reviews over a dozen schools every year.

Accreditation promotes excellence and is recognized worldwide as an important, objective method to assess professional education programs. It identifies strengths and opportunities for improvement that can guide decision making. The process provides administrators and faculty with information regarding areas that require development, modification and/or resources.

The program of accreditation sets forth overarching quality dimensions, standards, descriptors, and key elements against which internationally educated nurse bridging program are assessed while also incorporating flexibility regarding the organizational structure and curriculum. This flexibility enables programs to be autonomous in their academic perspectives and responsive to their regional, social, professional, and institutional contexts.

The CASN Accreditation Program is built on the original philosophy and approach of previous programs. It undergoes regular review and enhancement. This is consistent with a constant quality improvement approach. Recent changes to the accreditation program accommodate evolution of distance education, collaborative partnerships, virtual reviews, and new program models within a new framework and with expanded standards. The following table identifies some of CASN Accreditation's milestone dates.



***“ I liked that CASN Accreditation allowed us to have a more comprehensive picture of what our program is doing. It shows that we are meeting national standards, and that we provide a well-rounded program that is suited to the needs of our students from a national perspective. It also adds a measure of interest and credential to our program.”***

**- Sheri Lyn McPhee, UCN**

# Key PN Accreditation Program Milestones

1987

CASN institutes a national, voluntary accreditation process for baccalaureate nursing programs, supported by all members.

1994

CASN becomes a co-founder of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada, a national association representing accrediting bodies of over 20 professions and other accrediting organizations.

2016

CASN begins to develop an accreditation program for PN diploma programs guided by an Advisory Committee

2020

Pilots of the new PN Accreditation Program begin.

2021

Launch of the new PN Accreditation Program.



**“We worked very hard and were united as a team to ensure that every faculty member was included. The fact we did so well with our CASN Accreditation is something the department and faculty can be very proud of.”**

- Janita Schappert, VCC

## Accreditation says excellence!



ENHANCES  
PROGRAM  
QUALITY



PROMOTES  
NATIONAL  
STANDARDS



ATTRACTS  
TOP  
STUDENTS



LEVERAGES  
REQUESTS FOR  
GREATER SUPPORT



STRENGTHENS  
CURRICULAR  
DECISIONS

**Don't delay, call 613-235-3150x124 or email [Joni Boyd](#) today!**

Contact us today and take advantage of this opportunity to elevate your PN program!





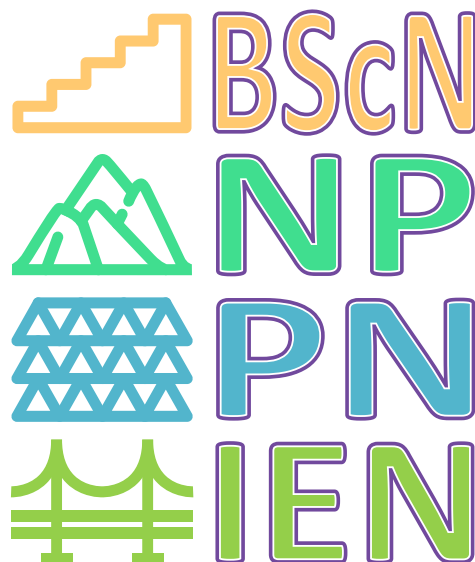
## Accreditation promotes excellence

- ★ Enhances program quality
- ★ Promotes national standards
- ★ Attracts top students
- ★ Leverages requests for greater support
- ★ Strengthens curricular decisions



CASN Accreditation  
Agrément de l'ACESI

ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS



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