

IEN Program - accred.casn.ca

INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED NURSE BRIDGING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

One of the greatest challenges for the internationally educated nurse (IEN) is choosing which college or university program to help them integrate into the Canadian health care system.

Not only are there many (20+) IEN Bridging Program (IEN-BP) options to choose from in Canada, but they also vary significantly in pre-requisites, enrollment costs, course offerings, durations, promised credentials, and quality standards.



How do IENs confidently choose a bridging program?



Accreditation lets IENs know that an institution meets or exceeds minimum quality standards and is accredited by a recognized national agency like the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN).

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



CASN Accreditation is how you can help your program stand out from the rest.

To add to the challenges for IENs, employers often require evidence that applicants have received a degree from an accredited school or program to determine the validity of the programs of study and whether a graduate is qualified. IEN graduates from accredited programs stand the best chance for a successful career in Canada.



CASN Accreditation helps IENs confidently choose a quality program.

Benefits of CASN IEN-Bridging Program Accreditation



Receive evaluation and advice from expert peer reviewers

- Thoughtful formal and informal, constructive feedback.



Reflect on, analyze, and improve your program

- What you do well. Why it is important. Where you can improve.
- The process, resources, and strategies used to evaluate and promote student growth.



Enhance your priority outcomes for students

- How you work with the students to achieve those outcomes.
- How you support struggling students.



Take pride in your program. Get accredited!

- Obtain recognition for your hard work and dedication.
- Bring together your faculty. Solidify your team.
- Grow your program using justified, evidence-based resource requests.
- Advance your program to the forefront.



Support IENs in establishing a dynamic career in Canada

“I really enjoyed the expertise of the reviewers who asked knowledgeable questions and, through their careful questions, revealed strengths we didn't recognize and more importantly, areas to focus on. I am very proud to be CASN accredited!”

- Catherine Schwichtenberg, Dip. Nursing , B.Sc.N., M.S.N., Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Do you have an IEN Bridging Program?

CASN defines an IEN Bridging Program (IEN-BP) as any program designed to address gaps and/or differences in education and competencies so that an IEN may become registered to practice in Canada and successfully integrate into the Canadian health care system. IENs include registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and registered practical nurses (RPN is the abbreviation used for Registered Psychiatric Nurse in the four western provinces).



We would be delighted to help you determine if CASN IEN-BP Accreditation is right for your program.

How does the IEN Program work?

The CASN IEN-BP Accreditation Program take approximately 2 years to complete, and uses a rigorous, bilingual, peer-reviewed assessment process that follows these steps:



1 STEP 1: CONTACT US TODAY

We can talk about your school, your students, and how we can work together to get your program accredited!

* Pricing for member schools. All prices are in \$CAD. Pricing is subject to change. Based on 1 education program conducted by 1 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.

Don't delay, call 613-235-3150x124 or email [Joni Boyd <jboyd@casn.ca>](mailto:jboyd@casn.ca), today!

Joni Boyd is CASN's very knowledgeable and helpful Managing Director of Accreditation.



“The process gave me time to reflect on the program itself and what we do well, where we can improve. Accreditation, therefore, puts us in the forefront of other post-secondary institutions that strive to provide similar programs for IENs!”

- Harmeet Olson, RN (College of New Caledonia), B.Sc.N., M.S.N., Kwantlen Polytechnic University

IEN-CASN Accreditation Bureau

The IEN-CASN Accreditation Bureau (IEN-CAB) is the decision-making body for the IEN-BP Accreditation Program and is made up of faculty, a student, the public, and a regulatory body. For more information on our accreditation program, please contact Joni Boyd <jboyd@casn.ca>.



“CASN Accreditation solidified our program’s work and dedication to support our IENs. It was much work in terms of planning and staging the work we do, but it was a great experience to go through and of course, a proud moment to be accredited”

- Nikki (Satwant) Purewal, BScN (KPU), M.Ad.Ed (UBC), Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Quality Standards

The CASN Accreditation Program for Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) is guided by core values and fundamental principles. Its Standards applies to new and existing programs. Check out the complete Accreditation Standards for IEN Bridging Programs on our website: accred.casn.ca. The standards represent the quality expectations for IEN-BPs and are stated broadly. The IEN Accreditation Program has seven standards.

1. Standard I - IEN Learner

- The program builds on IEN learners’ prior knowledge and experience to position them for entry into practice in the Canadian context.

2. Standard II - Partnerships/ Relationships

- Collaborative partnerships/relationships with relevant stakeholder groups support the mission and goals of the program and the needs of IEN learners.

3. Standard III - Teaching and Learning

- The program facilitates learning among a diverse group of IEN learners in a culturally safe learning environment.

4. Standard IV - Resources

- The program is appropriately resourced.

5. Standard V - Communication

- The program provides clear, accurate, comprehensive, and accessible program information.

6. Standard VI - Program Outcomes

- The program has established and implements an evaluation framework for continuous quality improvement.

7. Standard VII - Program Evaluation

- The program prepares IENs for successful integration into the Canadian health care system’s nursing workforce.

Quality Dimensions

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

1. **Standards, Descriptors, Key Elements, Interpretations Relevance:** The structure, processes, and constituents of the bridging program are pertinent, appropriate, and responsive to the current and emerging needs of the health care system, the profession, and the IEN learners in the program.
2. **Accountability:** The bridging program takes responsibility and is answerable for all its relationships and actions, and it fosters the integration of the importance of taking responsibility for safe, ethical, and legal professional practice among its IEN learners.
3. **Relatedness:** There is an inter-connectedness of all components of the bridging program that promotes achievements of goals.
4. **Uniqueness:** While the structure, processes, and constituents of the bridging program meet standards of excellence, they embody a unique character reflective of its context and are responsive to the uniqueness of the IEN learner.

CASN IEN-BP 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 which 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.



Key IEN-BP 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.



2018

CASN launches a national voluntary accreditation process for IEN-BPs. The program was piloted with four schools and then refined into the formal IEN-BP Accreditation Program that operates today.

“ We appreciate the extensive analysis of our program and are very excited to be accredited. I was VERY proud when we passed. We take pride in our program and the fact that CASN has given it their stamp of accreditation.

- Herraj Sandhu, Dip. Nursing, B.Sc.N., M.N., Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Accreditation says excellence!



ENHANCED
PROGRAM
QUALITY



CONSISTENCY
WITH NATIONAL
STANDARDS



INCREASE
STUDENT
ENROLLMENT



LEVERAGE
WITH SENIOR
ADMINISTRATION



GUIDANCE
WITH DECISION
MAKING

Don't delay, call 613-235-3150x124 or email Joni Boyd <jboyd@casn.ca>, today!

Contact us today and take advantage of this opportunity to elevate your IEN Bridging Program!

