



CASN Accreditation
Agrément de l'ACESI



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Accred.CASN.ca



NP Program

NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION PROMOTES EXCELLENCE

Accred.CASN.ca

NP Program Accreditation - Accred.CASN.ca

NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

CASN's Nurse Practitioner (NP) Program¹ Accreditation sets a national and international benchmark for nursing excellence.

Through rigorous, peer-led evaluations, it strengthens curriculum quality, supports safe clinical practice, and enhances public trust. It also drives program growth, attracts top-tier applicants, and opens doors for graduates pursuing NP roles in Canada and the U.S.—while reinforcing the credibility of the NP profession.



Set the stage for long-term improvements



Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Accreditation provides a rigorous evaluation by highly skilled and accomplished nurse practitioners (NPs) from a well-established and reputable national accreditation bureau.

CASN's NP Program Accreditation helps NP programs ensure continuous monitoring and improvement that drives both enrollment from high-quality applicants and increased public confidence and support.



“ We are proud of our CASN Accreditation, which reflects our NP program’s commitment to excellence. It has helped us to be successful in our proposal to double our student enrollment from 25 to 50 while maintaining a 100% Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination (CNPE) pass rate!”

- Donna Martin and Cheryl Olfert, University of Manitoba

Expert-reviewed. Practice-ready. CASN sets the NP standard.

CASN's NP Program Accreditation is the only approved program in Canada reviewed exclusively by NP educators, academics, and practitioners.



This peer-led evaluation ensures comprehensive oversight of curriculum, scholarship, and resources—preparing graduates for safe, effective clinical practice while upholding the credibility and reputation of the NP profession.

“CASN NP accreditation gives me confidence that our program meets the highest standards. It protects our students, safeguards the public, and upholds the reputation of our profession.”

- Dr. D. Stewart MacLennan PhD, NP, University of Alberta

Excellence in Education, Across Borders

CASN Accreditation is globally respected for its rigorous standards and commitment to nursing excellence—an essential credential for graduates pursuing NP roles in the U.S., where it's recognized by leading institutions such as the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).



“For our graduates aiming to work as NPs in the United States in the future, CASN Accreditation is crucial, as it's recognized by key U.S. institutions.”

- Donna Martin and Cheryl Olfert, University of Manitoba

Accreditation says excellence!



Enhances
program
quality



Promotes
national
standards



Attracts
top
students



Leverages
requests for
greater support



Strengthens
curricular
decisions

Benefits of CASN NP Program Accreditation



Program quality enhancement to national standards

- Approval from an advisory committee of NP program experts.
- Meets national benchmarks and is recognized worldwide.
- Updates based on evolving health/cultural landscape.



Evaluation, affirmation, and constructive feedback from NP 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, and 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.

“ We had a great experience with CASN during the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Accreditation process. CASN was responsive and provided valuable information that guided us.”

- Donna Martin and Cheryl Olfert, University of Manitoba

Do you have a NP Program?

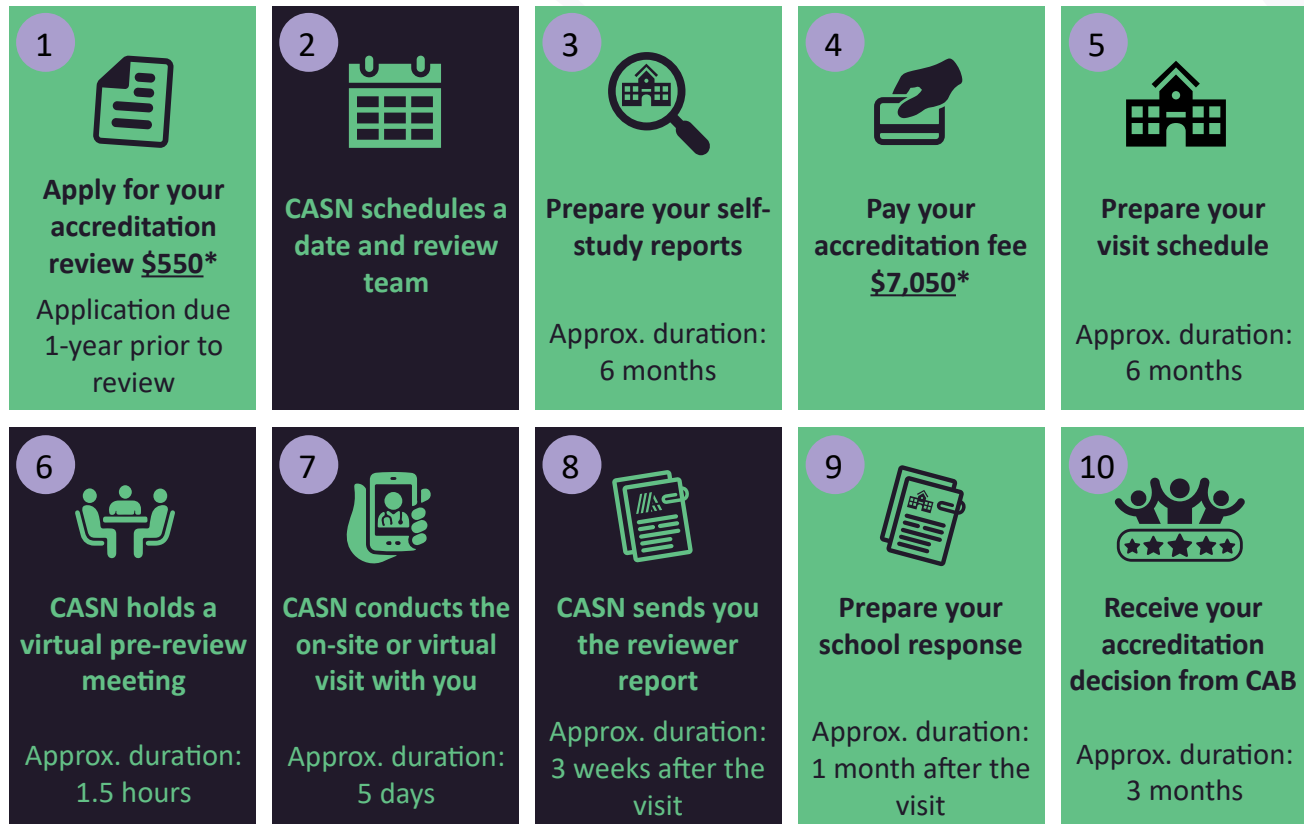
¹CASN defines an “Nurse Practitioner Program” as a graduate-level education pathway specifically designed to prepare registered nurses for licensure and practice as Nurse Practitioners. These programs focus solely on the NP role, which is one distinct category within advanced practice nursing.



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

How does the program work?

CASN NP Program Accreditation takes approximately two (2) years to complete, and uses a rigorous, 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, IEN. Contact us for more information.

Is it time to get accredited?

Let's talk about your school, your students, and how we can work together to help your NP program stand out from the crowd! Call 613-235-3150 x 162 or email Layal Bou Abdo <lbou-abdo@casn.ca> today! Layal is CASN's very knowledgeable and helpful Managing Director of Accreditation.



“Joining the NP Accreditation program was a wise decision, offering significant benefits at an affordable cost. Overall, CASN Accreditation has been an invaluable asset to our program.”

- Donna Martin and Cheryl Olfert, University of Manitoba

NP-CASN Accreditation Bureau

The NP-CASN Accreditation Bureau (NP-CAB) is an independent decision-making body for CASN's accreditation reviews. It is composed of experienced NP nursing faculty from across the country. For more information on our accreditation program, please contact Layal Bou Abdo <lbou-abdo@casn.ca>.



Quality Standards

The CASN Accreditation Program for NP 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 NP Programs on our website: Accred.CASN.ca. The standards represent the quality expectations for NP Programs and are stated broadly. NP Program Accreditation has six standards.

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

Quality Dimensions

Four overarching quality dimensions guided the development of the NP Program Accreditation 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 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 NP Program Accreditation 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. In 2022, CASN extended its accreditation program to include reviews of nurse practitioner master's in nursing programs.

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 NP programs 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 NP 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 begins piloting a nurse practitioner accreditation program.

2019

CASN completes the pilot nurse practitioner accreditation reviews and assembles a Nurse Practitioner-CASN Accreditation Bureau to make decisions about the pilot reviews.

2022

CASN extends its accreditation program to include reviews of nurse practitioner master's in nursing programs.



Accreditation promotes excellence

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



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ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS



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