



Q&A- Entry-to-practice Exam

As the regulator of the nursing profession, how do you determine the approval of a nursing program?

The processes used for a legislated program review vary among Canadian provinces and territories. In New Brunswick, nursing programs are reviewed every five (5) years by a team of expert Canadian educators. Program reports are reviewed by the NANB-Nursing Education Advisory Committee (NEAC) and recommendations from that Committee are then shared with the NANB Board of Directors. In order to reduce the required workload of nursing faculty, NANB tries to align Program Reviews with the university/program accreditation process.

Nursing program accreditation focuses on the quality of the education, while program review focuses on program alignment with nursing education standards and program outcomes. Pending recommendations and discussion at the NEAC and Board meetings, NANB can approve, defer or cancel nursing programs in New Brunswick.

NANB is currently reviewing the processes used for program review. One outcome of analysis of entry-to-practice exam pass was the significant differences between NB nursing programs. It was also noted that both the accreditation and program reviews are peer-reviews, which reduces opportunity for multiple perspectives and feedback for the nursing programs. In countries such as Australia, New Zealand, UK and Ireland, program reviews/accreditations are completed jointly, and review teams are multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral. Inclusion of reviewers such as employers, interdisciplinary team members (i.e., pharmacy, medicine), public funding bodies, as well as regulators (NANB) strengthens the feedback to programs and contributes to relevancy and currency of review reports.