

Certification in Occupational Health Nursing

Purpose

The purpose of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) certification examination is to provide an opportunity for nurses to validate their competence in the specialty of Occupational Health Nursing. It also serves to identify those nurses meeting the national standards of their specialty. Therefore the questions are designed to best classify the candidates into two categories: Pass or Fail. This method of test development creates an examination that is most accurate at making a pass/fail decision. The consequence of using this method is that no score except the pass/fail decision is valid. Therefore, when you receive your examination results, your pass or fail status will be indicated and no ranking will be provided. The exams are usually held annually in April.

What is certification?

CNA certification is a voluntary, recognized credential for registered nurses who meet specific nursing practice criteria, continuous learning and exam-based testing requirements. The credential, which must be renewed every five years, confirms that a Registered Nurse has demonstrated competence in a nursing specialty/area of nursing practice by having met predetermined standards.

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) manages the only national nursing certification program in Canada.

The certification exam in Occupational Health Nursing was the first exam nursing specialty in Canada. It is the only specialty exam that is reciprocated by the United States through the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses

Pre-registration requirements to qualify for the certification exam in Occupational Health Nursing are available on the CNA website. Once you pre-qualify you are provided with example test questions for Occupational Health. You are provided with a code to download these test questions. The deadline for pre-registration usually occurs in October.

Meeting National Standards of Excellence

Certification represents a commitment to the leading edge in health-care standards. Registered Nurses who achieve certification commit to a national standard of professional competence that demonstrates their understanding of an area of nursing practice. CNA certification also supports and gives national scope to continuing competence initiatives mandated by provincial/territorial quality assurance programs. Registered Nurses who achieve certification join a growing network of specialized nurses – more than 16,000 strong – in an increasing number of areas of nursing practice.

The Canadian designation for certification in Occupational Health Nursing is: COHN(C) – Canadian Occupational Health Nurse (Certified). A nurse can only put COHN(C) after their name once they are certified.

Certificate and or Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing

Having a certificate in Occupational Health Nursing means you have taken courses and met the requirements of a specific education program. However, this does not mean that program met the National Certification Standard.

Taking courses towards a certificate is very beneficial and will aid in helping you acquire your certification when you chose to do the exam. The list of education programs that are available in Canada for Occupational Health Nursing, is available in the members section of the Canadian Occupational Health Nursing Website (www.cohna-aiist.ca).

Certification in the United States of America

The American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) is an independent nursing specialty certification board. ABOHN was founded in 1972 as an independent not-for-profit organization to set professional standards and conduct occupational health nursing specialty certification.

ABOHN is the sole certifying body for occupational health nurses in the United States and awards four credentials: Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN), Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S), Case Management (CM), and Safety Management (SM).

References

American Board of Occupational Health Nurses
Email: info@ABOHN.org
Web: www.abohn.org

The Canadian Nurses Association.
Email: certification@cna-aiic.ca
Web: www.cna-aiic.ca

The Canadian Occupational Health Nurses Association.
Email : info@cohn-aciist.ca
Web: www.cohna-aciist.ca

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