

Simulation and Clinical Experiences for Initial Entry-to-Practice as a Registered Nurse (RN)

As a regulatory college, our mandate is to protect the public by ensuring ethical, safe and competent care, which extends to providing appropriate oversight and accountability for nursing education programs. The College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA) would like to provide some clarification around the use of simulated practice hours in nursing education programs.

The [Nursing Education Program Approval Standards \(2023\)](#) outlines the requirements for nursing education programs leading to initial entry-to-practice as a registered nurse (RN), including defined clinical placement requirements.

We recognize that programs are doing their best to provide high-quality simulation experiences to all nursing students. Accordingly, programs are permitted to offer up to 50 per cent clinical hour replacement with high-quality simulation. This substitution does not extend to the final clinical preceptorship, which must include a minimum of ten weeks and 350 hours of direct client care.

We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with post-secondary institutions and will continue to engage with our partners as we revise our nursing education program approval framework.

If you have questions, please contact the CRNA.