REGISTRATION STANDARD:
COMPETENCE TO PRACTISE
DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE TO PRACTISE IN THE
NEW ZEALAND CONTEXT

MARCH 2019
Many nurses who have been registered overseas will need to successfully complete a Competency Assessment Programme (CAP) before we can grant New Zealand registration. The CAP programme prepares overseas registered nurses for the registered nurse role and healthcare context of New Zealand, which is different to many other countries. Please click here for more information about CAP programmes.

If you hold current registration in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Singapore, the United States of America or Canada, you may not need to complete a CAP programme because the registered nurse role and healthcare context in these countries is similar to New Zealand. We will advise you if you need to complete a competence assessment programme after we assess your application.

CAPs are generally six to twelve weeks long and include theory and clinical components. Applicants are given two years from the date of notification to begin a CAP.

Note:
- There are waiting lists for entry into CAPs
- CAP providers charge fees for the programme. You must pay this fee to the provider, not the Nursing Council
- Fees and entry requirements are set by individual CAP providers.

**Competence Assessment Programme process**

- Receive your CAP letter
- Apply for a CAP course
- Pass the CAP course
- Receive registration letter from Council
- Apply for your APC

**FAQs**

Do I need to complete a CAP course?
We need to assess your full application before we recommend that you need to complete a CAP course. If the registered nurse role and healthcare context in your country is like New Zealand, it is unlikely that we will require you to complete a CAP.

What is the cost of a CAP course?
CAP courses are run by healthcare providers or polytechnics. Each CAP provider has different fees. Please contact the CAP provider directly to enquire about their fees.

What are the entry requirements for a CAP course?
We do not set the admission (entry) requirements into a CAP course. Please contact the CAP provider directly to find out about the entry requirements for the CAP course.

How long do I have to complete a CAP course?
You will be given two years from the date you receive your CAP letter to begin a CAP course.

Can I have an extension to complete a CAP course?
Extension requests will be considered on a case by case basis.
I can’t get into a CAP course; can the Nursing Council help me?

We can only comment on the nursing council standards for registration. CAP providers may have their own entry requirements.

The CAP provider may have different entry requirements for English language and post registration experience. This is at the CAP providers discretion. Please note there are wait lists for all CAP providers.

Please consider the CAP requirements before you apply for registration in New Zealand.

I passed my CAP course. What do I do now?

We will contact you by email once we receive your CAP report and advise you on the next steps you need to take.

Please check your online tracker on a regular basis for further updates.

I failed my CAP course. What do I do now?

We will contact you when we receive your CAP report. We won’t get your report until the CAP course you were enrolled in has finished. You may request a second opportunity to successfully complete a CAP.

Definitions

CAP means Competence Assessment Programme. This course may also be called the Certificate in Contemporary NZ Nursing Practice (for overseas Registered Nurses).

Review

Last reviewed: March 2019.

This standard will be reviewed by October 2019.