



Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing  
Association canadienne des écoles de sciences infirmières

Ottawa, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dra. María Olga Quintana Zavala  
Jefa del Departamento de Enfermería  
División de las Ciencias Biológicas y de la Salud  
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**Subject:** *The CASN accreditation review of (1) Universidad de Sonora, Departamento de Enfermería Educational Unit and (2) Universidad de Sonora, Licenciatura en enfermería (Path B).*

Dear Director Quintana Zabala,

On behalf of the CASN Accreditation Bureau, I am writing to advise you that the CASN Accreditation Bureau met on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and agreed to grant the following recognition decisions in response to the on-site accreditation visit that took place the week of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The on-site visit was led by Dr. Catherine Thibeault (Trent University) with the participation of Dr. Rosemary Herbert (Athabasca University). In rendering these decisions, the CASN Accreditation Bureau recognizes the strengths of your educational unit and nursing education program as described in your self-study report.

**(1) Universidad de Sonora, Departamento de Enfermería, Educational Unit:**

**Decision:**

To grant 7-year term with recommendations and interim report.

**Standards:**

Leadership and Governance – Overall Standard – Met  
Partnerships – Overall Standard – Met  
Resources – Overall Standard – Partially Met  
Teaching and Learning – Overall Standard – Met

Environment – Overall Standard – Met  
Scholarship – Overall Standard – Met

**Recommended Actions to Be Addressed in Your Interim Report (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022):**

Resources- Key Element 3- Partially Met

CAB requires a report on progress made to provide current, relevant and contextualized information resources and library services to support the needs of faculty and students by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

**(2) Universidad de Sonora, Licenciatura en enfermería (PATH B):**

**Decision:**

To grant 7-year term with recommendations and interim reports.

**Standards:**

Program Framework – Overall Standard – **Met**  
Knowledge-Based Practice – Overall Standard – **Partially Met**  
Professional Growth – Overall Standard – **Met**  
Evaluation – Overall Standard – **Met**

**Recommended Actions To Be Addressed In Your Interim Report (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022):**

Knowledge-based practice- Key Element 1- Partially Met

CAB requires a report on the program's use of current, relevant and contextualized information by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

**The above accreditation actions and decisions are effective immediately.**

Please be aware that Chair Quintana Zavala is asked to sign and return this letter to CASN national office by **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**.

Signature

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**Chair**  
**Universidad de Sonora**

DATE

Please note the following:

- CASN accreditation program policy requires that a copy of this recognition decision letter be sent to the **university rector** and the CASN president and CASN executive director as *ex officio* members of the CASN Accreditation Bureau. In addition, CASN encourages schools of nursing to share their accreditation results with their faculty, students and partners to illustrate the commitment of the school of nursing to excellence in nursing education, and to promote the school's efforts to sustain, maintain and improve their nursing education programs.
- Although a nursing education program under review, and the nursing educational unit delivering it, receive separate accreditation decisions, the two sets of standards are essential to meet in order to deliver a high-quality program. In the event that either the educational unit or the nursing education program is awarded a shorter accreditation term, the longer term expires when the shorter-term ends (CASN Board of Directors, May 2014).
- For your reference, the CASN accreditation staff is pleased to enclose the following draft guideline documents:
  - **interim report template**
  - **sample interim report**

Please note that these documents are intended to provide guidance and the schools are not required to use these tools.

- For your information, CASN accreditation is pleased to enclose the following:
  - *CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools* (May 2015), Program Policies: Accreditation Decisions
  - *CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools* (May 2015), Program Policies: Maintenance of Accreditation

CASN national office would be pleased to respond to any questions and to assist your school with its future accreditation affairs. Please contact Joni Boyd, Accreditation Programs Manager, at [jboyd@casn.ca](mailto:jboyd@casn.ca) or 1-613-235-3150, extension 124, or Karem Langer, Accreditation Programs Coordinator, at [klanger@casn.ca](mailto:klanger@casn.ca) or 1-613-235-3150, extension 121.

On behalf of the CASN Accreditation Bureau, thank you for your conscientious attention to the CASN accreditation reporting requirements and for your continuing interest and commitment to the CASN accreditation program.

Sincerely,



Suzie Durocher-Hendriks, RN, BScN, Med  
Co-Chair, CASN Accreditation Bureau



Frances Gallagher, RN, Ph.D  
Co-Chair, CASN Accreditation Bureau

CC:

Dr. Enrique Fernando Velázquez Contreras, Rector, Universidad de Sonora  
Sonya Grypma, President, CASN  
Cynthia Baker, Executive Director, CASN  
Joni Boyd, Accreditation Programs Manager, CASN



**Program Policies: Accreditation Decisions**

***CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools,***  
**May 2015**

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**4.10 Accreditation Decisions**

- 4.10.1 The CASN Accreditation Bureau is a standing committee of CASN, which operates at arm’s length from CASN members. It functions within established CASN policies and guidelines, reports to the CASN Board of Directors, and is the decision-making body for CASN accreditation status.
- 4.10.2 The CASN Accreditation Bureau makes two accreditation decisions: one related to the educational unit and one related to the nursing education program(s) for each school of nursing.
- 4.10.3 The decision of the CASN Accreditation Bureau is one of the following:

**Table 5: Accreditation Decisions – Path B**

<p>GRANT 7-YEAR TERM, OR  GRANT 7-YEAR TERM WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERIM REPORT, OR</p> <p>GRANT 5-YEAR TERM WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERIM REPORT, OR  GRANT 5-YEAR TERM WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERIM VISIT, OR</p> <p>GRANT PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERIM REPORT AND/OR INTERIM VISIT, OR</p> <p>DENY ACCREDITATION AND A NEW PATH B REVIEW MUST BE UNDERTAKEN.</p>
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- 4.10.4 The accreditation status conferred by the CASN Accreditation Bureau applies only to the programs, institutions and sites that were included in the application and reviewed by the team of reviewers and the self-study report.

- 4.10.5 To be granted an accreditation status, a school of nursing's educational unit and nursing education program must be assessed.
- 4.10.6 In the case of a collaborative partnership, each partner receives an accreditation decision. The decision may be the same for all partners, or one or more of the partners may receive a different decision.
- 4.10.7 In the case where more than one nursing education program (for example, baccalaureate, post-RN, and fast-track option) is reviewed, each program reviewed receives a decision. The decision may be the same for all programs or each program reviewed may receive a different decision.



## Program Policies: Maintenance of Accreditation

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### ***CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools, May 2015***

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#### **4.14 Maintenance of Accreditation**

- 4.14.1 A school of nursing that changes its partnership in the delivery of programs, or undertakes major nursing education program changes during the term of accreditation is required to notify the CASN Accreditation Bureau (CAB). The CAB will determine if further reports or reviews are required. (Refer to the *Glossary of Terms* for definitions of major and minor program changes.)
- 4.14.2 Major program changes are reviewed by the CASN Accreditation Bureau against pre-determined criteria to determine if the magnitude of the changes necessitates the requirement of an interim report, interim visit, or full accreditation on-site visit.
- 4.14.3 If educational units are unclear as to whether program changes are major or minor, the head should contact the CASN accreditation staff.
- 4.14.4 The CASN Accreditation Bureau (CAB) may review the accreditation status of a school of nursing and/or its nursing education program(s) during the term of accreditation upon:
  - a written complaint addressed to the CAB based on procedural errors that indicate an actual violation of one or several accreditation standards;  
or
  - a request from a school of nursing or its parent institution indicating that major changes affecting their ability to meet the standards have occurred.

*See Glossary of Terms (CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools, May 2015, page 93) for definition of major and minor program changes.*

## ***Glossary of Terms***

*CASN Accreditation Program Manual for Schools, May 2015, page 93*

***Program change*** – Any alteration in the curriculum or learning outcomes of a nursing education program from that which was accredited is termed a program change.

***Major program change*** – A major program change occurs when the philosophical underpinnings of the curriculum or more than one third of the learning outcomes/intents are changed.

***Minor program change*** – A minor program change occurs when the flow of learning or revisions to course and learning outcomes happen without altering the underlying philosophical underpinnings of the curriculum and less than one third of the learning outcome/intents are changed.