NURSING NEWS · CNO

CNO Application Closing on November 1, 2026: What Nurses Need to Know

Some CNO applications close on November 1, 2026. Here is the two-year rule, who it affects and what to do now.



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October 27, 2026

Are you applying to the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)? Please read this. CNO has a new rule about how long an application can stay open, and some applications will close on **Sunday, November 1, 2026**. Here is what it means and what you should do.

What is the new rule?

Since November 1, 2025, CNO follows a two-year rule. This rule comes from Ontario's nursing law (the *Nursing Act, 1991*).

You must finish all your registration requirements within **two years** of sending your application and application fee. This includes paying your registration fee. If you do not finish in time, CNO will close your application.

When does my application close?

It depends on when you sent your application and fee:

You applied and paid...	Your application closes on...
On or before October 31, 2024	**November 1, 2026**
Between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2025	November 1, 2027

If you applied for two things (for example, RN and RPN) on different dates, you may have two different closure dates.

Can I get more time?

No. CNO does not give extensions. The law requires all requirements to be met within two years.

What should I do now?

1. **Log in to your CNO portal today.** CNO puts reminders about your closure date there.
2. **Check what is still missing.** It could be an exam, a document, education, or the registration fee.
3. **If you can finish everything before your date, do it now.** Don't wait for the last day.
4. **If you cannot finish in time, don't panic.** You can apply again (see below).

What if my application closes?

It is not the end of your nursing journey.

- **You can reapply right away.** There is no waiting time.
- **You will pay a new application fee.**
- **CNO cannot reopen your old application.** You must start a new one.
- **You may not need to send everything again.** CNO may use the information and documents it already has, and will tell you what else it needs.

> **How to reapply:** log in to your CNO account and choose "create a new application."

Special situations

Internationally educated nurses (IENs)

You usually do not need a new education credential assessment (ECA). But if you have new education documents, or you were registered in another Canadian province when you first applied and are not registered there anymore, you will need to use an approved ECA provider again.

Waiting only for a work permit or PR

If proof of authorization to work is the only thing missing, you can ask CNO to register you with a condition. You will be registered, but you cannot work or volunteer as a nurse in Ontario until CNO receives your proof.

Temporary Class nurses

If you are registered in the Temporary Class, your General Class application in the same category stays open until your Temporary Class registration ends. If you have not met all General Class requirements by then, that application will close.

SPEP participants

If your application closes before you finish the Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP), you must reapply. If you reapply right away and none of your requirements have expired, you can continue with SPEP.

Need help?

At St. Paul's Academy for Nurses, we help our enrolled students understand their CNO application, and we prepare nurses for the NCLEX-RN and REx-PN.

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Official source: CNO – Application Closure Date FAQs (cno.org/become-a-nurse/applying-to-cno-online/faqs-application-closure-date). This article is for general information. Always check your own CNO portal and CNO's official website for your personal deadline and requirements.

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