



The Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses

Chasing Excellence Award Award Criteria

Award Information
Presented annually to a critical care nurse who consistently demonstrates excellence in critical care nursing practice.
Award Funding
\$ 1,000.00
Deadline
June 1
Overall Award Criteria
<p>Nominees and applicants must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. be a current/active member of the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (CACCN) for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the application/nomination for all awards, bursaries, grants.2. Exceptions to the membership criteria are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Brenda Morgan Leadership Excellence Award – member, for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years and.b. Life Member Award – member, for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years.3. be licensed to practice nursing in Canada.4. complete the application/nomination via the online award, bursary, and grant submission system.5. provide signed applications and/or nomination letters (physical or electronic signatures accepted), where required.

6. provide contact information for applicants, nominees and those providing character references, chapter and/or national involvement, to verify authenticity, where required.

Award Specific Criteria

The nominee:

1. holds a primary role in direct patient care in critical care (i.e., bedside, or front-line nursing).
2. has a minimum of three (3) years of critical care nursing experience.
3. has exhibited qualities of expert practice (* see below).
4. practice consistent with the *CACCN Standards of Critical Care Nursing Practice (5th Ed)*;
5. holds Canadian Nurses Association certification - CNCC(C) or CNCCP (C) - in critical care (*preferred*).
6. has the support of an active member of the CACCN.
and
7. has the support of a supervisor, unit manager, team leader, educator, or physician partner.

* **Expert practice** is exemplified by most or all the following criteria:

1. **Standard 1** The critical care nurse uses advanced skills and specialized knowledge to continuously assess, monitor, and manage patients for the promotion of optimal physiological balance.
 - a. Effective clinical decision making supported by thorough assessments.
 - b. Able to anticipate risks and changes in patient condition and intervene in a timely manner.
 - c. Sequences and manages rapid multiple therapies in response to a crisis.
2. **Standard 2** The critical care nurse promotes and facilitates optimal comfort and well-being in a highly technological environment that is often unfamiliar to patients and families.
3. **Standard 3** The critical care nurse fosters mutually beneficial partnerships with patients and families, a defined by the patient, based on trust, dignity, respect, communication, and collaboration.
4. **Standard 4** Critical care nurses provide care that adheres to evidence-informed guidelines and established safety standards and protocols when providing care in a high-risk environment.
 - a. Provides high quality patient care based on experience and evidence.
 - b. Has developed a clinical knowledge base and readily integrates change and new learning to practice.
5. **Standard 5** When the goal of care changes from life-sustaining therapies to end-of-life, the critical care nurse supports patients and families through this transition.

- a. Provides education, support and comfort to patients and their families to help them cope with the trajectory of illness and injury, to recovery, palliation, or death.

Award Specific Criteria (cont.)

6. **Standard 6** The critical care nurse promotes collaborative practice in which the contribution of the patient, family and each interprofessional team member is solicited, acknowledged, and valued.
 - a. Integrates and coordinates daily patient care with other team members.
 - b. Advocates, and develops a plan of care that consistently considers the patient and family and ensures they receive the best care possible.
 - c. Role models collaborative team skills within the inter-professional health care team.
7. **Standard 7** The critical care nurse provides leadership by fostering a culture conducive to collaboration, quality improvement, safety, professional growth, well-being, and responsible resource utilization.
 - a. Participates in quality improvement and risk management to ensure a safe patient care environment.
 - b. Acts as a change agent to improve the quality of patient care when required.
 - c. Assumes a leadership role as dictated by the dynamically changing needs of the unit.
 - d. Is a role model to new staff and students.
 - e. Shares clinical wisdom as a preceptor to new staff and students.
 - f. Regularly participates in continuing education and professional development.

Award Submission Process

1. Two letters of support for the nominee must be provided:
 - a. One letter of support must be written by an active CACCN member, in good standing;
 - b. One letter of support must be written by a supervisor, unit manager, team leader, clinical educator, or physician partner.
2. The nomination letters must **each describe a minimum of three** examples showing:
 - a. how the nominee has met the award criteria.
 - b. outlining the nominee's clinical excellence and expertise.
 - c. The nomination letters may contain some of the same examples, however, cannot be identical in submission.
3. Online submission at www.caccn.ca.
4. Incomplete nomination packages and packages received after the deadline will not be considered.

Selection Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Award Review Committee of active CACCN members.
2. Applicants with the highest rubric score will be the recipient of the award.
3. Applicants will be notified of the application results via email and regular mail.
4. Applicants must acknowledge receipt of the award within three (3) months of notification. Failure to do so may result in the award being awarded to the second-place applicant based on rubric scoring.

Additional Information

Applicants will be recognized in the CACCN Critical Connections Bulletin, the Annual Report and at the Awards Ceremony at the Canadian Critical Care Nursing Conference.

Questions?

CACCN National Office
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References

- Benner, P. (1984). *From novice to expert: Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice*. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley.
- Benner, P., Hooper-Kyriakidis, P. & Stannard, D. (1999). *Clinical Wisdom and Interventions in Critical Care A Thinking-in-action Approach*. Saunders: Philadelphia.
- Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (2017). *Standards for Critical Care Nursing Practice (5th ed.)*. Retrieved from [https://www.caccn.ca/en/files/STCACCN%202017%20Standards%20\(5th%20Ed\).pdf](https://www.caccn.ca/en/files/STCACCN%202017%20Standards%20(5th%20Ed).pdf)