

CNPE



Keeping You Informed

BULLETIN

The CNPE: F/AA is owned by CNA, developed and maintained for CNA by Assessment Strategies Inc. (ASI), and administered by the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities. The purpose of the exam is to protect the public by ensuring that the entry-level nurse practitioner working in a family/all ages context possesses the competencies required to practise safely and effectively.

BACKGROUND

Similar to a construction project, the CNPE: F/AA depends on a blueprint that not only guides its development but ensures a solid foundation. The exam is based on a competency study that entails reviewing the knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and judgments required for a safe and effective nursing practice. These competencies form the basis for developing exam questions, and are validated based on their applicability and importance and how frequently they are required in the practice of nurse practitioners. The competencies and blueprint are developed for five-year cycles and are revised to reflect changes in nursing practice.

For the May 2010-April 2016 examination cycle, a framework, or classification system, has been developed to identify and organize the 42 competencies the exam assesses, reflecting a primary health-care nurse practitioner model. There are four categories in the framework, and each category is exemplified by its individual competencies.

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is pleased to publish this bulletin with information on the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination: Family/All Ages (CNPE: F/AA). As the fifth in this series, this bulletin provides an overview of the development of the CNPE: F/AA, the administration process, and presents data from the first two exam sittings (May and October 2011) administered under the 2011-2016 examination cycle.¹

Number 5 – July 2012

**Table 1: CNPE: F/AA Competency Framework —
May 2011-April 2016**

Competency Category	Number of Competencies
1. Professional role, responsibility and accountability	17
2. Health assessment and diagnosis	9
3. Therapeutic management	12
4. Health promotion and prevention of illness and injury	4

¹ Blueprint for the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination: Family/All Ages, May 2011-April 2016, 2nd edition



CANADIAN
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The CNPE: F/AA is administered biannually, in May and October, over a four-hour period. The multiple-choice questions are presented as either case-based or independent questions. Case-based questions include approximately two to five questions associated with a brief health-care scenario. Independent questions contain all of the information necessary to answer the question. To date, there have been 11 administrations of the exam, and all provinces — with the exception of British Columbia and Quebec — have signed agreements with CNA to use the CNPE: F/AA.²

Of the nine jurisdictions that have signed agreements, seven had candidates write the exam in May 2011; and eight had candidates write in October 2011.

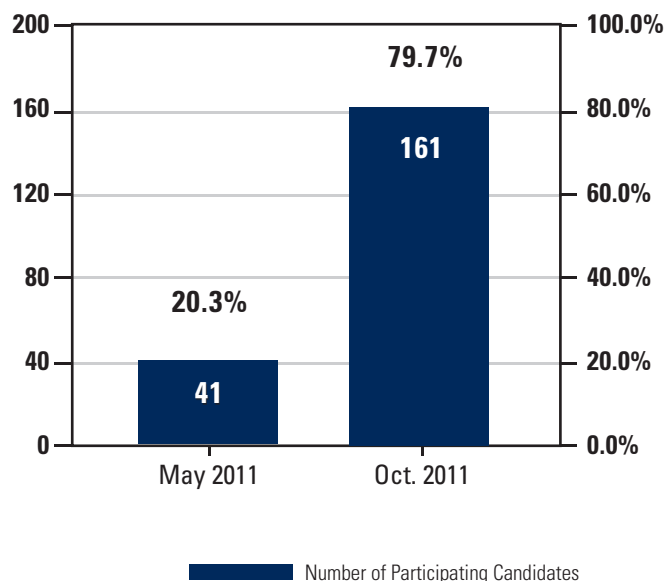
NUMBER OF WRITERS PER EXAMINATION SITTING

There have been a total of 955 candidates who have written the CNPE: F/AA since the first examination sitting in November 2005; two-thirds (66.3%) have done so in the last three years. A total of 202 writers wrote the exam in 2011; of these, 41 (20.3%) wrote in May, and 161 (79.7%) wrote in October.

Table 2: Jurisdictional Participation in the CNPE: F/AA

Province/Territory	Candidates Writing by Administration Date	
	May 2011	Oct. 2011
Manitoba	✓	✓
Alberta	✓	✓
British Columbia	--	--
New Brunswick	✓	✓
Nova Scotia	✓	✓
Newfoundland & Labrador	No	✓
Northwest Territories & Nunavut	✓	✓
Ontario	✓	✓
Prince Edward Island	No	No
Quebec	--	--
Saskatchewan	✓	✓

Table 3: Number of Participating Candidates by Administration Date



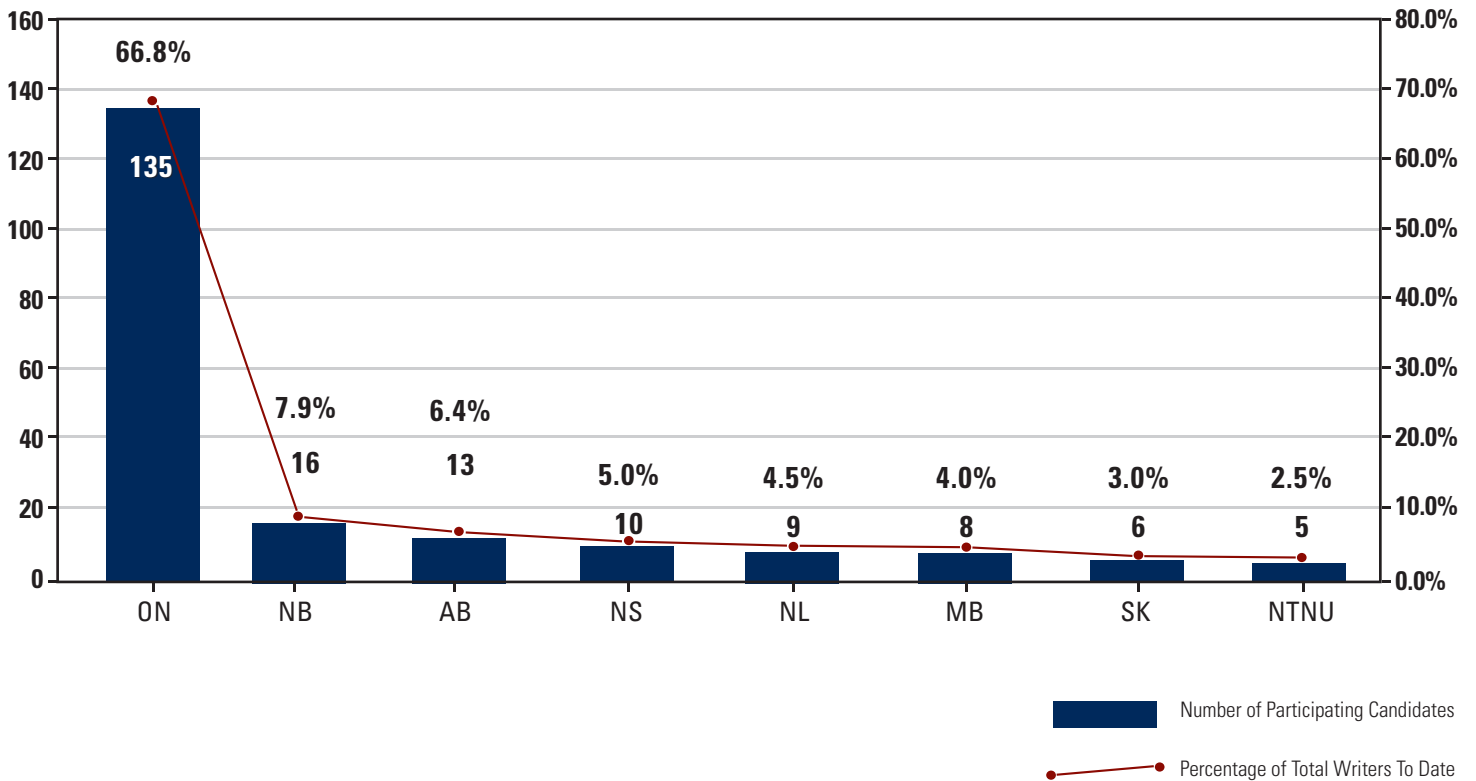
² May and October 2011 mark the first two administrations under the revised CNPE: F/AA Blueprint May 2011-April 2016.

DISTRIBUTION OF WRITERS BY JURISDICTION

The recent growth in number of participating jurisdictions, coupled with the increase in the number of candidates writing the CNPE: F/AA, enables CNA to now present a more detailed breakdown of writers. Of the 202 total writers in 2011, 135 (66.8%) were

candidates registered in Ontario. This was followed by New Brunswick (16, 7.9%) and Alberta (13, 6.4%), while the remaining participating jurisdictions each had no more than 5% of the total writers in 2011.

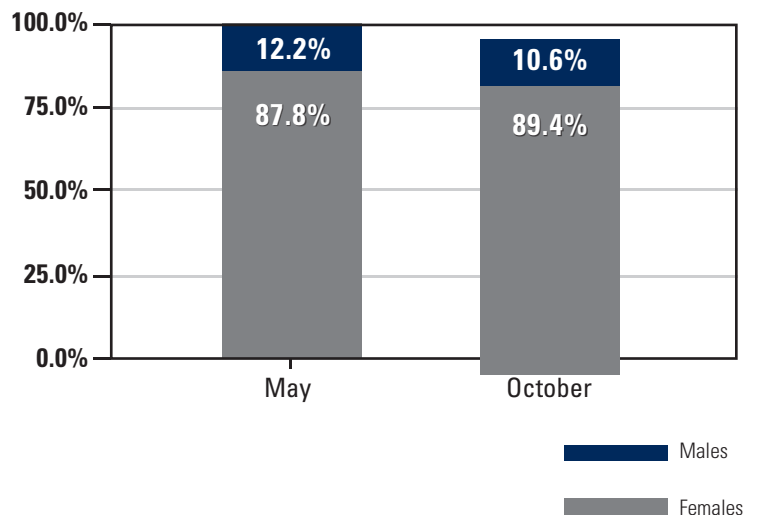
Table 4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Participating Candidates by Jurisdiction, 2011



SEX

In 2011, the proportion of male writers of the CNPE:F/AA exam was similar for both administrations. In May, 12.2% of all writers were male, compared with 87.8% who were female. In October, 10.6% were male, compared with 89.4% who were female.

Table 5: Distribution of Candidates by Sex, 2011



OVERALL PASS RATE

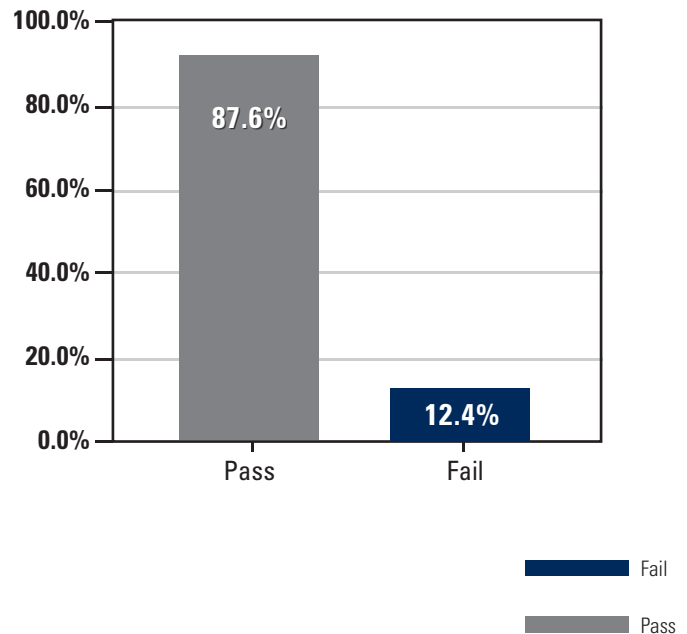
The standard (or pass mark) required to pass the CNPE: F/AA is determined by the content and level of difficulty of the questions in that version of the CNPE: F/AA. The standard-setting procedure is carried out by a panel of subject matter experts representing every jurisdiction that uses the exam. To determine the pass mark, the panel rates the questions on the basis of the expected performance of entry-level nurse practitioners.

Of the 202 writers of the CNPE: F/AA in 2011, 87.6% (177) passed and 12.4% (25) failed.³ Since the first examination sitting in November 2005, 839 candidates have passed (87.9%), and 116 (12.1%) have failed.

LOOKING AHEAD

Future CNPE: F/AA bulletins will continue to present data on overall pass rates annually. The recent growth in number of participating jurisdictions (and writers overall), however, should enable CNA to examine other details for each exam-sitting. In particular, CNA will investigate evidence of potential trends by sex and jurisdiction across exam administrations.

Table 6: Overall CNPE: F/AA Pass Rate, 2011



³ Due to the small sample of writers in some jurisdictions in 2011, further analysis of pass rates is neither possible nor appropriate.

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