

# Take on Tobacco!

A Guide to the  
Certified Tobacco Educator  
Examination



**Take on Tobacco!**

The Certified Tobacco Educator Designation

The Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE) credential recognizes healthcare professionals who provide tobacco prevention and intervention services to patients. The CTE designation is awarded to individuals who have completed a rigorous certification process and demonstrated their knowledge and skills in tobacco education and counseling.



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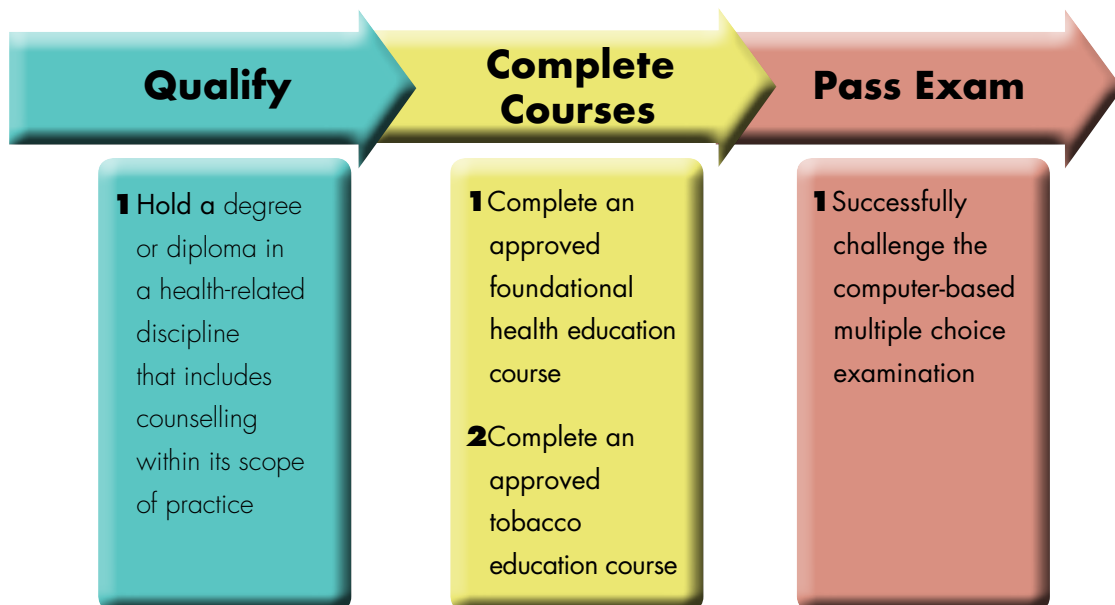
# Take on Tobacco!

## The Certified Tobacco Educator Designation

The Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE) credential recognizes healthcare professionals who provide tobacco prevention and cessation services to their clients. This new credential demonstrates to your clients, peers and supervisors that you have the competencies to provide comprehensive, evidence-informed care in tobacco. The CTE credential is based on two sets of competencies: the enhanced foundational education competencies and the tobacco education competencies.

## Certification Process

The process to certification will be similar to other CNRC credentials.



## CTE Examinations

The next examination is scheduled for Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# Requirements to Challenge the CTE Exam

## If you already hold a current CNRC credential (i.e. CRE, CAE, CCE)

You are **not required** to take a foundational health education course. However, the new foundational health education competencies are significantly different from the education content in the CRE, CAE and CCE learning objectives. You will still be evaluated on the foundational health education competencies on the CTE exam. As this content is so different, we **highly recommend** that you complete a new foundational health education course and purchase the CNRC foundational health education workbook.

## You must complete one of the following tobacco education programs:

### Primary Care Alberta

(For Alberta residents only)

Email: [tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca)

Website: [Primary Care Alberta-Public Access](#)

On July 1, 2025 the Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis program under Promoting Health transitioned from Alberta Health Services to Primary Care Alberta.

#### COURSES REQUIRED

- 1 Tobacco Basics
- 2 Brief Tobacco intervention
- 3 Intensive Tobacco Interventions
- 4 Tobacco Cessation Pharmacology
- 5 Applied Tobacco Intervention

### The TEACH Project

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

#### Core Course

416 535-8501 ext. 31600

[www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com](http://www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com)

# Requirements to Challenge the CTE Exam

## If you do not hold a current CNRC credential *(continued)*

1. You **must** have a degree or diploma in a health-related discipline that includes counselling within its scope of practice.
2. You must complete **one** of the following **foundational health education** programs:

### Primary Care Alberta

*(For Alberta residents only)*

#### Foundational Health Educator Workshop

Email: [tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca)

Website: [Primary Care Alberta-Public Access](#)

On July 1, 2025 the Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis program under Promoting Health transitioned from Alberta Health Services to Primary Care Alberta.

### RespTrec®

c/o Lung Saskatchewan

#### Chronic Disease Management

##### Educator Course

Phone: 306 343-9511

Email: [info@resptrec.org](mailto:info@resptrec.org)

[www.resptrec.org](http://www.resptrec.org)

3. You must complete **one** of the following **tobacco education** programs:

### Primary Care Alberta

*(For Alberta residents only)*

Email: [tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:tvcp@primarycarealberta.ca)

Website: [Primary Care Alberta-Public Access](#)

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#### Foundational Health Education

##### Workshop

Phone: 416 535-8501 ext. 31600

Email: [teach@camh.ca](mailto:teach@camh.ca)

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# Distribution of Exam Questions

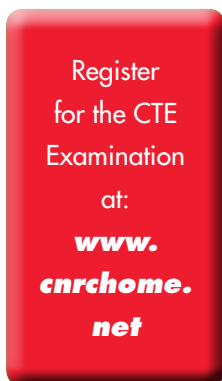
The Certified Tobacco Educator examination has 145-165 questions that are distributed among the following competency groups. Please refer to the CNRC Foundational Health Education and Tobacco Education competency documents for the details of each competency group.

<b>Foundational Health Education</b> (30-40% of the questions)	Distribution of Questions	<b>Tobacco Education</b> (60-70% of the questions)	Distribution of Questions
Health Promotion and Education	5-10%	The Tobacco Epidemic	2-5%
Communication	5-10%	Tobacco Use Disorder and Other Substance Use	5-10%
Educational Interventions	10-15%	Tobacco Control	2-5%
Resource Management	2-5%	Assessment	5-10%
Professional Practice	2-5%	Interventions	10-15%
Program Evaluation	2-5%	Pharmacological, Alternative and Complementary Treatment	5-10%
		Client-centred Approach	10-15%
		Tobacco Programs and Systems	2-5%

## Preparing for the Examination

- All candidates must review the competencies for Certified Tobacco Educators – the foundational health education competencies and the new tobacco cessation and prevention competencies.
  - Foundational Health Education Competencies:  
<https://cnrchome.net/assets/cnrc-foundational-health-education-competencies.pdf>
  - Core Competencies for Tobacco Educators  
<https://cnrchome.net/assets/cnrc-tobacco-education-competencies.pdf>
- All candidates must review and be familiar with the Canadian and US clinical guidelines for smoking cessation.
  - CAN-ADAPTT Canadian Smoking Cessation Clinical Practice Guideline:  
[https://intrepidlab.ca/en/canadaptt/PublishingImages/Pages/CAN-ADAPTT-Guidelines/CAN-ADAPTT%20Canadian%20Smoking%20Cessation%20Guideline\\_website.pdf](https://intrepidlab.ca/en/canadaptt/PublishingImages/Pages/CAN-ADAPTT-Guidelines/CAN-ADAPTT%20Canadian%20Smoking%20Cessation%20Guideline_website.pdf)
  - Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK63952/>
- The CTE Foundational Health Education and Tobacco Education Workbooks/study guides are available for purchase on the CNRC website.

We wish you the best of luck on your examination and look forward to welcoming you as a Certified Tobacco Educator! Please do not hesitate to contact the CNRC office if you should have any additional questions.



16851 Mount Wolfe Road  
Caledon, ON L7E 3P6  
905 880-1092 or 1 (855) 355-4672

[www.cnrchome.net](http://www.cnrchome.net)