de Souza
INSTITUTE

CNA Oncology Exam Study Group

COURSE SYLLABUS

2026

Course Educator:
Komal Patel Saini RN(EC), MN, CON(C), CHPCN(C), CGNC(C)

Course Format: eLearning

Contact Information and Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Prerequisite: *Participants must be writing the CNA Oncology Certification Exam in spring or fall 2026.*

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The de Souza CNA Oncology Exam Study Group is a preparatory program to assist independent adult learners preparing to write the CNA Oncology Certification Exam. By choosing to complete your oncology speciality certification, you are building on your foundational nursing knowledge from registration and on your clinical experience within oncology (CNA, 2021). Within this course you will exam, critically consider and apply the theories and concepts outlined in the CNA Oncology exam blueprint. The exam blueprint outlines the core oncology competencies of an oncology nurse with at least two years of experience in the specialty.

The course is self-directed and self-paced. It has been divided up into units based on the CNA oncology certification exam competencies. The CNA (2021) competency categories are as follows:

1. Prevention, Early Detection and Screening

2. Diagnosis and Staging of Cancer

3. Knowledge of Cancer Diseases

4. Treatment Modalities

5. Symptoms and Treatment Management

6. Supportive Care

7. Continuity of Care

8. Ethics, Legal Obligations and Research

Unit content and activities will be weighted according to the CNA exam competency weighting—with greater focus on competency areas three, four and five. Participants are encouraged to self-pace their study time based on their experience, knowledge gaps and based on exam weighting of the content area.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify prevention, early detection and screening strategies, with consideration given to epidemiological data, risk factors for cancer and assessments related to risk factors, and genetic testing

- Describe and differentiate between the clinical presentation, risk factors, prognostic factors, diagnosis and staging, standards of treatment, and patient care for common and less common cancer diseases in adults

- Describe and differentiate between the clinical presentation, risk factors, prognostic factors, and standards of treatment for common cancer diseases in children

- Identify the common side effects, interventions, patient education and components of oncology nursing care for common cancer treatment modalities

- Describe the clinical presentation, risk factors and interventions for common oncology emergencies

- Describe the etiology of common disease and treatment related side effects, and outline assessment, preventative care, and symptom management strategies

- Identify, articulate and strategize the best approach for nursing care for the supportive care domains

- Articulate the ethical and legal obligations in the care of the patient impacted by cancer

- Describe the role of research in oncology practice, including the ethical principles guiding research, role of clinical trials and phases, and the role of the oncology nurse in clinical trials and research.

C. MODE OF LEARNING: eLearning

The eLearning environment fosters a self-directed approach. You can progress through the modules and exercises at a convenient time, at home or work. The course timetable, in **Section H** of the course syllabus, outlines our suggested weekly expectations for participants.

- **eLearning Modules:** Units have been developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the knowledge required to be successful on the CNA certification exam. The learning format is self-directed. Each unit will take approximately 20-40 minutes to complete, in addition to pre-reading from the assigned text and virtual library. Each unit consists of interactive activities, resources, a multiple choice quiz and additional supplemental readings.

- **Readings:** These readings are provided to address each of the CNA oncology competencies and should be utilized with the eLearning unit activities.

- **Collaborative Forum**: This is a form of learning that really depends on the active participation of the group and is intended to engage all participants enrolled in the course. Online discussions regarding module content, supplemental readings or

activities will enhance knowledge acquisition, understanding, and sharing. It is encouraged that you share experiences, ideas or resources from clinical practice with others in the course. To avoid excessively long postings, try to keep your posting under 400 words in length.

- **Symposium:** A symposium will be held to facilitate targeted review of the CNA competencies for the exam. This ½ day workshop will be available via webcasting (i.e. zoom). The competencies selected for review in the workshop will be based on the study group participants' knowledge gaps identified in the pre-study group knowledge testing, and based on participants' initial areas of lower confidence in practice. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to write a mock exam during the week of the symposium via eLearning. The mock exam will allow participants to test their knowledge and identify core priorities for future study based on mock exam feedback. You must register to attend this event separately. Workshop registration details and link will be posted in the course News and Announcement Section of the course once the course begins and details are finalized.

D. MODES OF EVALUATION

As part of the evaluation process, you are required to complete the following:

- **A Baseline Participant Survey:** This survey obtains your demographics and assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.

- **eLearning Units:** You must complete **all units, activities and quizzes** by the course end date. The grades for each activity and quiz will not influence whether you receive a study group completion certificate in your *My Account*. However, all activities and quizzes must have been attempted at least once to receive the certificate of completion. Grades in quizzes can be used to guide your studying.

- **Post Evaluation Survey**: Once you have completed the above requirements, you will be required to complete a post course evaluation survey, which can be accessed at the end of the eLearning course.

- **Results Reporting Survey**: A short survey where you must report on whether you have written the CNA certification exam and whether you were successful. After the course end date, all course units will be hidden except for this survey, which will remain open until a specified deadline in eLearning. You must complete this survey in addition to all of the above requirements in order to receive a certificate of completion.

When you have met the all of the above requirements, you will receive a downloadable certificate of completion via your *My Account*. The certificate of completion will be available within 4 weeks of the closing of the course and you will receive an email with instructions on how to download.

Please note: this course is considered a non-credit course, therefore completion does not earn you credits towards de Souza designation. Failure to meet the above requirements will result in an "Incomplete" grade in your *My Account*.

The de Souza Institute welcomes comments and feedback that you have at any time. Please send feedback to the course educator.

E. COMPETENCIES

The course competencies are based on the above CNA Oncology Certification Exam Competencies. The competencies are meant to be met at the level of a competent oncology nurse within at least <u>one year</u> of experience. Some of the competencies lend themselves to one or more of the categories.

See Appendix A for the Summary Chart of the CNA Oncology Nursing Certification Exam Development Guidelines.

F. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 3 to 4 hours each week to complete the course sections. Learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 27 hours.

Units do not need to be completed sequentially; you can choose to go ahead and complete learning activities at your own pace.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your grade book. Evidence of engagement through active participation will result in a positive learning experience. You will be expected to complete all sections/modules through the eLearning course. It is strongly recommended for participants not to plan a vacation during the course offering period.

G. REQUIRED READINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Readings are included with each unit. Additional activities, quizzes and discussions are included to augment the readings. The recommended text is based on the CNA exam blueprint text recommendations. Virtual Library readings are recommended in areas where the text book does not fully cover the exam content.

Yarbro, C. H., Wujcik, D., & Gobel, B.H. (2018). *Cancer nursing principles and practice* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. _If you have an older version (i.e. 7th ed.) you may use that text._

The Cancer Nursing text book is available via de Souza Institute's Virtual Library. If you would like a hard copy, it can also be purchased at many university book stores as well.

Langhorne, M. E., Fulton, J. S., & Otto, S. E. (2007). Oncology nursing (5th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby.

The Oncology Nursing text book is purchasable at many university book stores and also online.

Additional Supplemental Readings – Virtual Library: Each unit will have additional supplemental readings from the virtual library that you may choose to include in your learning. These readings have been selected by the educator to enrich your learning experience and may be incorporated on a self-directed basis.

H. SUGGESTED COURSE TIMELINE

You **do not** have to complete the weekly course activities exactly as outlined below. However, you must complete all course requirements **by the course end date**.

	Suggested Weekly eLearning Activities
Week 1	✓ eLearning Centre Orientation – *Optional, but highly recommended* ✓ Baseline participant survey ✓ Test your oncology knowledge quiz ✓ Introduction to cancer ✓ Oncology research and ethical and legal obligations
Week 2	✓ Systemic therapy ✓ Radiation therapy

Week 3	✓ Surgery ✓ Hematopoietic stem cell transplant
Week 4	✓ Complementary health approaches and integrative health ✓ Pediatric oncology
Week 5	✓ Oncology emergencies
Week 6	✓ Lung cancer ✓ Head and neck cancer
Week 7	✓ Leukemia ✓ Myeloma
Week 8	✓ Lymphoma ✓ Malignant melanoma
Week 9	✓ Colorectal cancer
Week 10	✓ Gastrointestinal cancer ✓ Prostate cancer
Week 11	✓ Genitourinary cancer ✓ Brain and central nervous system cancers
Week 12	✓ Breast cancer ✓ Gynecological cancer
Week 13	✓ Side effects and symptom management

Week 14	✓ Palliative care and end of life ✓ Rehabilitation and survivorship ✓ Supportive care and continuity
Weeks 15-16	✓ Review—2 weeks ✓ Mock Exam
Symposium Day—*TBD*	
Evaluation	✓ Symposium Day Evaluation Survey ✓ Post Evaluation Survey
Results Reporting	✓ All course units will be hidden after the course end date ✓ You will only have access to complete the *Results Reporting Survey* after you write the CNA exam and must be done by the specified deadline

In order to receive a certificate of completion, all course requirements must be met and successfully completed by the course end date.

I. EDUCATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is **self-directed.** However, a course educator is available to:

- Answer your questions related to course content.

- Monitor the registration process.

- Be available to you for questions throughout the course.

You can expect the educator to respond to your questions within 24-hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend.

Your educator is:

- Komal Patel Saini

Contact Information and Technical support is available by contacting
support@desouzainstitute.com

J. SOCIAL FORUM

This forum is provided for you to post news, items of general interest, share information about yourselves and to raise topics of interest beyond the specific questions being discussed in the module-specific forums. All messages of a social nature can be posted in this forum. This forum is open to all participants, including the educator.

K. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

de Souza Institute has a virtual library that can be accessed by those registered in this course or any other de Souza Institute continuing education program. This resource enables you to access over 1500 e-Journals, 200 e-books and 8 on-line databases such as CINAHL or Ovid-Medline. You can use the virtual library to access the additional reading materials for your course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day using your login and password.

The direct link is: https://library.desouzainstitute.com/login.

L. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

The eLearning Centre Orientation is designed to introduce you to online learning and to help you understand how to navigate through the de Souza Institute eLearning centre and courses. It is strongly recommended that you complete this orientation so that you will be able to successfully navigate de Souza's eLearning environment.

de Souza Institute Support

If you have questions about the content of a course please email support@desouzainstitute.com.

If you need assistance accessing or navigating the eLearning Centre, please refer to the eLearning Orientation course. If you have questions or have any general technical difficulties, please contact support@desouzainstitute.com.

M.   POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to read de Souza Institute's respective policies.

Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy

Cancellations, Incomplete and No Show Policy

Request for Accommodation Policy

Summary Chart

Oncology Nursing Certification Exam Development Guidelines

STRUCTURAL VARIABLES	
Examination Length and Format	Approximately 165 multiple choice questions
Question Presentation	55-65% independent questions 35-45% case-based questions
The Cognitive Domain	Knowledge/Comprehension 15-25% of questions Application 40-50% of questions Critical Thinking 30-40% of questions
Competency Categories	Prevention, Early Detection and Screening 5-10% of the questions Diagnosis and Staging of Cancer 5-10% of the questions Knowledge of Cancer Diseases 10-15% of the questions Treatment Modalities 20-25% of the questions Symptom and Treatment Management 20-25% of the questions Supportive Care 10-15% of the questions Continuity of Care 5-10% of the questions Ethics, Legal Obligations and Research 5-10% of the questions
CONTEXTUAL VARIABLES	
Patient Age	**Age Groups** Children (0-13 years old) 5-10% of the questions Adolescents and young adults (14-25 years old) 5-10% of the questions Adults (26-64 years old) 35-50% of the questions Older adults (65+ years old) 35-50% of the questions
Patient Culture	Questions are included that measure awareness, sensitivity and respect for different cultural values, beliefs and practices, without introducing stereotypes.
Patient Health Situation	In the development of the Oncology Nursing Certification Exam, the patient is viewed holistically. The patient health situations presented also reflect a cross-section of health situations encountered by oncology nurses.
Health-Care Environment	It is recognized that oncology nursing is practised in a variety of settings including the community and the hospital. The health-care environment is specified only where it is required for clarity or in order to provide guidance to the candidate.