



ACNP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certification FAQs



What is NP certification?

Certification is the formal process by which a certifying agency, such as American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), validates a nurse practitioner's knowledge, skills, and abilities in a defined role and clinical area of practice, based on pre-determined standards. Nurse practitioners achieve initial certification credentials through completion of graduate nursing education, meeting certification eligibility requirements, and passing the certification exam. Certification renewal requires evidence of completing professional development activities including continuing education (CE such as the courses offered on the Online Learning Center at www.acnpweb.org) and practice in the role and population specialty area.

Certification is a mark of excellence that requires continued learning and skill development to maintain. Nurse Practitioners are required to become certified in order to practice in many states and to obtain third-party reimbursement for services.



Why get certified?

- Required for licensure and reimbursement privileges in many states
- Credentialing advances the profession of nursing and advanced practice nursing
- Shows patients that the NP is committed to maintaining high levels of practice knowledge and competence
- Meets the needs of employers and the public by identifying individuals that have met a national standard of practice
- Provides professional recognition and credibility
- Provides a sense of pride and personal accomplishment in meeting a career goal



Why ANCC?

ANCC certification is recognized by **all** state boards of nursing and the U.S. military, and is highly regarded by national and local agencies throughout the country.

ANCC uses a rigorous and extensive in-house test development process to ensure that its exams are fair and accurate measures of professional competency.

Nurse practitioners who receive their certification from ANCC will have nationally recognized credentials from an organization with 35 years experience in nurse practitioner certification, akin to the board certification that physicians receive.

Watch the new [My ANCC Certification](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx) video at <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx>. This video explains the certification process and inspires nurses to pursue professional excellence through certification.



What resources are available to help me pass my certification exam?

ANCC provides Test Content Outlines, Reference Lists, and Sample Questions for each certification, free of charge. Additional review materials may be purchased separately.

Please visit <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx> and choose your specialty to see the test preparation materials available for your specialty area.



How often do I have to renew my ANCC certification?

Every five years



Do I have to retest to renew my certification?

ANCC's certification program offers convenient options for meeting your NP certification renewal requirements every five years – including a variety of methods for obtaining the professional development (CE) you need to maintain your certification. You will also need to practice a minimum number of hours within your certification role and specialty during the 5 year period. You may choose to re-test as one renewal option. Please visit <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx> and Choose Your Specialty to see the most current renewal requirements.



What is the easiest way to get certified or renew my NP certification?

Become a member of ACNP by visiting <http://bit.ly/ACNPJoinRenew> or clicking on the Join/Renew button at the top of the ACNP homepage www.acnpweb.org so you can receive the ACNP discount on ANCC's initial certification application fee.

Then go to <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx> or call 1.800.284.2378.

If you are already ANCC certified and a member of ACNP you can receive a discount to renew your certification.