

The 2026 Fall APRN Faculty & Staff Townhall

Presented by:

The Advanced Practice Initiatives Team

The ANCC Certification Department

The ANCC Measurement Services Department



**American
Nurses**
Credentialing Center



Certification & Resources



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Dr. Page & Dr. Yarbrough Are Here to Help



Contact Us
APRNfaculty@ana.org

- **Hosting APRN Certification Application Information Sessions**
Virtual meetings are available for students upon faculty request.
<https://surveys.nursingworld.org/s3/APRNConnection>
- **Providing Quarterly APRN Newsletters for Faculty, Staff, and Students**
Designed to keep you informed and up to date on important announcements and resources.
- **Delivering Live Presentations and Hosting Exhibits**
Connect with us at upcoming APRN-related tradeshows and events.
- **Hosting APRN Faculty and Staff Townhalls**
Forums to discuss key policies, updates, and shared concerns.



Benefits of ANCC Certification

Three ways ANCC certification strengthens a nursing career

COMMUNITY



345,000+

Certified nurses worldwide

Join a global network that supports every stage of your professional journey.

CREDIBILITY



Independent accreditors

ABSNC and NCCA accreditation reinforces trusted, rigorous standards.



GROWTH



SPECIALTY → LEADERSHIP
a career-long pathway

Build expertise, sustain competence, and advance into expanded roles.



Showing Students the Path to Leadership

ANCC certification can turn a milestone into a **career trajectory**

01

START Entry into practice

Make certification part of the professional journey from day one.

02

GROW Expand expertise

Clinical excellence • Education • Research

03

LEAD Influence at scale

Executive roles • Policy • System outcomes



FACULTY IMPACT

Make certification visible early -so students can see the full career ahead.



Providing Guidance to APRN Students

Advanced Practice Initiatives Website



- Use promo code **APRN** for \$125 off the application fee
(For Non-Members)
- Use promo code **APRNMEM** for \$225 off the application fee
(For ANA Members)

Becoming an ANA member

- <https://www.nursingworld.org/membership/joinANA/>

Meet the Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Team



Free Continuing Education Webinars

**Beyond the Classroom:
The Impact of Academic APRN Leadership**
The APRN Advantage: Redefining Practice in 2026

Webinar Series Hosted By:



The Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Team

CNE: 1.0 hrs. Date: April 21, 2026 Time: 1:00 PM ET



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Guest Speaker:
Leanne H. Fowler, DNP, MBA,
AGACNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN

- Designed for **practicing APRNs, APRN faculty members, and APRN students.**
- Provides **valuable insights and benefits** for all participants.
- Features a **diverse lineup of webinars** addressing key issues in APRN practice.
- Offers **Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credits.**
- Includes **pharmacology hours** for select webinars.

Learn more here:





Become Recognized as an Expert!!

APRNs and nursing faculty share clinical and academic expertise with a national audience

National visibility

Reach thousands of certified nurses and be recognized as a subject-matter expert in your specialty.

Credit that counts

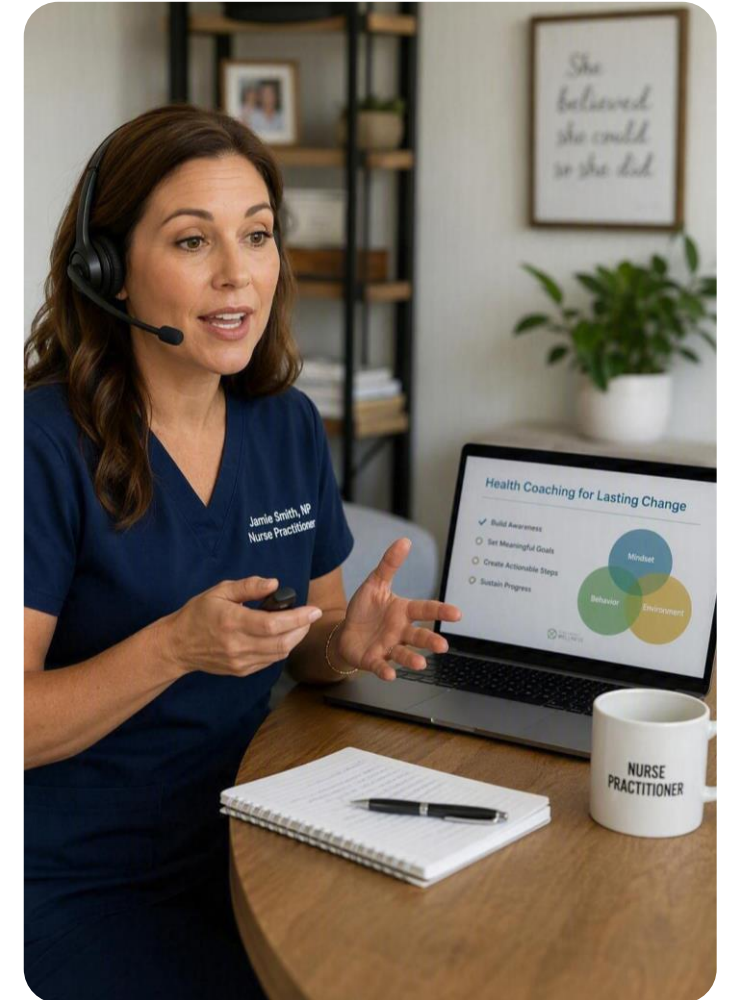
Add a national speaking engagement to your CV, portfolio, and promotion or tenure dossier.

Peer connections

Build relationships with APRN colleagues, faculty, and ANCC leaders across practice settings.

Impact on practice

Translate your evidence and lessons learned into care that improves patient outcomes nationwide.



Email: APRNFaculty@ana.org or [Attend Our APRN Webinar Series](#)

Consider the ANCC Success Pays[®] Program





Help Your Students Achieve Nursing Certification



Lourdes B. Careaga, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Certification Program Manager
successpays@ana.org

Support your students on their journey to nursing certification while reducing test-taking anxiety and eliminating financial barriers.

Program Benefits:

- **Two opportunities to pass:** Students receive two attempts to successfully pass the certification exam.
- **Pay only for success:** Your school pays only for those who successfully pass the exam.
- **Reduce barriers:** Help ease test-taking anxiety and eliminate the financial burden associated with exam retakes.

#ANCCSuccessPays



Success Pays turns certification into an academic outcome

Remove student cost barriers & encourage earlier testing with results align with program cohorts

WHY ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS USE IT

01 No student out-of-pocket expense

A school-issued code removes the payment barrier at application.

02 Two opportunities to pass

After a first unsuccessful attempt, one retest is available at no additional cost.

03 The organization pays for success

Schools are invoiced only when a candidate passes; no charge after two unsuccessful attempts.

04 Faster pass rate reporting

Active accounts give schools immediate access to graduates' ANCC certification pass-status reports.

PASS-RATE REPORTING

0–1-year highest first-time pass rate

Effective January 1, 2026 - measured at application submission

DEGREE

≤ 2 YEARS

YEAR 5



Test earlier

Faster program feedback and results that better align with the graduating cohort.



Wait longer

Results move to a later ANCC reporting period; CCNE permits exclusion after 2 years.



WHY TIMING MATTERS

ANCC aggregate reports group graduates who complete the same exam during the reporting period regardless of graduation date.

Delayed testing can reduce cohort alignment or delay usable accreditation evidence; it does not automatically lower the pass rate.

Bring Success Pays to your program

Request enrollment details and your program code.

successpays@ana.org

Certification & Aggregate Data Reports



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2025 Aggregate Data Report

1. Reports are sent at the end of first quarter of the following year.
2. Updating School Contact information: [ANCC School Contact Information Form for Aggregate Data Report Request](#)
3. Questions about your report: APRNFaculty@ana.org



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

School: [School Code] [School Name] ***We are moving to pulling data reports by the schools IPED number

Certification: [Program: FNP, PMHNP, AGACNP, AGPCNP, or AGCNS]

Dates Selected: 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Program Type	First Time Takers Passes 1	First Time Takers Passes Percent	First Time Takers Fails 2	All Takers Passes 3	All Takers Passes Percent	All Takers Fails 4	All Takers 5
Total	32	96.97%	1	33	97.06%	2	34
Doctorate	1	50.00%	1	2	100.00%	1	2
Graduate	10	100.00%	0	10	100.00%	0	10
Post-Graduate	22	100.00%	0	22	95.65%	1	23



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report for 3 years

Dates Selected: 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2025

Program Type	First Time Takers Passes ¹	First Time Takers Passes Percent	First Time Takers Fails ²	All Takers Passes ³	All Takers Passes Percent	All Takers Fails ⁴	All Takers ⁵
Total	80	97.56%	2	81	98.78%	2	82
Doctorate	8	88.89%	1	9	100.00%	1	9
Graduate	23	100.00%	0	23	100.00%	0	23
Post-Graduate	51	98.08%	1	51	98.08%	1	52

¹ The "first-time pass rate" refers to the percentage of test-takers who pass the certification exam on their first attempt.

² The "first-time takers fails" is a count of test-takers who failed the exam on their first attempt.

³ The overall pass rate refers to the percentage of test-takers who eventually pass the certification exam, regardless of the number of attempts.

⁴ The "all takers fails" is a count of test-takers who failed on subsequent attempt(s), regardless of the number of attempts.

⁵ The "All Takers" is a count of individual test-takers who attempt the exam, regardless of the number of attempts.



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

Testers Who Have "Opted In" to Sharing Their Individual Data with your school for dates selected 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Last Name	First Name	Pass/Fail	Exam Date	Degree Earned	Program Type	Program Degree Code	Graduation Date
One	Example	P	6/27/2025	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate	MASTER	3/21/2025
Two	Example	P	8/24/2025	Master's Degree	Graduate	MASTER	4/21/2025
Three	Example	P	6/18/2025	DNP	Graduate	DOCTORAL_PRACTICE	9/15/2025
Four	Example	F	9/22/2025	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate	MASTER	5/15/2023

⁶ This data is confidential and recipient will not share or disclose this information to others. This data is used solely for the purposes of evaluating course/program content and curriculum

Certification Resources & The Application Process



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Study Resources

APRN Certification	Study Resources	
	Test Content Outline & Reference List	Sample Test Questions
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner AGACNP-BC®	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner AGPCNP-BC®	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Family Nurse Practitioner FNP-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan) PMHNP-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist AGCNS-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions

Be sure to also review the [7 Tips on How to Prepare for Your Certification Exam](#).

Disclaimer: Use of these or any other course(s)/material(s) does not imply eligibility for certification or successful performance on any certification exam, nor is it a requirement to qualify for individual certification.



Starting January 1, 2026, Candidates for ANCC APRN certification must pass their examination within **five (5) years** of degree conferral from their applicable APRN degree or post-graduate certification program.

Starting January 1, 2026, for post-graduate certificate (PGC) applicants, only PGC APRN program accreditation will be accepted for eligibility for an institution's PGC program. Applicants must demonstrate their program held/holds an active PGC accreditation at the time of graduation.

For more information about these eligibility and policy updates, please visit the [ANCC Certification FAQs](#)





Eligibility Criteria



Licensure

Hold a current, **active RN license** in a state or territory of the United States or hold the professional, legally recognized equivalent in another country.

Graduate Education

Hold a **Master's, Post-Graduate, or Doctoral degree** from an accredited program:

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- National League for Nursing (NLN) Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA)

A minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours must be achieved.

Graduate-Level Courses

Complete

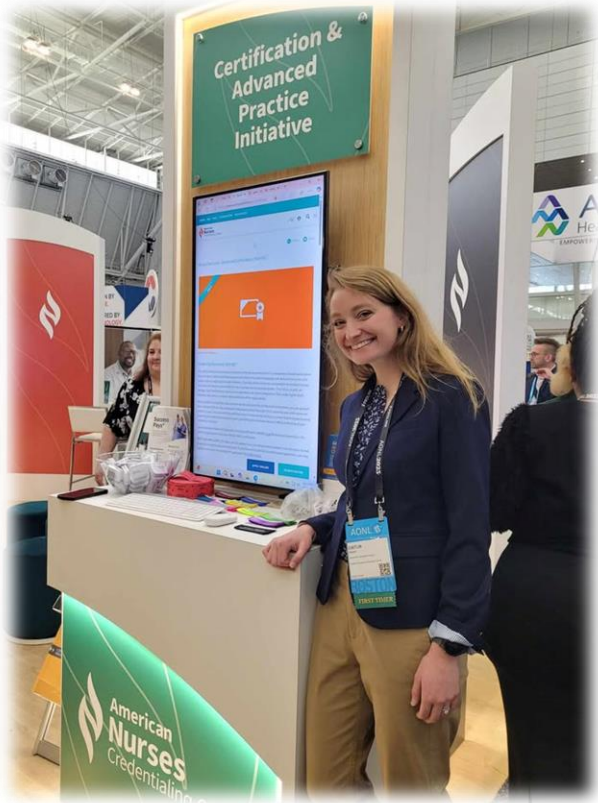
- Advanced physiology/pathophysiology
- Advanced health assessment
- Advanced pharmacology

Content

- Health promotion and/or maintenance
- Differential diagnosis and disease management, *(including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions)*
- **PMHNP ONLY:** Clinical training in at least two psychotherapeutic treatment modalities

Note to Faculty: PACE (Pre-Application Course Evaluation)

The Power of Nurses™



- For students currently pursuing or starting a **post-graduate program**, we now offer a service to help educators prepare their students for certification success.
- The APRN Core Course Review allows faculty members to submit **Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Health Assessment, and Advanced Pathophysiology courses** for review against current ANCC certification eligibility criteria.
- Documents for this service can be submitted before or during a student's program for review by our team. Please follow the steps below to request review:
 - Submit a request via the [Core Course Review Survey](#).
 - Provide details and supporting documentation from time of course, such as *syllabi and/or course descriptions*.
 - For questions, contact us at aprnvalidation@ana.org.



Where to Begin Your Application

It's never too early
for students to
create an ANCC
Account

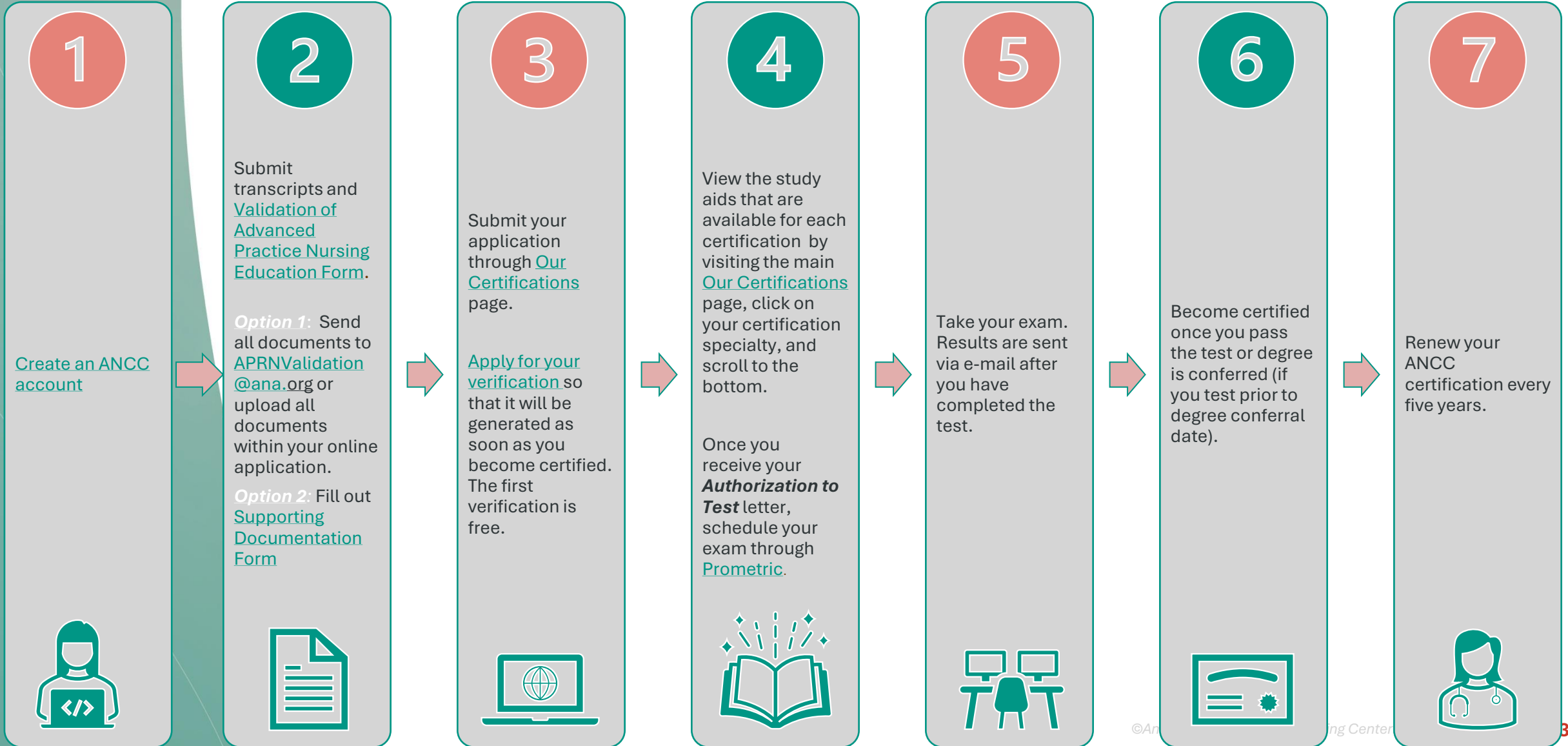
Creating an
account is free

Payment is only
due at the time a
student submits
their ANCC APRN
certification
application





Steps to Apply



Application Processing Time

The Power of Nurses™





The Application Steps

Video on How to Complete an Application:





ANCC Renewal Requirements

Due every 5 years

Certification can be renewed through 8 professional development and practice activities

Continuing Education

75
CE CH

Minimum of **75 approved or accredited continuing education contact hours (CE CH)**
APRN certificants: 25 of the 75 CE CH must be in pharmacology



Professional Development

CHOOSE ONE PATHWAY



Additional Continuing Education
(Academic Credits Conversion)

OR



Practice
(Practice, Preceptorship, OR Professional Service)

OR



Scholarship
(EBP/QI Projects, Publication, Presentation, OR Research)

COMPLETE WITHIN YOUR 5-YEAR CERTIFICATION PERIOD

Renewal activities must be accrued during your designated 5-year certification period prior to your renewal application submission.

[ANCC Nursing Certification Renewal | ANA](#)

Get Ready With ANCC!

Readiness Test



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Support Your Students' Success with Readiness Tests

Benefits

- Ease testing anxiety and build confidence before exam day
- Evaluate your readiness for the ANCC certification exam
- Practice on the actual certification exam testing platform
- Simulate the real exam with a timed, live-proctored experience
- Get actionable feedback to guide your study efforts
- Available for all APRN certifications



Disclaimer: The ANCC Readiness Test is not a requirement to prepare or qualify for the certification exam and does not in any way guarantee a passing score on the certification examination.

Learn more and find out which tests are available by scanning this QR code.





Readiness Test Specifications

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Readiness Tests

An Essential Resource to Help
You Confidently Prepare for
Your ANCC Certification Exam



60 questions

75 minutes

Feedback Report

\$85 per testing session



Certification Prep vs. Readiness Tests

ANA Certification Prep



Prepare and review



**Online review courses
and manuals**



**PracticelQ (self-paced,
flexible environment)**

ANCC Readiness Tests



Assess readiness



**Expanded set of sample
questions**



Timed and proctored

Disclaimer: ANCC does not require candidates to use test prep resources or to take a readiness test. If candidates want to use any test preparation resources, we recommend choosing a high-quality provider that offers accredited continuing education and aligns the test prep materials to the test content outline.



Readiness Test Bulk Discount Pricing

- Nursing programs can purchase Readiness Tests in bulk for their students
- Vouchers can be used for **6 months** from purchase, great option to include in curriculum
- Students redeem the voucher code when scheduling a Readiness Test through Prometric
- Interested in learning more?
Contact anccproductsupport@ana.org

Quantity	Price
1 – 10	\$85
11 – 20	\$80
21 – 99	\$75
100+	\$70

Disclaimer: Use of these or any other course(s)/material(s) does not imply eligibility for certification or successful performance on any certification exam, nor is it a requirement to qualify for individual certification.



Test Writing Webinars and Workshops

Webinars

Workshops

Target Audience	Individuals	Groups or departments
Offerings	Quarterly ○ Virtual	On-demand ○ Virtual or in-person
Topics Covered	Introductory content: ○ Test blueprints ○ Item fundamentals ○ Item types ○ Bias and stereotypes ○ Peer reviewing ○ Item development and review checklist	Introductory and in-depth content with engaging breakout sessions ○ Customized content ○ Expanded webinar topics + learning objectives and rubrics
Contact Information	For webinar dates and to register, visit Eventbrite → 	Contact anccproductsupport@ana.org for more information

Fueling the Future of ANCC

Volunteer Engagement





Overview of Certification Test Development Cycle

- Certification exams are refreshed on a structured 3–5-year cycle
- Volunteer experts' partner with staff and psychometricians at every stage.



- **Define Content**
 - Job Analysis
 - Content Outline and Specifications
- **Develop & Review the Exam**
 - Item Bank Review
 - Exam Form Review
 - Standard Setting
- **Maintain Exam Quality**
 - Exam Administration
 - On-going Item and Performance review



How Can You Help With Certification Development

There are three main content expert volunteer position types:

1. **Content Expert Panelists (CEP)** - Review and define exam content
2. **Item Writers** - Develop and review exam questions.
3. **Standard Setting Panelist** - Help establish passing standards



Eligible candidates also include APRN faculty with a minimum of **three years** of experience and at least **50% active clinical practice**, including researchers.

Benefits = Faculty Professional Development and Contribution to Future APRNs

The Value of Membership



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ANA Membership: Built for APRN Impact

One joint membership.
More voice, growth and connection.

01 **ADVOCATE**

Practice to your full potential

ANA represents every APRN role and advances policy that removes barriers to full practice authority.

02 **ADVANCE**

Save on certification & earn CNE credits

Save on ANCC initial certification and renewal, plus get member discounts of at least 30% on ANCC CNE credits, books, workshops and more.

03 **CONNECT**

Grow your APRN network

Access Mentorship Hub, career and leadership tools, APRN-specific communities and peers across the country.

**APRNs gain the strongest voice through
ANA + state membership.**

Options and state benefits vary.

Sources: ANA Member Benefits; ANA Supports Advanced Practice; NursingWorld.org (accessed Aug. 2026)



Built For The Evolving Needs of APRNs

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ANA Membership

One joint membership.
More voice, growth and connection.

04 WELL BEING

Find ways to reduce stress

Manage stress and earn CNE credits with the Nurse Burnout Prevention Program.

05 CURRENT NEWS

Stay informed & up to date

Read the latest articles from *American Nurse Journal*, *ANA SmartBrief* and *OJIN*.

06 CONFERENCES

Attend educational & networking events

Get member discounts to state meetings and national conferences, including the Magnet & Pathway Conference.

**Join the organization that champions
and protects APRNs.**



Built For The Evolving Needs of APRNs

The Value of Storytelling



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The Mission Behind Storytelling



Katelyn Bern, MA
Senior Engagement Manager &
Tradeshow Liaison

- **Inspire others**—one nurse's story could motivate another to pursue certification.
- **Highlight and celebrate nurses'** achievements, showcasing their hard-earned credentials.
- **Demonstrate a shared commitment to excellence** and continued growth within the nursing profession.
- **Spotlight the rich diversity** of nurses and their experiences.

#ANCCStoriesOfInspiration



Share Your Stories With Katelyn



Katelyn Bern, MA
Senior Outreach Engagement & Tradeshow Liaison





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