Certification
Examination

CORE

RNC

Registered Nurse Certified

Inpatient Obstetric Nursing

Neontal Intensive Care Nursing

Low Risk Neonatal Nursing

Maternal Newborn Nursing

ncc National Certification Corporation

CORE RNC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION CATALOG

Recognition, Value, Expertise...
It is what certification is all about!

ABOUT CERTIFICATION

What makes a certified nurse different?

Essentially, is the willingness of the nurse to be accountable for his/her knowledge and the willingness to take the risk of undergoing a third party review of their knowledge. Certified nurses make a difference to their patients and to their institutions. They are unique professionals that have made the commitment to life-long learning, patient advocacy and professional practice.

Certification is more than an initial after your name... **You owe it to yourself** to take the next step in your professional development. The RNC certification validates expertise and gives tangible recognition of an ongoing commitment to the profession of nursing.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All eligibility criteria must be met at the time of application

CURRENT LICENSURE

Current nursing licensure in the U.S. or Canada is required. The license number, licensing state or province, expiration date along with the original licensure information will need to be recorded.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Two years (24 months) of experience comprised of at least 2000 hours of practice time as a U.S. or Canadian RN in one of the above exam specialties must be documented. **This is not an either/or requirement – both time and hours must be met.** All practice experience must have occurred while you were/are a U.S. or Canadian RN. This practice time can occur anytime during your nursing career.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The employment history must be recorded. Employment is defined as direct clinical practice, education, administration or research. This employment history must demonstrate at least 2000 hours of practice experience.

RECENT HISTORY

Employment in the designated exam specialty area sometime in the last 24 months must be documented.

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RESOURCES

NCC Exam Candidates

**Please download and review the below guides before registering
for an NCC certificaiton exam.**

Candidate Guide

Select the Candidate Guide specific to your specialty. The Candidate Guide details all NCC policies & procedure, includes test outlines & competency statements, provides sample exam questions and lists study resources.

» Request a verification

» Download exam catalogs

» Download maintenance catalogs

» Download candidate guides

» See the latest NCC news

» Public Awareness Campaigns

» Maintenance Due Date Changes
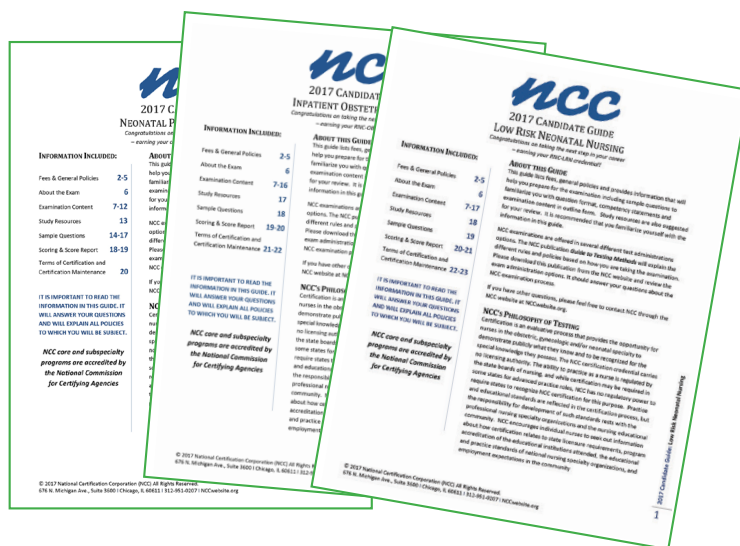
Testing Guide

The Testing Guide explains the rules, policies and procedures for the various test administration options and includes:

— Scheduling your Exam

— Admission to Test Site

— What to Expect

— Restrictions and Security

— Results Notification

— What Happens if you Cannot Take the Test
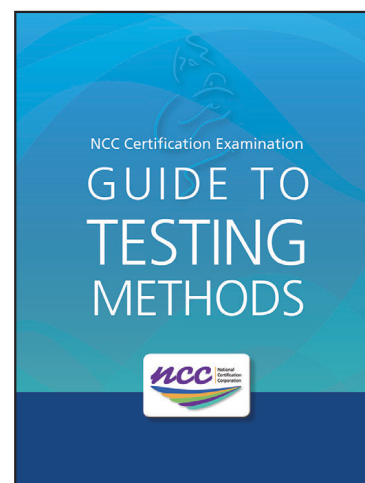
These Guides are accessible from the NCC website at any time. Registration or approval is not required to access this information.

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CORE RNC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION CATALOG

FEES

All fees are non-refundable

Examination Fees

- All applications are subject to a nonrefundable application fee.
- All fees are nonrefundable except where otherwise noted.
- Payments can be made by credit card (Visa, American Express and MasterCard only).
- Payments can be made by check: bank routing number and account number required.
- For payments made by third parties, any refund reimbursement will be issued to the third party and not to the applicant.
- All payments must be in US funds.
- NCC does not accept debit cards or split payments (part check and part credit card).
- Exam fees can be submitted only online at the NCC website. Applications will not be accepted by mail, phone or fax.

Group Fee Payments

NCC will accept group payments for certification exams from institutions. Details are on the NCC website.

$325
COMPUTER EXAM FEES
The above fee includes the non-refundable $50 application fee.

$275
Professional Education Center (PEC) Fees
The above fee includes the non-refundable $50 application fee.

Institutional Certification Program (ICP) Testing
Registrations are pre-paid.

Other Payment Related Fees

Incomplete Application Fee > All incomplete applications are subject to a $30 incomplete application fee (not refundable).

Ineligible Fee > Any applicant determined ineligible (for any reason) will be assessed the $50 nonrefundable application fee. The examination fee will be refunded.

Returned Checks > A $30 fee will be assessed for any check or e-check returned for any reason. Remittance thereafter of all fees and applications must be in the form requested by NCC. Contact NCC for requirements.

Credit Card Chargeback > A $30 fee will be assessed if a credit card payment is disputed for any reason. Remittance thereafter of all fees and applications must be in the form requested by NCC. Contact NCC for requirements.

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FEES

All fees are
non-refundable

Other Exam Related Fees

Change Request* > Candidates who cannot take their currently scheduled examination, have missed their testing date or need to take a different exam - can request a change for a fee of $125.
- see page 10 for details.

Withdrawal Fees > A computer testing candidate who withdraws from testing will receive $160 of their $325 payment. PEC and ICP candidates cannot withdraw.
- see page 11 for details.

Retest Fees > Retest candidates must pay full application and examination fees. There are no discounts and they must wait at least 90 days before resubmitting an application for testing.

***** Computer exam candidates can change their scheduled testing date to another date within their window *once for free*. Candidates must handle this directly with PSI/AMP. Refer to NCC Testing Guide for details

Refunds

Ineligible Computer Testing Applicants

Receive a $275 refund on their examination fees.

Ineligible PEC Applicants

Receive a $225 refund on their examination fees.

No refunds

will be issued for the following circumstances:

- Any candidate that is not successful in achieving certification

- For candidates who failed to take the exam via computer within their 90 day testing window and did not submit a change request within stated time frames

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STEPS TO REGISTER

HOW TO REGISTER TO TAKE NCC EXAM BY COMPUTER

Certification exams
Learn more »

[Apply for exam]
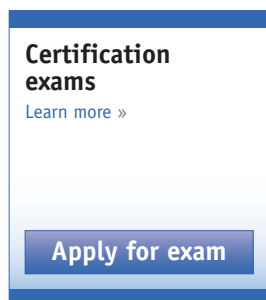
STEP 1

Are you eligible?
Determine your eligibility - *see page 3*

STEP 2

Submitting your application
Submit your application online at the NCC website **NCCwebsite.org**. Applications can only be submitted online. You cannot submit an application by mail, telephone or fax. Payment can be made online by credit card or check and individual or group payments can be made.

STEP 3

What information does the application require?
To get prepared to complete the application - *see the application check list on the next page*. It is a handy listing of all the information you will need to supply.

STEP 4

Email confirmation of your registration
After completing and submitting the application, you will receive confirmation via email. **This will be the ONLY confirmation notice you will receive for your application**.

STEP 5

Application approval procedure
The application will be reviewed to determine qualification to take the examination. This process can take up to four weeks, depending on the volume of applications received at the time of submission. Typical review time is two weeks. If the application is incomplete, *see page 9* to learn how to resubmit the application and what fees will need to be paid.

STEP 6

Notification of eligibility to take the exam
Once the application is approved, an eligibility notification will be sent by mail with instructions on how to set up the testing appointment. These letters go out only twice a month on the 15th and the last day of the month.

You will receive an email notice alerting you when the eligibility letters are mailed. It is critical that you receive this notice and know when to anticipate your eligibility letter. NCC is not liable for lost or miss-directed mail. If you do not receive your eligibility letter in the anticipated time frame - contact NCC.

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APPLICATION CHECK LIST

Before you filing the application look over the below check list and gather the information needed for the application.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:
complete contact information including, address, phone and email

ELIGIBILITY:
Read the eligibility requirements to insure exam eligibility.

LICENSURE:
❑ current license number, licensing state or province
   and expiration date
❑ original licensing state or province and license date

EMPLOYMENT:
❑ current employer contact information including, address phone
   and email
❑ employment history for the past 5 years including, title, specialty
   area, supervisor name and employer contact information.

APPLICATION AGREEMENT:
Demonstration of your agreement to abide by NCC policies through a check off box procedure is required. By checking the designated box, this is deemed as equivalent to providing your signature. Applications cannot be submitted without the below agreement being stipulated.

I have read the policies on this website and in the Registration Catalog, the Candidate & Testing Methods Guides and understand that I will be subject to them. To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all information contained in this application is complete and correct. I understand and agree that any knowingly false information provided by me or others may result in denial or revocation of my certification. I understand that my application may be subject to audit for verification of the information provided and I authorize NCC to make contact with individuals listed for this purpose.

CORE RNC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION CATALOG

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Incomplete Application Processing

Incomplete applications are defined as:

{
- missing or incomplete information
- incorrect information
- inadequate fees *(Returned Checks, Credit Card Declines or Credit Card Charge Backs)*
- any reason resulting in an inability to determine candidate eligibility status

Incomplete applications will be returned with instructions and the candidate will need to resubmit with an additional nonrefundable $30 reprocessing fee. Upon resubmission, applications that do not include this fee or do not adequately address the identified deficiencies will be declared ineligible. All filing deadlines will apply. Applications that are determined ineligible will be subject to the non-refundable $50 application fee in addition to the non-refundable $30 reprocessing fee.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice

Retest Policy

Retest candidates must submit a new application, meet the then current eligibility criteria and pay all applicable fees. NCC does not limit the number of times a candidate can retake an NCC examination; however, the maximum number of times a candidate can take an NCC exam in any given calendar year is two. Retest candidates will be assigned a different form of the examination. **All retest candidates must wait at least 90 days from the original testing date before they can submit a new application to retest.**

This 90 day time period…

…Affects computer examinees who wish to retest by computer.

…Affects Institutional Certification Plan (ICP) examinees who wish to retest at another ICP test administration, or computer testing.

If a retest application is submitted prior to the 90 day wait period, the application will be returned as ineligible. The applicant will be subject to the $50 nonrefundable application fee.

Auditing Applications

All applications are subject to audit and individual applicants may have to provide corroborating documentation of practice time on demand or supervisors may be individually contacted for verification. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to be subject to these rules.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Change your Testing Date, Method of Testing or Exam Category

Candidates who cannot take their currently scheduled examination, have missed their testing date or need to take a different exam - can request a change. Candidates may request to change their examination category, reschedule their testing date or even change their method of testing, provided that they meet the requirements listed below. **Candidates are only allowed one change option** (ex. if you reschedule your examination date, you will not be able to change your examination category). All change requests must be approved by NCC and you may be required to provide additional information. **There will be no refund of original fees or Change Request Form fees**. Candidates who fail to take the examination under this change option must re-apply with full fees.

> Computer exam candidates can change their scheduled testing date to another date within their window *once for free*. Refer to NCC Testing Guide for details.

To request a change you must:

- Submit the change request within one calendar year from

  — the date of the exam you are changing for ICP or PEC candidates

  — the last date of your assigned testing window for computer candidates

- Submit a non-refundable fee of $125 with the Change Request Form

- Use the NCC website online Change Request Form *(changes requested in any other format, will not be accepted)*

- Candidates changing a current computer test must have canceled or never made their appointment to take the exam at an AMP center

- Candidates changing from an ICP test must have their assigned test site code

- Candidates changing from a PEC test must have their assigned PEC class code

- Candidates changing to a PEC test must have already enrolled in the PEC course and have their assigned PEC class code

To change examination category:

Eligibility must be re-established for the new exam category, and additional documentation and fees may be required. The time to consider eligibility for the new category will count toward the original assigned 90 day computer testing window. *Examinees must take the exam for which they have been determined eligible. No changes will be permitted on examination day*. If a candidate knowingly or unknowingly takes an examination other than the one she/he was found eligible to take, the examination will not be scored. No refunds will be allowed, and all fee policies will apply if the candidate reapplies for an examination.

- **Computer Candidates** must submit their request at least 30 days prior to the end of their testing window

- **ICP Candidates** must have their assigned test site code and submit their request at least 45 days prior to testing date

- **PEC Candidates** CANNOT change their examination category

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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Withdrawal Policy - Computer Testing

- Only the applicant/candidate can withdraw from the examination process.

- Candidates withdrawing from a Core Certification exam will receive a $160 refund of their $325 payment.

- All withdrawal requests must be submitted online at the **NCC website BEFORE the final day of the assigned testing window** and provided that:

  > the candidate has not made an appointment to take the exam at an AMP center or

  > if the candidate has made an appointment with AMP, it must be cancelled no later than four business days prior to the scheduled testing date.

- No refund will be considered after the exam date.

Withdrawal Policy - PEC and ICP Testing

Withdrawals are not allowed. Once the candidate is determined eligible for the exam, withdrawal from the process will not be allowed.

Substitution Policy

Candidate substitutions are not allowed for eligible, ineligible, withdrawal, or candidates who filed a change request.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice

GENERAL POLICIES

How Exams are Scored

NCC examinations are criterion referenced. This means the passing score is based on predetermined criteria. The passing score is established by the NCC Board of Directors.

NCC utilizes the item response theory of psychometrics for the analysis of its examinations. Item Response Theory (Rasch analysis) is the study of tests and item scores based on assumptions concerning the mathematical relationship between abilities and item responses. Each test item has a difficulty and ability level. The higher the difficulty of an item, the greater the ability score one achieves. Pass/ fail is determined based on the number of questions answered correctly. As a question is answered correctly, the ability score is increased and it decreases when a question is answered incorrectly. The difficulty of the examination determines the actual number of questions that must be answered correctly in order to achieve the passing ability level.

Because more than one form of the examination is given, a process called equating is used. This procedure converts all results to a common scale. Someone who takes a slightly more difficult form of the examination will need to answer fewer questions correctly than someone who takes a slightly easier form of the examination.

Test result reports will identify pass/fail status and give feedback on the various content areas of the exam in the form of word descriptors: very weak, weak, average, strong, very strong. Pass/fail rates for previous NCC exams can be viewed on the NCC website, **NCCwebsite.org**.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice

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GENERAL POLICIES

ADA and Nondiscrimination Policies

It is the policy of NCC that no individual will be excluded from the examinations as a result of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or gender identity.

Any requests for special testing accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act must be made in writing and submitted with the application and documentation forms. The special request form can be downloaded from the NCC website. Upon receipt of such requests for special accommodations, NCC will contact the applicant. Such requests must be signed by a clinician, physician, or other qualified specialist with training and experience appropriate to diagnose and treat the specified disability.

Appeals Procedure

Any request to waive any policy of the NCC Board of Directors relative to eligibility, administration, examination content issues, or certification maintenance must be received in writing within 60 days of the dispute. All requests should be sent to the attention of the NCC president at **nccpresident@nccnet.org**. The correspondence should contain a detailed account as to why the NCC policy should be waived or the candidate's status should be changed. Such requests are referred to the NCC Policy Review Committee of the Board of Directors. All decisions will be provided in writing. Cases not resolved by the Policy Review Committee will be referred to the full Board of Directors.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice

GENERAL POLICIES

Maintaining Your Certification

The NCC Maintenance Program requires certified RNCs to maintain their certification on a three year basis. The purpose of the maintenance program is to assess the ongoing core certification knowledge competencies of the RNC.

At the beginning of each maintenance cycle a continuing competency assessment must be completed. This provides the certified RNC with an education plan. Those maintaining a certification must earn continuing education in the specified certification core area, this CE will be specified by the Education Plan generated by the individual's continuing competency assessment. Each certified professional is required to complete a maintenance application and pay a maintenance fee in addition to documentation of the appropriate continuing education activities. Individuals who allow their certification to lapse can regain their status only through re-examination. If that occurs, the then current examination eligibility criteria will need to be met.

NCC randomly audits maintenance applications. If you are chosen for audit you will be required to upload an electronic CE certificate and a description of the CE earned. These records should be maintained during each maintenance cycle until your maintenance application has been approved.

For further details, visit the NCC website **NCCwebsite.org** and download the maintenance catalog for a full description of the maintenance process. Click on **Maintain your Certification** on the home page.

Maintain your certification
Learn more »

Submit application
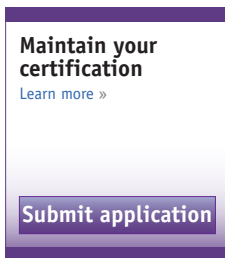
» Request a verification
» Download exam catalogs
» Download maintenance catalogs
» See the latest NCC news

Verification of Your Credential

A third party verification of the newly held certification, must be processed by request through the NCC website. Click on **Request a Verification** on the home page. **A verification cannot be requested until official results have been received from NCC in writing.** NCC cannot verify certification until after it is achieved.

There is a $30 charge for each request. Verifications are sent instantaneously via email to the designated party. Verifications include original date of certification, maintenance due date, certification specialty and NCC President's signature and the NCC corporate seal. An email address is needed to use the process. Where available, NCC has listed on the website email addresses of the state boards of nursing who have provided them.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice

CONTENT OUTLINES FOR EXAMS

How to Study

NCC does not provide review courses or study materials for the examination. NCC views the examinations as an evaluative process. Eligibility criteria have been established to identify minimum levels of preparation for the examinations. NCC believes your practice experience is your best preparation. Candidates will receive detailed test outlines and suggested resources upon being determined eligible to take the examination.

INPATIENT OBSTETRIC NURSING

Maternal Factors Affecting the Fetus and Newborn (14%)
- Disease Processes
- Pregnancy Risks

Fetal Assessment (20%)
- Antepartum Assessment
- Electronic Fetal Monitoring
- Non-electronic Fetal Monitoring
- Acid-base Assessment

Labor and Delivery (29%)
- Physiology of Labor
- Labor Management
  – General Assessment
  – Stages of Labor
- Obstetrical Procedures
- Pain Management

Obstetric Complications (20%)
- Labor and Placental Disorders
- Preterm Labor
- Multiple Gestation
- Prolonged Pregnancy

Postpartum (10%)
- Physiology of the Postpartum Woman
- Family Adaptation
- Lactation
- Complications of Postpartum Period

Newborn (5%)
- Adaptation to Extrauterine Life
- Assessment
- Resuscitation
- Pathophysiology
- Infant Nutrition

Professional Issues (2%)
Includes: Evidence Based Practice,Legal/Ethical/ Communication Issues, Research, Patient Safety

MATERNAL NEWBORN NURSING

Maternal/Neonatal Outcomes (10%)
- Antenatal Factors
- Intrapartal Factors

Maternal Assessment and Management in the Postpartum Period (44%)
- Physiologic Changes & Physical Assessment (to include laboratory values)
- Nursing Care and Education
- Lactation and Newborn Feeding
- Family Dynamics after Childbirth
- Complications

Newborn Assessment and Management (44%)
- Transition to extrauterine life
- Physiologic Changes and Physical Assessment (to include laboratory values)
- Nursing Care and Family Education
- Complications (Recognition and Stabilization)

Professional Issues (2%)
Includes: Evidence Based Practice,Legal/Ethical/ Communication Issues, Research, Patient Safety

NCC has no input into any certification preparation endeavor. You should carefully review any certification preparation opportunities before participating.

Center for Certification Preparation and Review (CCPR)
Offers practice examinations and study workbooks for NCC examinations.
www.CCPRwebsite.org

PEC Professional Education Center
This organization offers certification review courses throughout the U.S.
www.proedcenter.com

NCC has no involvement in the development of these courses.
1. Factors Affecting

CONTENT OUTLINES FOR EXAMS

LOW RISK NEONATAL NURSING

Mother/Fetus (15%)

- Assessment and Evaluation of Intrauterine Environment
- Maternal Factors and Complications Affecting the Fetus/Neonate

Newborn (59.5%)

Focus of the newborn section will be on physical examination techniques, procedures and findings, as well as assessment and management of normal and abnormal findings and identification of potential complications.

- General Physiologic Assessment
  - Gestational Age
  - Clinical Laboratory & Diagnostic Data
  - Thermoregulation
  - Behavioral/ Developmental Care
- Physical Assessment and Management of Complications
  - Systems

    Cardiac

    Respiratory

    Gastrointestinal

    Integumentary

    Musculoskeletal

  Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat

  Hematopoietic

  Neurological

  Immune System

  Endocrine/Metabolic

  Genitourinary
  - Genetic Disorders
  - Hyperbilirubinemia
  - Perinatal Substance Abuse

General Management (15%)

- Resuscitation & Stabilization
- Neonatal Nutrition, Feeding and Lactation
- Pharmacology
- Fluid and Electrolytes
- Oxygenation and Acid-base balance

Family Integration (8%)

- Role Adaptation/ Grieving Process
- Discharge Planning/ Home Care

Professional Issues (2.5%)

Includes: Evidence Based Practice, Legal/Ethical/ Communication Issues, Research, Patient Safety

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE NURSING

General Assessment and Management (48%)

- Maternal History and Risk Factors
- Gestational Age (At Birth)
- Physical Assessment
- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Fluids and Electrolytes
- Nutrition and Feeding
- Oxygenation and Acid Base Homeostasis
- Thermoregulation
- Pharmacology
- Developmental Care

Assess & Manage Pathophysiologic States (44%)

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Hematopoietic
- Neurological/ Neuromuscular
- Infectious Diseases
- Metabolic/Endocrine
- Genetic Disorders
- Head, Eye, Ear, Nose Throat

Assess and Manage Psychosocial/ Behavioral Adjustments (5%)

- Discharge Planning and Follow up
- Grieving Process
- Family Integration

Professional Issues (3%)

Includes: Evidence Based Practice, Legal/Ethical/ Communication Issues, Research, Patient Safety

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ABOUT NCC

NCC is a not for profit organization that has certified over 100,000 nurses and nurse practitioners in the women's health, obstetric and neonatal nursing specialty areas. Established in 1975, NCC sponsors certification examinations for competency validation.

NCC'S PHILOSOPHY OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is an evaluative process that provides nurses in the obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal nursing specialties the opportunity to demonstrate publicly what they know and to be recognized for the knowledge they possess. As a voluntary process, the NCC certification examinations are designed to test for special knowledge.

The NCC credential carries no licensing authority. The ability to practice is regulated by the state boards of nursing and while certification may be required in some states for advance practice nursing roles, NCC has no regulatory power to require states to recognize certification for this purpose. Practice and educational standards are reflected in the credentialing process but the responsibility for development of such standards rests with the professional nursing specialty organizations and the nursing education community.

NCC encourages individual nurses to seek out information about how certification relates to state licensure requirements, program accreditation of the educational institutions attended, the educational and practice standards of the national nursing specialty organizations and employment expectations in their community. Contact with state boards of nursing, universities and colleges, professional specialty nursing organizations and individual employers for specific requirements is highly recommended.

NCCA & ABSNC Accreditation

NCC nurse and subspecialty certification programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

NCC nurse practitioner certification programs are accredited by both the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

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ICP program

Institutional Certification Program (ICP)

In 2004, NCC launched the Institutional Certification Plan (ICP) program which allowed institutions to sponsor NCC certification and subspecialty exam testing at their own institutions. The ICP program provides institutions flexibility in testing times. If the institution has between 25 and 100 participants, the institution can select up to a 21-day period during which time the testing will occur. If a test site has over 100 participants, fee discounts are also offered. All NCC core and subspecialty examinations can be used to qualify for the minimum participation.

Under the plan, an institution designates a test coordinator who serves as the main contact person for NCC. The program is operated under a written contract between NCC and the individual hospital or hospital system. Individuals CANNOT participate in the program on their own. There must be a sponsoring institution. For more information about the ICP program, visit the NCC website or email Betty Sobala, ICP coordinator at bsobala@nccnet.org.

Rules for those applicants taking the test under the ICP program which is sponsored by an employer or other organization may be different than what is listed in this catalog. A memo of understanding is signed by the applicant taking an NCC exam under these special circumstances that outlines specific policies to which each individual applicant is subject.