



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ACNPC® CERTIFICATION

Why did AACN develop an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNPC) exam?

In 1995, AACN Certification Corporation and American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) entered a joint venture to create and administer the first Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification exam. After 6 years, in September 2001, this joint venture was dissolved, due largely to differences in our respective organization's visions for the future of certification. The dissolution agreement called for a period in which AACN Certification Corporation could not develop a competing exam, but used the non-compete time to talk with our ACNP constituents to ensure that we fully understood their needs and were prepared to meet those needs. Also during this time, a national job analysis of currently practicing ACNPs was conducted to determine the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to test for certification as an ACNP. As a result, AACN Certification Corporation developed an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification exam, which aligns with our mission to provide comprehensive credentialing for nurses to ensure that their practice is consistent with established standards of excellence in caring for acutely and critically ill patients and their families. ACNPC is the credential awarded to acute care nurse practitioners certified through AACN Certification Corporation.

With two certification exams for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners, what is the benefit of AACN Certification Corporation's exam?

AACN Certification Corporation's ACNPC certification program aligns with AACN's extensive expertise as the specialty organization that understands the practice of acute care nurse practitioners. The ACNPC exam is based on our comprehensive study of practice of acute care nurse practitioners in acute and critical care settings and is targeted at entry-level acute care nurse practitioner competencies.

AACN Certification Corporation is a mission-driven organization committed to offering the full spectrum of services, products and resources beneficial to acute and critical care nurses, including acute care nurse practitioners. AACN Certification Corporation's study of practice is conducted regularly on acute care nurse practitioners in acute and critical care settings assuring that our exam reliably tests current practice. At AACN Certification Corporation, we take great pride in offering the highest level of customer service. We are pleased to make our trademark service available to acute care nurse practitioners.

Do State Boards of Nursing accept AACN's ACNPC exam?

There are other nursing specialties that have two certification exams. Pediatric nurse practitioners, family nurse practitioners and adult nurse practitioners have two certification exams offered by different certifying organizations.

AACN Certification Corporation has requested approval from each state licensure board. We do not anticipate difficulty with state approval of the ACNPC exam; however it is a state-by-state process that takes time. A number of states have already approved the exam; watch for updates on our Web site. Advanced practice certification is not required for licensure in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, and Oregon; however ACNPC certification provides an opportunity for advanced practice nurses to further validate their skills and knowledge, and allows for reimbursement for services provided by Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).



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Is AACN Certification Corporation's ACNPC exam accredited?

AACN Certification Corporation will apply for accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) once we have met the minimum requirements (minimum number of examinees or 1 year timeframe of offering the exam). All of our exams are developed in accordance with NCCA standards. Our CCRN®, PCCN® and CCNS® specialty exams are accredited, as are our CMC® and CSC® subspecialty exams.

Is the ACNPC exam computer-based?

Yes, AACN Certification Corporation's ACNPC exam is offered as a computer-based test at more than 170 AMP testing sites across the country. For a listing of computer-based testing sites visit www.goAMP.com. Paper-and-pencil administrations of all AACN exams are offered each year in May at the National Teaching Institute (NTI®) and the biannual TRENDS conference. A special paper-and-pencil administration of the ACNPC exam may be arranged upon request for those located 3 hours or more from their nearest computer-based testing site.

Where can I obtain a copy of the ACNPC Test Plan?

Information about the ACNPC exam, including the test plan, is available in the *ACNPC Handbook* online at www.certcorp.org, under Documents and Handbooks.

How many items are on the exam?

The ACNPC exam consists of 175 multiple-choice items, 150 of which are scored; the remaining 25 items are used to gather statistical data on item performance for future exams. The exam is in a computer linear format, so candidates may skip and mark items and then review and answer them later. Candidates are allowed 3½ hours to complete the exam.

What is ACNPC Certification by Endorsement?

Certification by Endorsement is for currently certified ACNPs who wish to apply for AACN Certification Corporation's certification as an acute care nurse practitioner. A nurse must meet the ACNPC renewal requirements (see below) in the 5 years of practice prior to application.

What are the ACNPC eligibility requirements?

Eligibility requirements are congruent with NCSBN's Criteria for APRN Certification Programs and *The Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing*. Details are in the *ACNPC Handbook* available online at www.certcorp.org.

What are the renewal requirements?

Renewal of ACNPC certification is every 5 years. Renewing candidates must have 150 CE Renewal Points, including a minimum of 100 CE Renewal Points in the area of Acute Care. Candidates must also complete 2,000 hours of practice as an acute care nurse practitioner during the 5-year certification period, with 400 of those hours in the year prior to the scheduled renewal date. More complete details are available online at www.certcorp.org.

How can I obtain a copy of the revised ACNP Scope and Standards?

The *Scope and Standards of Practice for the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*, published by AACN, is available for purchase (AACN product #128102). To order, visit AACN's Web site at www.aacn.org, click Marketplace, then Online Bookstore or call (800) 899-2226.