

# APRN CERTIFICATION

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

### Which APRN certifications are offered by AACN Certification Corporation (AACN-CC)?

We offer four APRN certification programs:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNPC-AG)
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (ACCNS-AG)
- Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (ACCNS-P)
- Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (ACCNS-N)

### Are AACN-CC APRN certifications just for critical care nurses?

No, AACN-CC's APRN credentials are for all nurses whose ACNP or CNS graduate program aligns with national standards, including the APRN Consensus Model. ACNPC-AG is for acute care NPs educated to care for acutely ill patients, while ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-P and ACCNS-N are for CNSs educated across the spectrum of wellness through acute care.

### What are the benefits of partnering with AACN-CC for my APRN certification?

- Personalized service – A dedicated certification nurse specialist guides you through the process
- Speedy turnaround – Eligibility is evaluated within two to three days of documentation being received
- Free year of AACN e-membership – Includes online journals, discounts and unlimited, free CE
- Practice exam questions – Available to ACNPC-AG, ACCNS-AG and ACCNS-P applicants

### Are AACN-CC APRN credentials accepted in all states?

Our Consensus Model-based board certifications are accepted for APRN licensure or designation in all 50 states.

### At what point may I submit my exam application?

You may apply any time *before* or *after* graduation at [www.aacn.org/APRN](http://www.aacn.org/APRN).

### What documents are needed with my application?

Official, final transcripts for all graduate-level nursing courses may be emailed from your school to [APRncert@aacn.org](mailto:APRncert@aacn.org) or mailed from your school, sealed. We will contact your program director to request completion of your *Educational Eligibility Form*.

### Am I able to test prior to receiving my final transcript?

Testing before we receive your final transcript may be an option. Email [APRncert@aacn.org](mailto:APRncert@aacn.org) for more information.

### What if I don't pass the exam?

You may request a *free* exam counseling session with a certification nurse specialist to discuss your scores and study methods. Candidates may test up to four times in 12 months and are eligible for a discounted retest fee.

### How long is the certification period and what is needed for renewal?

AACN-CC's APRN certifications are granted for five years. Renewal requires Pharmacology CE plus two of the following: practice hours, CE points and/or exam.



## QUESTIONS?



Contact us at [APRncert@aacn.org](mailto:APRncert@aacn.org),  
call 800-899-2226  
or visit us at [www.aacn.org/APRN](http://www.aacn.org/APRN)



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