ACNPC

Acute Care
Nurse Practitioner Certification
• Adult

AACN
CERTIFICATION
CORPORATION

Certification Organization for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

MISSION

AACN Certification Corporation drives patient health and safety through comprehensive credentialing of acute and critical care nurses, advancing practice consistent with standards of excellence.

VISION

All nurses caring for acutely and critically ill patients and their families are certified.

VALUES

As the Corporation advances its mission and vision to fulfill its purpose and inherent obligation of driving the health and safety of patients experiencing acute and critical illness, we are guided by a set of deeply rooted values. These values are the foundation upon which we build our relentless pursuit of excellence.

- **Integrity –** *We demonstrate sound judgment, ethical behavior and accountability in all we do.*
- **Inclusion –** *We cultivate an inclusive culture, where everyone contributes their unique strengths and perspectives.*
- **Transformation –** *We drive change and innovation to positively impact the healthcare system and improve the lives of patients, families and nurses.*
- **Leadership –** *We advocate and influence to achieve optimal outcomes and healthy work environments.*
- **Relationships –** *We collaborate and advance partnerships, honoring each individual to strengthen the collective.*

ETHICS

AACN and AACN Certification Corporation consider the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses foundational for nursing practice, providing a framework for making ethical decisions and fulfilling responsibilities to the public, colleagues and the profession. AACN Certification Corporation's mission of public protection supports a standard of excellence where certified nurses have a responsibility to read about, understand and act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

The following AACN Certification Corporation programs have been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).

CCRN® (Adult)	CCRN® (Pediatric)	CCRN® (Neonatal)	PCCN® (Adult)	ACNPC-AG®
CMC®	CSC®	ACCNS-AG®	ACCNS-N®	ACCNS-P®

Our advanced practice certification programs, ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-P, ACCNS-N and ACNPC-AG, are in alignment with the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation and other foundational national standards for APRN education, accreditation and regulation.

AACN
CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

Certification Organization for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

ACNPC RENEWAL HANDBOOK
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner — Adult

As healthcare becomes increasingly complex and challenging, certification has emerged as a mark of excellence showing patients, employers and the public that a nurse possesses a defined body of knowledge and has met the rigorous requirements to achieve specialty and/or subspecialty certification.

AACN Certification Corporation programs were created to protect healthcare consumers by validating the knowledge of nurses who care for and/or influence the care delivered to the acutely and critically ill. We are pleased to provide you with this handbook with information about how to renew your ACNPC certification exam.

Today, nurses hold more than 140,000 certifications from AACN Certification Corporation.

Specialty Certifications

CCRN® is for the nurse providing care to or influencing the care of acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients. Three eligibility pathways are available:

- **Direct Care** - for the nurse who provides direct care to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.
- **Knowledge Professional** - for the nurse who influences the care delivered to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients, but does not primarily or exclusively provide direct care.
- **Tele-critical Care** - for the nurse working in a tele-critical care setting monitoring/caring for acutely/critically ill adult patients from a remote location.

PCCN® is for the progressive care nurse. Two pathways of eligibility are available:

- **Direct Care** - for the nurse providing direct care to acutely ill adult patients.
- **Knowledge Professional** - for the nurse who influences the care delivered to acutely ill adult patients, but does not primarily or exclusively provide direct care.

Subspecialty Certifications

CMC® is for the certified nurse providing direct care to acutely/critically ill adult cardiac patients.

CSC® is for the certified nurse providing direct care to acutely/critically ill adult patients during the first 48 hours after cardiac surgery.

Advanced Practice Certifications

ACNPC-AG® is for the nurse educated at the graduate level as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AGACNP).

The **ACCNS** credentials are for nurses educated at the graduate level as clinical nurse specialists to provide care across the continuum from wellness through acute care:

ACCNS-AG® is for the clinical nurse specialist educated to care for adult-gerontology patients.

ACCNS-P® is for the clinical nurse specialist educated to care for pediatric patients.

ACCNS-N® is for the clinical nurse specialist educated to care for neonatal patients.

With implementation of the Consensus Model in 2015, ACNPC and CCNS are available as renewal options only:

ACNPC® is for the acute care nurse practitioner educated to provide care to adult patients.

CCNS® is for the acute/critical care clinical care specialist educated to provide care to adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.

AACN Certification Corporation's APRN certifications are recognized for licensure in all U.S. states and territories.

We continually seek to provide quality certification programs that meet the changing needs of nurses and patients. Please visit www.aacn.org/certification, or call 800-899-2226 for more information about the above certifications.

Thank you for your commitment to patients and their families and to becoming certified.

ACNPC

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Certification Program

Definition

Certification is a process by which a nongovernmental agency validates, based upon predetermined standards, an individual nurse's knowledge for safe and effective practice in a defined functional or clinical area of nursing.

ACNPC certification validates your knowledge at entry-level as an advanced practitioner in the care of adult patients with complex acute and/or chronic health conditions to hospitals, peers, patients and, most importantly, to yourself. ACNPC certification promotes continuing excellence in the acute care nursing profession.

In addition to providing you with a sense of professional pride and achievement, certification reinforces the special knowledge and experience required for acute and critical care nursing.

Code of Ethics

AACN and AACN Certification Corporation consider the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses foundational for nursing practice, providing a framework for making ethical decisions and fulfilling responsibilities to the public, colleagues and the profession.

AACN Certification Corporation's mission of public protection supports a standard of excellence that certified nurses have a responsibility to read, understand and act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses. To access the ANA Code of Ethics, visit www.aacn.org/certification > Overview > Learn More.

ACNPC® Registered Service Mark

ACNPC is a registered service mark and denotes certification as an adult acute care nurse practitioner as granted by AACN Certification Corporation. Those who have not achieved ACNPC certification or whose ACNPC certification has lapsed are not authorized to use the ACNPC credential.

Administration and Sponsorship

The certification programs are administered by AACN Certification Corporation. The certification exams are conducted in cooperation with PSI Services.

Membership Requirements

There are no association membership requirements to participate in AACN Certification Corporation programs.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of AACN Certification Corporation, its Board of Directors, committee members and staff to comply with all applicable laws that prohibit discrimination in employment or service provision because of a person's race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin, or because of any other protected characteristic.

Recognition of Certification

Recognition of Certification

Candidates who meet all eligibility requirements and pass the ACNPC certification exam may use "ACNPC" after their licensing title. ACNPC is used in recognition of professional competence as an adult acute care nurse practitioner for a 5-year period of certification.

ACNPC is a registered service mark. It is not punctuated with periods. The proper use of ACNPC is as follows:

Chris Smith, RN, MSN, ACNPC.

Misuse of the credential is viewed by AACN Certification Corporation as misleading to the public and may result in denial or revocation of certification.

A listing of ACNPC-certified nurses is maintained by AACN Certification Corporation and may be reported in its publications and/or listed on its website.

Certification status is available to the public via the online Certification Verification system, available at www.aacn.org/certification.

Name and Address Changes

Renewal notifications will be emailed to you starting 4 months prior to your scheduled renewal date. You are responsible for notifying AACN Certification Corporation should your name and/or address change at any time before or after you become certified. Failure to do so may result in not receiving information necessary for certification renewal.

Please notify us of any address or email address changes; you may update your profile as follows:

- Online at www.aacn.org/myaccount,
- Email info@aacn.org, or
- Call AACN Customer Care at 800-899-2226

The following changes must be made by calling AACN Customer Care at 800-899-2226:

- Name changes
- Address changes for exam candidates during 90-day testing window

Candidates are responsible for renewing their certification even if they do not receive a renewal notice.

ACNPC Renewal Policies

AACN Certification Corporation may adopt additional eligibility requirements at its sole discretion. Any such requirements will be designed to establish, for purposes of ACNPC certification, the adequacy of a candidate's knowledge in care of the acutely ill.

With implementation of the Consensus Model in 2015, ACNPC certification is available as a *renewal option only*.

- Current ACNPCs may continue to renew their certification into the future, as long as it does not lapse and renewal requirements are met.
- **Late or retroactive renewal is not available for ACNPC certification. Renewal must be completed <u>prior</u> to your certification expiration date.**
- If you allow your adult ACNP certification to expire, you will need to meet the eligibility requirements for the adult-gerontology ACNP certification exam. ACNPC certificants interested in adult-gerontology ACNP certification will most likely need to obtain a post-graduate certificate to be eligible to sit for the ACNPC-AG exam.

ACNPC Renewal Fees

ACNPC Renewal Fees	Member	Nonmember
Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points	$250	$340
Renewal by Practice Hours and Exam	$210	$315
Renewal by CE Points and Exam	$210	$315

Payable in U.S. funds. A $15 fee will be charged for a returned check.

The renewal fee is for processing and is nonrefundable.

Fees subject to change without notice.

Online Renewal

Candidates may apply for ACNPC certification renewal online at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification or via a paper application. The completed paper renewal application must be postmarked or faxed by the scheduled certification renewal date.

Online renewal is available to all active ACNPCs, as well as those who hold inactive status, up to 4 months prior to their scheduled renewal date. Online renewal allows a candidate to submit an application and credit card payment for renewal via a secure Internet connection.

To apply for renewal online, go to www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification and follow the detailed instructions listed.

As a certificant, you already have an AACN customer account. Therefore, please do NOT create a new account or you will have a duplicate record, which could affect the processing of your renewal.

Access your existing AACN account as follows:

- At **Customer Sign In** enter your email address on file with AACN or your AACN customer number.

- Your **AACN Customer Number** can be found on your most recent renewal notice.
- Your initial **password** is your last name. You will be able to change your password once you log in. If you do not remember your password, click Forgot Password.
- You will be able to **verify and update your account information** during the online process.
- **Verify your email address** to receive a confirmation of your renewal and to continue to receive important renewal information.

Renewing candidates will not be mailed a certificate; however, a certificate can be printed from your AACN Dashboard. Log into to AACN.org and select Certification.

Once you have successfully renewed online, you will be subject to the same random audit process as any other certificant. You must maintain records of your CERPs for 3 years after your scheduled renewal date, to submit in the event of an audit.

ACNPC Certification Renewal

Renew online up to 4 months prior to your scheduled renewal date at www.aacn.org/certification > <u>*Renew Certification*</u>*.*

Purpose and Limitations of Renewal Options

The purpose of certification renewal is to promote continued competence. The renewal process helps to maintain an up-to-date knowledge base through one of the following options:

- Practice hours and CE Points including Pharmacology CE

- Practice hours, Pharmacology CE and passing the certification exam

- CE Points including Pharmacology CE and passing the certification exam.

Following are the limitations to the components of the renewal options:

- CE limitations include content quality and relevance to practice as well as an individual's ability to self-select CEs most pertinent to the individual's practice and educational needs.

- Limitations of practice hours include the quality of the practice environment and limitations on learning opportunities.

- One limitation of the exam is not assessing new competencies, as exam competencies were validated through initial certification.

Requiring multiple components for renewal rather than one decreases the limitations and furthers the goal of continued competence.

Eligibility

Candidates for ACNPC renewal must hold a current, unencumbered U.S.[1] RN or APRN license.

- An unencumbered license has not been subjected to formal discipline by the board of nursing in the state(s) in which you practiced during the 3-year certification period and had no provisions or conditions that limited your nursing practice.

- Provisions or conditions may include, but are not limited to, direct supervision of practice, drug administration limitations and/or practice area exclusions.

- Documentation of all provisions and conditions from the board or its designee must be reviewed prior to approval for renewal.

- Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** if any provisions or conditions are placed on their RN or APRN license(s)

The name and contact information of your supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify practice hours must be provided. The verifier need not be ACNPC-certified.

Nurses who hold an encumbered license, meaning a provision or condition that limits their nursing practice has been placed against their RN and/or APRN license, may be eligible for Conditional Certification. Email <u>APRNcert@aacn.org</u> to inquire.

- Conditional Certification is a temporary status granted to a nurse seeking APRN certification who has a provision or condition placed against their RN and/or APRN license.

- Conditional status will be changed to Active status once the provision or condition against the RN and/or APRN license has been removed and the license is unencumbered.

- If the SBON suspends or revokes the nurse's license and he/she cannot practice, certification will be revoked.

Renewal Options

ACNPCs may seek certification renewal via one of the following options:

Option 1 — Practice Hours and CE Points

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC renewal candidates must work a minimum of 1,000 hours meeting the practice hour requirement as outlined and complete 150 CE Renewal Points, 75 of which must be in Category I — Acute Care Education Programs (25 as Pharmacology CE).

- Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on <u>pages 7 and 8</u> of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Renewal Points application/honor statement located on <u>pages 13 and 14</u>.

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[1] *Includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories of Guam, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands*

Option 2 - Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC renewal candidates must work a minimum of 1,000 hours meeting the practice hour requirement as outlined, complete 25 Pharmacology CE, and apply for, take and pass the certification exam **before** the expiration date of their certification. It is not permissible to take the exam early and then attempt to renew by CE Points if the exam is failed.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC Renewal by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 15 and 16.

Option 3 - CE Points and Exam

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC renewal candidates must complete 150 CE Renewal Points, 75 of which must be in Category I — Acute Care Education Programs (25 as Pharmacology CE), and apply for, take and pass the ACNPC exam **before** the expiration date of their certification.

  Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on pages 7 and 8 of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC Renewal by CE Points and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 17 and 18.

For Those Renewing by Practice Hours
(Options 1 and 2)

- Practice hours for ACNPC renewal includes active involvement in the direct care of acutely ill adult patients as an APRN in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner for a minimum of 1,000 hours during the certification period prior to application.

- Eligible hours are those spent caring for adult patients with complex acute and/or chronic health conditions.

- Hours spent by faculty members supervising the acute care clinical practice of **APRN** students may be counted toward the practice hour requirement for ACNPC renewal.

- Eligible practice hours for ACNPC renewal are those completed within the U.S. ACNPs practicing outside the U.S. should contact AACN at APRNcert@aacn.org regarding eligible practice hours.

For Those Renewing by Exam
(Options 2 and 3)

- The ACNPC renewal exam is a 2-hour test consisting of 100 multiple-choice items. Eighty percent (80%) of the items test Clinical Judgment related to nursing care of the adult patient population. The remaining items test non-Clinical Judgment knowledge and are focused across the life span.

- For the renewal test plan and exam references, refer to pages 11-17. For information regarding exam scheduling and testing, refer to the *Certification Exam Policy Handbook*. These documents are available online at www.aacn.org/certhandbooks.

- Once the application is processed (takes 2 to 4 weeks) AACN Certification Corporation will notify our testing service, PSI, of eligible candidates. PSI will send a confirmation email and postcard with a toll-free number and web address, for those who prefer to register online, to each eligible candidate to schedule the exam.

- Candidates call or go online directly after receiving their confirmation email or postcard from PSI to schedule an appointment at a testing location of their choice.

- Candidates must apply for, take and pass the ACNPC exam **before** the expiration date of their certification.

- Certificants who do not pass the renewal exam must complete up to 15 CEs focused in their lowest score area(s). These CEs must be completed after the renewal exam date and before the certification expiration date in order to successfully renew.

AACN Certification Corporation is transitioning to the use of generic names only for medications in exams and practice exam products. During the transition, exam candidates may continue to see items that include both generic and trade names.

Category I - Acute Care Education Programs

At least 75 of the 150 required CE Points must be in this category. All 150 CE points may be in this category.

A. Formally Approved Programs

This area encompasses programs granting approved continuing education credit(s) such as CE, CME, ACPE and academic credit courses.

Acceptable programs must possess one of the following characteristics:

- Have direct application to meeting the care needs of the adult patient population.
- Address clinical knowledge, skills and experience utilized by adult ACNPs.

Twenty-five (**25**) CE Points in Category IA must be Pharmacology CE.

- Pharmacology CE must be related to the APRN's licensed advanced role and population focus.
- Pharmacology CE may be labeled as "Pharmacology contact hours" or "Pharmacotherapeutic contact hours," and may include topics such as drug specific information, safe prescribing practices, safe medication administration, prescribing methodologies, new regulations, or similar content.
- If audited, submit certificate that lists the number of formally-approved Pharmacology CE/contact hours.

These programs need NOT be approved by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and may be offered by hospitals, professional associations or independent education groups. Home study or self-study programs from professional journals and other sources that grant contact hours apply to Category I.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) may account for no more than 50% of the total points in Category I.

If an academic credit course specific to care of the acutely ill adult patient population is completed, CE Points can be awarded in Category I. For academic credit courses, one (1) credit is worth 15 CE Points. For example, a 3-credit course would be worth 45 CE Points.

Eligible courses include, but are not limited to:

- Physical assessment
- Anatomy/physiology/pathophysiology
- Diagnostic tests used in acute and critical care settings (e.g., ABG, x-ray and lab interpretation)
- Concerns regarding the acute or critical care environment (e.g., infection control)
- Psychological or behavioral responses of the patient and family (e.g., sensory deprivation, patient teaching, nursing diagnosis)
- Issues pertaining to the patient care environment (e.g., ethical and legal issues)
- Therapies, interventions or knowledge vital to patient management (e.g., fluid dynamics, BLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, nutritional support, pain management, IV therapy, pharmacology)
- Applied clinical research

B. Continuing Education Programs *Not* Formally Approved

Includes AACN chapter programs, hospital in-services, workshops, study modules, etc. May account for no more than 25 CE Points in Category I.

Category II - Optional Activities

Optional activities may account for no more than 75 of the 150 required CE Points. Points in Category II are not required.

A. Professional Publications

Encompasses professional nursing publications. Responsibility in the publication may be authorship, co-authorship or editorial. The item to be published may be a book, chapter in a book, paper, article, abstract, book reviews, etc. Professionally authored multimedia aids are acceptable (points for joint authorships are determined by dividing the number of points to be awarded by the number of authors).

continued

Number of CE Points Awarded

Editorial in a journal	5
Column in a journal	10
Journal article (peer reviewed)	20
Journal reviewer (article or book chapter)	5
Service on editorial boards	5 points per board, per year
Article in a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter	2
Original research article (peer reviewed)	30
Textbook or chapter editor	1 point per 10 pages (max. 30)
Textbook or chapter author	2 points per 10 pages (max. 50)
Professionally authored multimedia aids	15
Book review	3
Clinical blog	2 (max. 4 points per year)
Master's thesis/final project	30
DNP capstone/final project	35
Doctoral dissertation	45

B. Professional Presentations

Encompasses the certificant's participation as an instructor delivering content related to the adult patient population to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. See the *ACNPC Test Plan* for acceptable topics. The presentation must be delivered within a structured framework of teaching/learning.

A presentation includes a seminar, in-service, clinical conference, patient/family education program, consumer education program, AACN chapter educational activities, podcast and/or presenting an original paper or poster. The participation may be as a primary instructor, member of a team, guest lecturer, panel participant, etc. **No credit is given for repeat presentations of the same content.**

If the program is co-taught, the number of points to be awarded is determined by dividing points by the number of instructors.

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. For example, if you regularly teach in your hospital's orientation program, you may not count those presentations; however, you may count presentations given on a newly researched topic for NTI or for your chapter, etc.

3 points per hour of lecture given (max. 9 points per year)

C. Preceptorship or Volunteer Activities

Participating in activities/teams/committees that solve or prevent complex problems or improve care, across multiple departments, settings, facilities or regions such as spearheading a major patient care improvement; and leading an interdisciplinary team to solve a problem.

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. For example, as one of your hospital's acute care NPs, if you are automatically assigned to the rapid response team, you may not count this participation.

10 points per activity, per year

Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement on a chapter/regional level.

30 points per committee, per year

Leadership responsibilities or committee involvement in professional, governmental or health related organizations.

30 points per committee, per year

Preceptorship/mentorship – A minimum of 80 hours per year of preceptorship activity must be obtained in order for points to be granted.

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. If you are precepting an APRN student from a graduate program and are not faculty in that program, you may count those hours. You may not count hours spent precepting or teaching undergraduate students.

10 points per year

ACNPC CE Renewal Points Log
Please do NOT submit unless being audited.

Name: _____ **AACN Customer Number:** _____

Last   First   MI

Renewal Period: _____ — _____

From   To

ACNPC CE Renewal Points Program

Candidates seeking ACNPC certification renewal must, during the 5-year certification period, complete 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in the area of Acute Care Education Programs (25 as Pharmacology CE).

Directions: Print or type all information legibly. This form may be photocopied. Keep this log for your records to submit if you are selected for a renewal audit.

Category I — Acute Care Education Programs:

At least 75 of the 150 required CE Points must be in this category, of which 25 must be Pharmacology CE. All 150 CE Points may be in this category.

Programs granting contact hours that address subjects with direct application to the needs of the acutely ill patient or family. **If selected for audit**, submit photocopy of CE certificate, which includes name, date(s) of attendance, title of course and contact hours.

Program/Course Title	Date(s)	Sponsoring Organization	CEs Awarded	Office Use
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
Totals				

Category II — Optional Activities:

Optional Activities may account for only 75 of the 150 required CE Points. Optional activities are not required.

Professional Publications

Responsibility in the publication may be authorship, co-authorship or editorial. The item to be published may be a book, chapter in a book, paper, article, abstract, book reviews, etc. Professionally authored multimedia aids are acceptable (points for joint authorship are determined by dividing the number of points to be awarded by the number of authors).

Number of CEs Points awarded: editorial in a journal – 5 each; column in a journal – 10; journal article (peer reviewed) – 20; journal reviewer (article or chapter) – 5; service on editorial boards - 5 points per board, per year; article in a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter – 2; original research article (peer reviewed) – 30; textbook or chapter editor – 1 point per 10 pages (max. 30); textbook or chapter author – 2 points per 10 pages (max. 50); professionally authored multimedia aids – 15; book review - 3; clinical blog - 2 (max. 4 per year); master's thesis/final project – 30; DNP capstone/final project - 35; doctoral dissertation – 45.

Title	Date(s)	Type of Publication	No. of Authors	CEs Awarded	Office Use
1.					
2.					
3.					
				Totals	

Professional Presentations

Encompasses the certificant's participation as an instructor delivering content to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. The presentation must be delivered within a structured framework of teaching/learning.

A presentation includes a seminar, in-service, clinical conference, patient/family education program, consumer education program, AACN chapter educational activities and/or presenting an original paper or poster. The participation may be as a primary instructor, member of a team, guest lecturer, panel participant, etc.

Three (3) points are granted for each contact hour of lecture given (max. 9 points per year). No credit is given for repeat presentations of the same content. If the program is co-taught, the number of points to be awarded is determined by dividing points by the number of instructors.

Presentation/Program Type	Date(s)	No. of Contact Hours Taught	No. of Instructors	CEs Awarded	Office Use
1.					
2.					
3.					
				Totals	

Preceptorship or Volunteer Activities

- Participating in activities/teams/committees that solve or prevent complex problems or improve care, across many participants, multiple departments, settings, facilities or regions such as spearheading a major patient care improvement; and leading an interdisciplinary team to solve a problem – **10 points per activity, per year**
- Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement on a chapter/regional level – **30 points per committee per year;** in professional, governmental or health related organizations – **30 points per committee per year**
- Preceptorship/mentorship – A minimum of 80 hours per year of preceptorship activity must be obtained in order for points to be granted – **10 points per year**

Activity/Organization	Date(s)	No. of Hours Involved in Activity	CEs Awarded	Office Use
1.				
2.				
3.				
(Attach additional sheet if necessary)		Totals		

By signing below I affirm that the information included on this ACNPC CE Renewal Points Log is true and correct.

Signature _____ **Printed Name** _____ **Date** _____

Overview

The ACNPC certification program is based on competencies from nationally recognized organizations such as the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, as well as a study of practice, also known as a job analysis, that is conducted at least every five years. This study of practice validates the knowledge, skills and experience required for safe and effective advanced practice as an adult ACNP. The test plan is constructed using entry-level competencies. All competencies are listed on pages 6-10 of the test plan.

The test plan, which provides an outline of exam content, is developed by an expert ACNP panel based on the results of the study of practice. The organizing framework for all AACN Certification Corporation exams is the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care™. Please refer to pages 20 and 21 for more about the Synergy Model.

Following are the major content dimensions of the adult ACNPC renewal exam, that are part of the test plan:

▸ **Patient Care Problems** validated by the study of practice as those regularly encountered by the entry-level ACNP.

Refer to pages 2-4 for the list of patient care problems.

▸ **Skills and Procedures** validated by the study of practice as those pertinent to the entry-level ACNP. In addition to classifying exam items according to the specified patient care problems and related validated competencies, items may require an understanding of skills and procedures pertinent to adult ACNP practice.

Refer to page 5 for the list of skills and procedures.

▸ **Validated Competencies** include Clinical Judgment, Advocacy/Moral Agency, Caring Practices, Response to Diversity, Facilitation of Learning, Collaboration, Systems Thinking and Clinical Inquiry.

Refer to pages 6-10 for a complete listing of the ACNPC Validated Competencies.

Integrated Concepts

To meet criteria for regulatory sufficiency, APRN certification exams must test national practice standards and core competencies for the role and patient population(s) being certified. The ACNPC renewal exam incorporates the following standards and competencies:

- Advanced Practice Work Group. Bell L, ed. *Scope and Standards for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practice*. Aliso Viejo, CA: American Association of Critical-Care Nurses; 2017.

- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). *Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content*. Washington, DC: NONPF; 2017.

- National Panel for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Competencies. *Adult-Gerontology Acute Care and Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Competencies*. Washington, DC: NONPF; 2016.

Applies to exams taken on and after January 10, 2022

I. CLINICAL JUDGMENT (80%)

Validated Competencies are detailed on pages 6-10 of this test plan.

1A. Cardiovascular (15%)

1. Acute inflammatory disease (e.g., myocarditis, endocarditis, pericarditis)
2. Coronary artery disease
   a. Acute coronary syndrome
3. Cardiac interventions
   a. Surgical (e.g., revascularization, valve replacement, valve repair)
   b. Non surgical/PCI
   c. Hybrid procedures (e.g., ablation, TAVR)
   d. Electrophysiology
4. Cardiac arrest (e.g., ACLS protocols, post care, targeted temperature management [TTM])
5. Cardiac tamponade
6. Cardiac trauma
7. Cardiomyopathies (e.g., hypertrophic, dilated, restrictive, idiopathic)
8. Dyslipidemia
9. Dysrhythmias
10. Heart failure
    a. Acute
    b. Chronic
11. Hypertension
12. Hypertensive urgencies or emergencies
13. Congenital heart disease
14. Structural heart disease
15. Syncope
16. Postural orthostatic tachycardic syndrome
17. Vascular Conditions
    a. Arterial (e.g., carotid stenosis, peripheral artery disease, acute occlusion)
    b. Venous (e.g., stasis, venous insufficiency)
    c. Aortic syndromes (e.g., dissection, aneurysm, occlusion)
    d. Venous thromboembolism (VTE)
    e. Vascular interventions (e.g., stents, bypass, endarterectomy)
    f. Trauma
18. Transplant and mechanical circulatory support (e.g., LVAD, ECMO)

2A. Respiratory (11%)

1. Pulmonary embolus
2. Pulmonary edema
3. Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
4. Respiratory failure
5. Air-leak syndromes (e.g., pneumothorax)
6. Airway obstruction (e.g., angioedema, mucus plug, air space-occupying lesions)
7. Chronic lung disease
   a. Asthma
   b. COPD
   c. Interstitial lung disease
8. Sleep apnea
9. Pleural effusion
10. Pulmonary hypertension
11. Pulmonary infectious/inflammatory conditions
    a. Community-acquired pneumonia
    b. Empyema
    c. Hospital-acquired pneumonia
    d. Ventilator-associated events
    e. Aspiration
12. Pulmonary trauma (e.g., lung contusions, fractured ribs, hemothorax)
13. Pulmonary interventions (e.g., surgical, stent, percutaneous)

Endocrine / Hematology / Gastrointestinal / Renal / Integumentary

3A. Endocrine (6%)

1. Adrenal disorders
2. Diabetes mellitus
3. Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)/hyperglycemic hyperosmolar state (HHS)

4. Hyperglycemia (e.g., stress-induced, medication-induced)

5. Hypoglycemia

6. Syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone (SIADH)

7. Diabetes insipidus

8. Thyroid disorders

3B. Hematology / Immunology / Oncology (6%)

1. Anemia (e.g., microcytic, macrocytic)

2. Autoimmune diseases

3. Coagulopathies

   a. Hypercoagulable states (e.g., cancers, DIC, VTE)

   b. Hypocoagulable states (e.g., thrombocytopenia, iatrogenic/ medication-induced)

4. Hematologic and solid tumors

5. Immunosuppression (e.g., post-transplant, oncologic, medication-induced)

6. Myelosuppression (e.g., neutropenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia)

7. Oncologic emergencies (e.g., tumor lysis syndrome, electrolyte imbalances, SVC syndrome, neutropenic fever)

8. Immunotherapy and chemotherapy side effects (e.g., pneumonitis, colitis, myocarditis)

3C. Gastrointestinal (3%)

1. Abdominal trauma

2. Bowel infarction/obstruction/perforation

3. Gallbladder disease

4. GI infectious disorders

5. GI hemorrhage

6. GI motility disorders (e.g., constipation, diarrhea, ileus, gastroparesis)

7. GI surgeries

8. Hepatorenal syndrome

9. Liver disease (e.g., hepatitis, hepatic failure)

10. Acute liver dysfunction

11. Cirrhosis

12. Pancreatitis

13. Erosive/ulcerative conditions (e.g., GERD, peptic ulcer, IBD/IBS)

3D. Renal / Genitourinary (5%)

1. Acute kidney failure

2. Chronic kidney disease

3. Contrast-associated nephropathy

4. Fluid and electrolyte imbalances

5. Infections (e.g., UTI, PID, STIs)

6. Urogenital/renal trauma

3E. Integumentary (1%)

1. Exfoliative skin disorders (e.g., Stevens-Johnson, toxic epidermal necrolysis [TEN])

2. Infectious skin disorders (e.g., necrotizing fasciitis, cellulitis)

3. Intravenous infiltration and extravasation

4. Pressure injuries

5. Wounds (surgical, nonsurgical, traumatic)

Musculoskeletal / Neurology / Psychosocial

4A. Musculoskeletal (3%)

1. Gait disturbance (e.g., spastic gait, ataxic gait)

2. Infections (e.g., osteomyelitis)

3. Rhabdomyolysis

4. Fractures and dislocations (e.g., traumatic, pathologic, osteoporosis)

5. Amputations

6. Osteoporosis/osteopenia

4B. Neurology (8%)

1. Encephalopathy

2. Intracranial hypertension/herniation syndromes

3. Hydrocephalus

4. Neurologic infectious diseases

5. Neuromuscular disorders

6. Seizure disorders

7. Space-occupying lesions

8. Spinal cord injury

9. Stroke (e.g., ischemic, hemorrhagic)

10. Traumatic brain injury

4C. Psychosocial / Behavioral / Cognitive Health (3%)

1. Agitation
2. Anxiety disorders (e.g., PTSD, OCD, fears, phobias)
3. Delirium
4. Dementia
5. Mood disorders (e.g., depression)
6. Post-ICU syndrome
7. Sleep disorders (e.g., insomnia)
8. Suicidal ideation

Factors Influencing Health Status / Multisystem

5A. Factors Influencing Health Status (risk assessment, prevention wellness) (5%)

1. Advance care planning (e.g., advance directive, power of attorney)
2. Prevention and screening
   a. Primary (e.g., tobacco cessation, vaccines, genetic screening, colon screening)
   b. Secondary (e.g., cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation)
   c. Co-morbid risk assessment (e.g., procedural risk assessment)
3. Caregiver burden
4. Palliative care (e.g., symptom management)
5. Nutrition (e.g., malnutrition, enteral, parenteral)
6. Mobility (e.g., immobility, debility, falls)
7. Medical nonadherence
8. Maltreatment (e.g., abuse, neglect, self-harm)
9. Social determinants of health (e.g., access to care, socioeconomic factors, health literacy)
10. Failure to thrive

5B. Multisystem (14%)

1. Acid-base disorders
2. Compartment syndrome
3. Shock
   a. Distributive shock (e.g., anaphylaxis, neurogenic, septic)
   b. Hypovolemic shock
   c. Cardiogenic shock
4. Sepsis
5. Fever of unknown origin
6. Infectious and communicable diseases
7. Morbid obesity
8. Multisystem trauma
9. Pain management
   a. Acute pain
   b. Chronic pain
10. Substance use disorder
11. Substance withdrawal
12. Burns
13. MODS
14. Solid organ transplant
15. Bone marrow transplant
16. Stem cell transplant
17. Toxic ingestions/inhalations
18. Obstetric/gynecologic conditions
19. Critical illness polyneuropathy
20. Infiltrative disease (e.g., sarcoidosis, amyloidosis)
21. End of life (e.g., transition to comfort care)
22. Organ and tissue donation

II. PROFESSIONAL CARING & ETHICAL PRACTICE (20%)

Validated Competencies are detailed on pages 6-10 of this test plan.

Advocacy / Caring Practices / Response to Diversity / Facilitation of Learning

6A. Advocacy/Moral Agency (3%)

6B. Caring Practices (3%)

6C. Response to Diversity (3%)

6D. Facilitation of Learning (1%)

Collaboration / Systems Thinking / Clinical Inquiry

7A. Collaboration (3%)

7B. Systems Thinking(3%)

7C. Clinical Inquiry (4%)

Order of content does not necessarily reflect importance.

Skills and Procedures

In addition to classifying exam items according to the specified patient care problems and identifying related underlying competencies on the following pages, items <u>may</u> also require an understanding of skills and procedures pertinent to the adult acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP). The study of practice sought to determine whether selected skills and procedures are performed and important to the adult ACNP. The following lists skills and procedures that may be incorporated within items. This list is not intended to be all encompassing, that is, other well-established skills and procedures may also be included in the exam content.

Cardiovascular

- Insert/remove arterial access devices
- Insert/remove central venous access devices
- Insert/remove midline catheters/PICCs
- Interpret electrocardiograms
- Interpret cardiac rhythms
- Interpret echocardiograms
- Interpret hemodynamic values
- Lead cardiopulmonary resuscitation team
- Manage temporary pacemakers
- Manage cardiac implantable electronic devices
- Perform cardioversion
- Manage mechanical circulatory support devices

Respiratory

- Initiate mechanical ventilation
- Manage mechanical ventilation
- Insert/remove large-bore chest tubes
- Insert/remove small-bore chest tubes
- Perform needle thoracostomy
- Perform thoracentesis
- Change, downsize and/or decannulate tracheostomy
- Interpret pulmonary function tests
- Order multi-modal oxygen therapy
- Order noninvasive positive pressure ventilation
- Perform intubation/airway management
- Perform extubation
- Perform rapid-sequence intubation (RSI)
- Perform invasive airway access
- Perform bronchoscopy

Gastrointestinal

- Insert/remove small-bore feeding tubes
- Perform paracentesis

Renal/Genitourinary

- Initiate and manage renal replacement therapies
- Perform pelvic exams

Integumentary

- Administer local anesthetic
- Incise and drain (e.g., skin, wounds, abscesses)
- Perform wound debridement
- Prescribe wound care
- Perform wound closure

Musculoskeletal

- Insert/remove intraosseous access

Hematology/Immunology/Oncology

- Initiate/manage blood-product transfusions

Neurology

- Perform brain death testing
- Perform lumbar puncture
- Manage ICP monitor
- Manage CSF drain
- Manage shunts

Behavioral

- Order and manage restraints

Multisystem

- Interpret diagnostic studies
- Prescribe durable medical equipment
- Prescribe pharmaceutical interventions
- Perform ultrasound-guided diagnostic procedures
- Perform ultrasound-guided therapeutic procedures
- Manage enteral nutrition
- Manage parenteral nutrition
- Perform moderate sedation
- Prescribe and manage thrombolytic therapy
- Declare and certify cardiac death
- Provide multimodal interventions for pain
- Manage end-of-life care

Validated Competencies

In addition to classifying exam items according to the previous specifications, each item is written to reflect one of the following competencies validated through the study of practice. The following competencies are eligible for assessing knowledge of content.

CLINICAL JUDGMENT

NP Competencies

- Develops new practice approaches based on the integration of research, theory and practice knowledge

- Demonstrates the highest level of accountability for professional practice

- Practices independently, managing previously diagnosed and undiagnosed patients

- Provides the full spectrum of healthcare services to include health promotion, disease prevention, health protection, anticipatory guidance, counseling, disease management, palliative and end-of-life care

- Uses advanced health assessment skills to differentiate between normal, variations of normal and abnormal findings

- Employs screening and diagnostic strategies in the development of diagnoses

- Prescribes medications within scope of practice

- Manages the health/illness status of patients and families over time

ACNP Competencies

- Uses scientific knowledge and theoretical foundations to differentiate between normal and abnormal changes in physiological, psychological and sociological development and aging

- Functions as licensed independent practitioner managing complex acute, critical and chronically ill adult and older adult patients at risk for urgent and emergent conditions, using both physiologically and technologically derived data, to manage physiologic instability and risk for potential life-threatening conditions

- Provides for the promotion of health and protection from disease and environmental factors by assessing risks associated with care of acute, critical and complex chronically ill patients

- Identifies the presence of comorbidities and the potential for rapid physiologic and mental health deterioration or life-threatening instability and the risk for iatrogenesis

- Diagnoses common behavioral and mental health and substance use or addictive disorder/disease in the presence of complex acute, critical and chronic illness

- Prioritizes diagnoses during rapid physiologic and mental health deterioration or life-threatening instability

- Performs specific diagnostic strategies and technical skills to monitor and sustain physiological function and ensure patient safety, including but not limited to:

    - ECG interpretation
    - X-ray interpretation
    - Respiratory support
    - Hemodynamic monitoring
    - Line and tube insertion
    - Lumbar puncture
    - Wound debridement

- Manages geriatric syndromes and changing conditions using evidence-based guidelines

- Employs treatments and therapeutic devices as indicated, such as:

    - Oxygen
    - Bilevel PAP
    - Prosthetics
    - Splints
    - Pacers
    - LVAD
    - Adaptive equipment

- Performs therapeutic interventions to stabilize acute and critical health problems, including but not limited to:

    - Suturing
    - Wound debridement
    - Lumbar puncture
    - Airway
    - Line and tube insertion and management

Validated Competencies

- Evaluates the effect of therapies, including but not limited to:

  - Physical therapy

  - Occupational therapy

  - Speech therapy

  - Home health

  - Palliative care

  - Nutritional therapy

- Implements interventions to support the patient with a rapidly deteriorating physiologic condition based on Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Fundamentals of Critical Care Support

- Conducts a pharmacologic assessment addressing pharmacogenetic risks, complex medical regimens, drug interactions and other adverse events

- Prescribes medications maintaining awareness of and monitoring for adverse drug outcomes and complex medical regimens, especially in high-risk and vulnerable populations

- Uses pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic management strategies to ameliorate physical and behavioral symptoms in individuals who have mental health and substance misuse disorders

- Practices within the national, state and institutional credentialing and scope of practice for adult-gerontology acute care NPs based upon education, certification and licensure criteria

ADVOCACY/MORAL AGENCY

NP Competencies

- Advocates for improved access, quality and cost-effective healthcare

- Demonstrates an understanding of the inter-dependence of policy and practice

- Advocates for ethical policies that promote access, equity, quality and cost

- Analyzes ethical, legal and social factors influencing policy development

- Contributes in the development of health policy

- Integrates ethical principles in decision making

- Evaluates the ethical consequences of decisions

- Applies ethically sound solutions to complex issues related to individuals, populations and systems of care

- Advocates for policies for safe and healthy work environments

ACNP Competencies

- Applies ethical and legal standards regarding the use of technology in healthcare for the adult-gerontology population

- Makes recommendations for the design of clinical information systems including age-appropriate clinical and social indicators that promote effective care for the adult-gerontology population

- Advocates for implementation of the full scope of the adult-gerontology acute care NP role

- Advocates within acute care healthcare systems for access to quality cost-effective care

- Advocates for the patient's and family's rights regarding healthcare decision making, taking into account ethical and legal standards

- Facilitates patient and family decision making regarding complex acute, critical and chronic illness treatment decisions

CARING PRACTICES

NP Competencies

- Works to establish a relationship with the patient characterized by mutual respect, empathy and collaboration

- Creates a climate of patient-centered care to include confidentiality, privacy, comfort, emotional support, mutual trust and respect

- Preserves the patient's control over decision making by negotiating a mutually acceptable plan of care

ACNP Competencies

- Employs interventions to support the patient to regain and maintain age-specific physiologic and psychological stability consistent with the patient's goals of care

- Assesses the individual's and family's ability to cope with and manage developmental (life stage) transitions

Validated Competencies

- Initiates discussion of sensitive issues with the individual, family and other caregivers
- Applies principles of crisis and stress management in assisting the patient and family experiencing complex acute, critical and chronic physical and mental illness during changes in status

RESPONSE TO DIVERSITY

NP Competencies

- Provides patient-centered care recognizing cultural diversity and the patient or designee as a full partner in decision making
- Incorporates the patient's cultural and spiritual preferences, values and beliefs into healthcare
- Develops strategies to prevent one's own personal biases from interfering with delivery of quality care
- Addresses cultural, spiritual and ethnic influences that potentially create conflict among individuals' families, staff and caregivers
- Educates professional and lay caregivers to provide culturally and spiritually sensitive appropriate care

ACNP Competencies

- Develops strategies to reduce the impact of ageism and sexism on healthcare policies and systems
- Demonstrates sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and populations

FACILITATION OF LEARNING

NP Competencies

- Communicates practice knowledge effectively, both orally and in writing
- Disseminates evidence from inquiry to diverse audiences using multiple modalities
- Integrates appropriate technologies for knowledge management to improve healthcare
- Translates technical and scientific health information appropriate for various users' needs
- Assesses the patient's and caregiver's educational needs to provide effective, personalized healthcare
- Coaches the patient and caregiver for positive behavioral change
- Demonstrates information literacy skills in complex decision making

ACNP Competencies

- Contributes to knowledge development and improved care of the adult-gerontology population
- Provides guidance, consultation, mentorship and educational experiences to students, nurses and other health professionals in acute and critical care populations and to complex care systems
- Collaborates with the individual, family and caregivers in the development of educational interventions appropriate to the complex acute, critical and chronically ill patient's needs, values, developmental and cognitive level, and health literacy
- Educates individuals, families, caregivers and groups regarding strategies to manage the interaction among normal development, aging and mental and physical disorders
- Adapts teaching-learning approaches based on physiological and psychological changes, age, developmental stage, cognitive status, readiness to learn, health literacy, the environment and available resources

COLLABORATION

NP Competencies

- Provides leadership to foster collaboration with multiple stakeholders (e.g., patients, community, integrated healthcare teams and policymakers) to improve healthcare
- Leads practice inquiry, individually or in partnership with others
- Collaborates in planning for transitions across the continuum of care
- Collaborates with both professional and other caregivers to achieve optimal care outcomes

ACNP Competencies

- Describes the current and evolving adult-gerontology acute care NP role to other healthcare providers and the public
- Develops advanced communication skills and processes for effective collaboration with both formal and informal caregivers and professional staff to achieve optimal care outcomes during complex acute, critical and chronic illness, attending to variations across the life span

Validated Competencies

- Collaborates with intraprofessional and inter-professional teams and informal caregivers to achieve optimal patient outcomes during acute, critical and/or complex chronic illness

SYSTEMS THINKING

NP Competencies

- Assumes complex and advanced leadership roles to initiate and guide change

- Demonstrates leadership that uses critical and reflective thinking

- Advances practice through the development and implementation of innovations incorporating principles of change

- Participates in professional organizations and activities that influence advanced practice nursing and/or health outcomes of a population focus

- Evaluates how organizational structure, care processes, financing, marketing and policy decisions impact the quality of healthcare

- Provides leadership in the translation of new knowledge into practice

- Contributes to the design of clinical information systems that promote safe, quality and cost-effective care

- Uses technology systems that capture data on variables for the evaluation of nursing care

- Analyzes the implications of health policy across disciplines

- Applies knowledge of organizational practices and complex systems to improve healthcare delivery

- Effects healthcare change using broad-based skills, including negotiating, consensus building and partnering

- Minimizes risk to patients and providers at the individual and system level

- Facilitates the development of healthcare systems that address the needs of culturally diverse populations, providers and other stakeholders

- Evaluates the impact of healthcare delivery on patients, providers, other stakeholders and the environment

- Analyzes organizational structure, functions and resources to improve the delivery of care

- Uses devices and technology to improve outcomes for acutely, critically, and chronically ill patients

ACNP Competencies

- Coordinates healthcare services for acute, critical and complex chronic illness

- Provides leadership to facilitate the highly complex planning required for the delivery of care to young adults (including late adolescents), adults and older adults (including frail elderly)

- Synthesizes data from a variety of sources, including clinical decision support technology, to make clinical decisions regarding appropriate management, consultation or referral for acutely and critically ill patients

- Improves practice outcomes through use of devices and technology with care of the acutely, critically and chronically ill patient to enhance safety and monitor healthcare outcomes

- Analyzes technological system barriers across settings, geographic areas and diverse providers to improve care delivery and coordination

- Assesses the impact of internal and external healthcare delivery system factors on individual and population health status and quality of life during acute, critical and complex chronic illness

- Determines the need for transition to a different level of acute care or care environment based on an assessment of an individual's acuity, frailty, stability, resources and need for assistance, supervision or monitoring

- Analyzes the cost-effectiveness of high-acuity practice initiatives accounting for risk and improvement of healthcare outcomes

- Facilitates the patient's transition within healthcare settings and across levels of acute care, including admitting, transferring and discharging patients

- Identifies processes, principles and regulations related to payer systems used in the planning and delivery of complex healthcare services

- Describes challenges to optimal complex care created by the competing priorities of patients, payers, providers and suppliers

- Promotes efficient use of resources in acute care and provision of safe, high-quality care to achieve cost-effective outcomes

Validated Competencies

- Analyzes system barriers to acute care delivery and coordination
- Applies knowledge of the type and level of services provided across complex healthcare and residential settings
- Facilitates patient and family navigation of complex healthcare system
- Participates in interprofessional teams to address issues related to triage situations, quality of life and utilization of resources
- Coordinates comprehensive care in and across care settings for patients who have acute and chronic illness needs
- Analyzes the adequacy of data capture methods in clinical information systems to promote effective care for adult-gerontology populations
- Coordinates transitional care services in and across care settings

CLINICAL INQUIRY

NP Competencies

- Critically analyzes data and evidence for improving advanced nursing practice
- Integrates knowledge from the humanities and sciences within the context of nursing science
- Translates research and other forms of knowledge to improve practice processes and outcomes
- Uses best available evidence to continuously improve quality of clinical practice
- Evaluates the relationships among access, cost, quality and safety and their influence on healthcare
- Applies skills in peer review to promote a culture of excellence
- Anticipates variations in practice and is proactive in implementing interventions to ensure quality
- Generates knowledge from clinical practice to improve practice and patient outcomes
- Applies clinical investigative skills to improve health outcomes
- Analyzes clinical guidelines for individualized application into practice
- Evaluates the impact of globalization on healthcare policy development

ACNP Competencies

- Implements evidence-based practice interventions to promote safety and risk reduction in addressing the unique needs of acutely, critically and complex chronically ill adults and older adults
- Evaluates one's own practice with respect to incorporation of evidence-based practice and leadership skills into their practice
- Participates in the design and/or implementation and evaluation of evidence- based, age-appropriate professional standards and guidelines for care impacting acute, critical and complex chronically ill patients
- Evaluates risk-benefit ratio for adverse outcomes due to acute care treatment, including under- or overtreatment
- Promotes the delivery of evidence-based care for patients with complex acute, critical and chronic physical and mental illness
- Participates in the development, use and evaluation of professional standards of evidence-based care

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Many references are available through AACN; visit www.aacn.org/store.

More current versions may be available.

AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care

The ACNPC certification program is organized using the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care™ as a framework. All competencies are from nationally recognized organizations such as the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The basic tenet of the Synergy Model is that optimal patient outcomes can be produced through the synergistic interaction between the needs of the patient and the competencies of the nurse. AACN Certification Corporation is committed to ensuring that certified nursing practice is based on the needs of patients. Integration of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care into AACN Certification Corporation's certification programs puts emphasis on the patient and says to the world that patients come first.

The Synergy Model creates a comprehensive look at the patient. It puts the patient in the center of nursing practice. The model identifies nursing's unique contributions to patient care and uses language to describe the professional nurse's role. It provides nursing with a venue that clearly states what we do for patients and allows us to start linking ourselves to, and defining ourselves within, the context of the patient and patient outcomes.

Patient Characteristics

The Synergy Model encourages nurses to view patients in a holistic manner rather than the "body systems" medical model. Each patient and family is unique, with a varying capacity for health and vulnerability to illness. Each patient, regardless of the clinical setting, brings a set of unique characteristics to the care situation. Depending on where they are on the healthcare continuum, patients may display varying levels of the following characteristics:

Resiliency	Capacity to return to a restorative level of functioning using compensatory/coping mechanisms; the ability to bounce back quickly after an insult
Vulnerability	Susceptibility to actual or potential stressors that may adversely affect patient outcomes
Stability	Ability to maintain a steady-state equilibrium
Complexity	Intricate entanglement of two or more systems (e.g., body, family, therapies)
Resource Availability	Extent of resources (e.g., technical, fiscal, personal, psychological and social) the patient/family/community bring to the situation
Participation in Care	Extent to which patient/family engages in aspects of care
Participation in Decision-Making	Extent to which patient/family engages in decision-making
Predictability	A characteristic that allows one to expect a certain course of events or course of illness

FOR EXAMPLE:

A healthy, uninsured, 40-year-old woman undergoing a pre-employment physical could be described as an individual who is (a) stable (b) not complex (c) very predictable (d) resilient (e) not vulnerable (f) able to participate in decision-making and care, but (g) has inadequate resource availability.

On the other hand: a critically ill, insured infant with multisystem organ failure can be described as an individual who is (a) unstable (b) highly complex (c) unpredictable (d) highly resilient (e) vulnerable (f) unable to become involved in decision-making and care, but (g) has adequate resource availability.

continued

Nurse Characteristics

Nursing care reflects an integration of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to meet the needs of patients and families. Thus, nurse characteristics are derived from patient needs and include:

Clinical Judgment	Clinical reasoning, which includes clinical decision-making, critical thinking and a global grasp of the situation, coupled with APRN skills acquired through a process of integrating formal and informal experiential knowledge and evidence-based guidelines. Includes differential diagnosis.
Advocacy/ Moral Agency	Working on another's behalf and representing the concerns of the patient/family and nursing staff; serving as a moral agent in identifying and helping to resolve ethical and clinical concerns within and outside the clinical setting.
Caring Practices	APRN activities that create a compassionate, supportive and therapeutic environment for patients and staff, with the aim of promoting comfort and healing and preventing unnecessary suffering. Includes but is not limited to vigilance, engagement and responsiveness of caregivers, including family and healthcare personnel. Content in this category includes pain management, infection control, risk assessment and the nurse practitioner/patient relationship
Collaboration	Working with others (e.g., patients, families, healthcare providers) in a way that promotes/encourages each person's contributions toward achieving optimal/realistic patient/family goals. Includes initiating referrals, providing consultation and the coordination of inter- and intradisciplinary teams to develop or revise plans of care focused on the concerns of the patient, family or both
Systems Thinking	Body of knowledge and tools that allow the APRN to manage whatever environmental and system resources exist for the patient/family and staff, within or across healthcare and non-healthcare systems. Includes analysis and promotion of cost-effective resource utilization that results in optimal patient outcomes.
Response to Diversity	The sensitivity to recognize, appreciate and incorporate differences into the provision of care. Differences may include, but are not limited to, cultural differences, spiritual beliefs, gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, socioeconomic status, age and values.
Facilitation of Learning	The ability to facilitate learning for patients/families, nursing staff, other members of the healthcare team and community. Includes both formal and informal facilitation of learning.
Clinical Inquiry	The ongoing process of questioning and evaluating practice and providing informed practice. Creating changes through evidence-based practice, research utilization and experiential knowledge.

Nurses become competent within each continuum at a level that best meets the fluctuating needs of their population of patients. More compromised patients have more severe or complex needs, requiring nurses to have advanced knowledge and skills in an associated continuum.

FOR EXAMPLE:

If the patient was stable but unpredictable, minimally resilient and vulnerable, primary competencies of the nurse would be centered on clinical judgment and caring practices (which includes vigilance). If the patient was vulnerable, unable to participate in decision-making and care, and had inadequate resource availability, the primary competencies of the nurse would focus on advocacy and moral agency, collaboration and systems thinking.

Although all eight competencies are essential for contemporary nursing practice, each assumes more or less importance depending on a patient's characteristics. **Synergy results when a patient's needs and characteristics are matched with the nurse's competencies.**

Based on the most recent AACN Certification Corporation study of nursing practice, the test plans for our certification exams reflect the Synergy Model as well as current acute/critical care nursing practice.

For more information about the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care visit www.aacn.org.

ACNPC Renewal Audit

In compliance with standard regulatory practices, AACN Certification Corporation conducts random audits following certificants' successful renewal. **Certificants are not notified in advance when being audited.**

Certificants selected for audit are notified via email and have a period of 60 days to submit the required verification materials, which include:

- Copy of RN or APRN license
- CE Renewal Points Log
- Copies of course certificates
- Form to verify practice hours

Failure to respond to or pass an audit may result in revocation of certification. Revocation may include notification of the candidate's employer and state board of nursing, as appropriate.

Certificants who successfully complete ACNPC renewal should continue to keep personal records of CE Renewal Point activities for at least 5 years to submit in the event that an audit is performed.

AACN Certification Corporation reserves the right to conduct additional audits as necessary.

Revocation of Certification

AACN Certification Corporation may revoke certification, or renewal of certification may be denied, for any reason deemed appropriate including, but not limited to, the following:

- Falsification of a certification exam application or renewal application
- Falsification of any information provided to AACN Certification Corporation
- Failure to meet/maintain eligibility requirements
- Failure to pay fees
- Failure to meet deadlines
- Failure to respond to or pass an audit
- Misrepresentation of certification status or misuse of certification
- Conviction of a felony
- Cheating (or reasonable evidence of intent to cheat) on the exam
- Sharing exam content
- Provisions or conditions placed on RN or APRN licensure during the certification renewal period

  Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** of any provisions or conditions placed against their RN or APRN license(s).

In the event of revocation, notification may be sent to the candidate's employer and state board of nursing, where appropriate. The candidate will be notified that he/she may be prohibited from reapplying for any AACN certification exam for a period of up to 3 years.

Fees paid for certification renewal are not refunded.

Review and Appeal of Certification Eligibility

The review and appeal process is available to individuals whose certification status has been denied, expired or revoked.

Internal Review Panel (IRP)

The review process is conducted by the staff of AACN Certification Corporation.

Initial applicants and prospective applicants may request a review of eligibility within 45 days of notification of denial. The written request should describe their eligibility and how it conforms to the certification program.

Requests for review of expired or revoked certification status should include information and documents to support the request for reinstatement. Requests for review should be received within 30 days of notification of certification expiration or revocation.

Please email your request for review to:

certification@aacn.org

Or mail to:

Certification Specialist
AACN Certification Corporation
27071 Aliso Creek Road
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-3399

The IRP will review the documentation provided and render a decision within 30 days. Additional information may be requested by the IRP. The IRP decision will be communicated via phone or email to the individual requesting review.

Appeal of Eligibility, Exam and Renewal Determination

A candidate who believes he/she was unjustly denied eligibility for an exam, who challenges results of an exam or who believes he/she was unjustly denied renewal of certification may request reconsideration of the decision by emailing a written appeal to certification@aacn.org.

The candidate for certification or renewal of certification must provide convincing evidence that a severe disadvantage was afforded the candidate during processing of an application for exam or renewal of certification or prior to or during administration of an exam.

The appeal must be made within 45 days of receipt of the adverse decision (for example, a score report or any other official correspondence related to certification or renewal of certification from AACN Certification Corporation or its agents). The written appeal must also indicate the specific relief requested.

The appeal process is conducted by the AACN Certification Corporation Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel is comprised of certified peer volunteers who have an understanding of the credential being appealed and are not members of the internal review process. Panel members sign confidentiality agreements as well as conflict of interest forms prior to participation.

The Appeals Panel will review the documentation provided and render a decision within 30 days of date of appeal. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final and will be communicated via email to the requesting individual.

For questions about the review and appeal process, please call AACN Certification Corporation at 800-899-2226.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

1 of 2

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

OPTION 1

Application - ACNPC Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points

STAPLE CHECK HERE

Please print clearly.

AACN CUSTOMER: _____ **MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE:** _____ **ACNPC EXP. DATE:** _____

LEGAL NAME: _____

Last   First   MI   Maiden

HOME ADDRESS: _____

City   State   Zip

EMAIL: _____ **HOME PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER NAME: _____ **BUSINESS PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER ADDRESS: _____

City   State   Zip

RENEWAL FEES

Check *one* box only	AACN Member	Nonmember	Renewal + 1 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 2 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 3 Year AACN Membership
ACNPC Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points	☐ $250	☐ $340	☐ $328	☐ $398	☐ $450

AACN membership includes nonrefundable $12 and $15 one-year subscriptions to *Critical Care Nurse*® and the *American Journal of Critical Care*®, respectively. AACN dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes, but may be deducted as a business expense in keeping with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

☐ Please do not include my name on lists sold to other organizations.

PAYMENT INFORMATION - *application must be accompanied by payment*

☐ Check or money order attached – *payable to AACN Certification Corporation. U.S. funds only.*

Bill my credit card: ☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ American Express   ☐ Discover Card

Credit Card # [ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ]   Exp. Date (mm/yy) [ ][ ] / [ ][ ]

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Amount Billed $_____ Address of Payor (if different than applicant) _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determination.

Primary Area Employed
- ☐ Acute Hemodialysis Unit (21)
- ☐ Burn Unit (13)
- ☐ Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
- ☐ Cardiac Surgery/OR (36)
- ☐ Cardiovascular/Surg. ICU (09)
- ☐ Catheterization Lab (22)
- ☐ Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (23)
- ☐ Combined ICU/CCU (01)
- ☐ Coronary Care Unit (03)
- ☐ Corporate Industry (24)
- ☐ Critical Care Transport/ Flight (17)
- ☐ Direct Observation Unit (39)
- ☐ Emergency Dept. (12)
- ☐ General Med./Surg. Floor (18)
- ☐ Home Care (25)
- ☐ Intensive Care Unit (02)
- ☐ Interventional Cardiology (31)
- ☐ Long-Term Acute Care (27)
- ☐ Medical Cardiology (34)
- ☐ Medical ICU (04)
- ☐ Medical Surgical ICU (35)
- ☐ Neonatal ICU (06)
- ☐ Neuro./Neurosurgical ICU (10)
- ☐ Oncology Unit (19)

- ☐ Operating Room (15)
- ☐ Outpatient Clinic (29)
- ☐ Pediatric ICU (05)
- ☐ Private Practice (32)
- ☐ Progressive Care Unit (16)
- ☐ Recovery Room/PACU (14)
- ☐ Respiratory ICU (08)
- ☐ Stepdown Unit (30)
- ☐ Subacute Care (28)
- ☐ Surgical ICU (07)
- ☐ TeleICU (37)
- ☐ Telemetry (20)
- ☐ Trauma Unit (11)
- ☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Position Held
- ☐ Academic Faculty (07)
- ☐ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
- ☐ Bedside/Staff Nurse (01)
- ☐ Case Manager (39)
- ☐ Charge Nurse (45)
- ☐ Clinic Nurse (40)
- ☐ Clinical Coordinator (44)
- ☐ Clinical Director (04)

- ☐ Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
- ☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
- ☐ Hospital Administrator (38)
- ☐ Internist (37)
- ☐ Legal Nurse Consultant (47)
- ☐ Manager (03)
- ☐ Nurse Anesthetist (02)
- ☐ Nurse Educator (46)
- ☐ Nurse Midwife (13)
- ☐ Nurse Practitioner (05)
- ☐ Outcomes Manager (42)
- ☐ Physician (16)
- ☐ Physician Assistant (17)
- ☐ Researcher (18)
- ☐ Respiratory Therapist (19)
- ☐ Technician (21)
- ☐ Unit Coordinator (22)
- ☐ Other - *specify below*

_____ (99)

Highest Nursing Degree
- ☐ Associate's Degree
- ☐ Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Diploma
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Master's Degree

Ethnicity
- ☐ African American (02)
- ☐ Asian (05)
- ☐ Hispanic (03)
- ☐ Native American (04)
- ☐ Pacific Islander (06)
- ☐ White/Non-Hispanic (01)
- ☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed
- ☐ College/University (08)
- ☐ Community Hospital (Nonprofit) (01)
- ☐ Community Hosp. (Profit) (02)
- ☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
- ☐ County Hospital (07)
- ☐ Federal Hospital (05)
- ☐ HMO/Managed Care (12)
- ☐ Home Health (13)
- ☐ Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (16)
- ☐ Military/Gov't Hospital (04)
- ☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)

- ☐ Registry (10)
- ☐ Self-Employed (09)
- ☐ State Hospital (06)
- ☐ Travel Nurse (15)
- ☐ University Med. Ctr. (03)
- ☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Number of Beds in Institution: _____

Years of Experience in Nursing: _____

Years of Experience in Acute/Critical Care Nursing: _____

Date of Birth: *(mm/dd/yy)*

_____

Gender:
- ☐ Male ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary

Please complete second page of application.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

2 of 2

AACN
CERTIFICATION
CORPORATION

OPTION 1

Honor Statement - ACNPC Renewal
by Practice Hours and CE Points

Please print clearly.

NAME: _____ **AACN CUSTOMER #:** _____
              Last   First   MI

I hereby apply for ACNPC certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the *ACNPC Renewal Handbook*.

LICENSURE: I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My _____ (state) nursing license _____ (number) is due to expire _____ (date). During this last 5-year certification period, no license I've held was subjected to formal discipline by the board of nursing in the state(s) in which I practiced and had no provisions or conditions that limited my nursing practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** if any provisions or conditions are placed against any RN or APRN license(s) I hold. I understand I may be eligible for Conditional Certification if my license becomes encumbered.

PRACTICE: I understand that a significant component of APRN practice focuses on direct care of individuals. During this last 5-year certification period, I have completed 1,000 hours, as an APRN within the U.S. in the care of acutely ill **adult** patients in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner.

PRACTICE VERIFICATION: Following is the contact information of my supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify that I have met the practice hour requirements:

Verifier's Name: _____ **Facility Name:** _____
           Last   First

Verifier's Phone Number: _____ **Verifier's Email Address:** _____

You may not list yourself or a relative as your verifier.

CONTINUED COMPETENCE: During this last 5-year certification period, I completed 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in the area of Acute Care Education Programs (25 as Pharmacology CE).

AUDIT: I understand that my certification eligibility is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification. If selected for audit, I understand that switching to renewal by exam, selecting Inactive or another status, or completing CERPs/CE Points is not an option.

ETHICS: I understand the importance of ethical standards and agree to act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

NONDISCLOSURE OF EXAM CONTENT: Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the contents of the exam confidential and not disclose or discuss specific exam content with anyone except AACN Certification Corporation. Per AACN Certification Corporation policy, sharing of exam content is cause for revocation of certification.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application and all supporting documentation is accurate and submitted in good faith. My signature below indicates I have read this honor statement and meet the eligibility requirements as outlined.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE: Mail application with payment to:
AACN Certification Corporation, 27071 Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-3399 **or** fax to: 949-362-2020.
DO NOT fax **AND** mail your application. Please use only ONE method to submit your application.

Please allow **2 to 4** weeks from the date received by AACN Certification Corporation for the processing of your application.

Questions? Please visit www.aacn.org/certification, email APRNcert@aacn.org or call us at 800-899-2226.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

1 of 2

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

OPTION 2

Application - ACNPC Renewal
by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam

Please print clearly.

AACN CUSTOMER: _____ **MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE:** _____ **ACNPC EXP. DATE:** _____

LEGAL NAME: _____

Last   First   MI   Maiden

HOME ADDRESS: _____

City   State   Zip

EMAIL: _____ **HOME PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER NAME: _____ **BUSINESS PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER ADDRESS: _____

City   State   Zip

RENEWAL FEES

Check *one* box only	AACN Member	Nonmember	Renewal + 1 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 2 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 3 Year AACN Membership
ACNPC Renewal by Practice Hours, Pharm. CE and Exam	☐ $210	☐ $315	☐ $288	☐ $358	☐ $410

AACN membership includes nonrefundable $12 and $15 one-year subscriptions to *Critical Care Nurse*® and the *American Journal of Critical Care*®, respectively. AACN dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes, but may be deducted as a business expense in keeping with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

☐ Please do not include my name on lists sold to other organizations.

PAYMENT INFORMATION *- application must be accompanied by payment*

☐ Check or money order attached – *payable to AACN Certification Corporation. U.S. funds only.*

Bill my credit card: ☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ American Express   ☐ Discover Card

Credit Card # [ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ]   Exp. Date (mm/yy) [ ][ ] / [ ][ ]

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Amount Billed $_____ Address of Payor (if different than applicant) _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determination.

Primary Area Employed
☐ Acute Hemodialysis Unit (21)
☐ Burn Unit (13)
☐ Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
☐ Cardiac Surgery/OR (36)
☐ Cardiovascular/Surg. ICU (09)
☐ Catheterization Lab (22)
☐ Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (23)
☐ Combined ICU/CCU (01)
☐ Coronary Care Unit (03)
☐ Corporate Industry (24)
☐ Critical Care Transport/ Flight (17)
☐ Direct Observation Unit (39)
☐ Emergency Dept. (12)
☐ General Med./Surg. Floor (18)
☐ Home Care (25)
☐ Intensive Care Unit (02)
☐ Interventional Cardiology (31)
☐ Long-Term Acute Care (27)
☐ Medical Cardiology (34)
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☐ Medical Surgical ICU (35)
☐ Neonatal ICU (06)
☐ Neuro./Neurosurgical ICU (10)
☐ Oncology Unit (19)

☐ Operating Room (15)
☐ Outpatient Clinic (29)
☐ Pediatric ICU (05)
☐ Private Practice (32)
☐ Progressive Care Unit (16)
☐ Recovery Room/PACU (14)
☐ Respiratory ICU (08)
☐ Stepdown Unit (30)
☐ Subacute Care (28)
☐ Surgical ICU (07)
☐ TeleICU (37)
☐ Telemetry (20)
☐ Trauma Unit (11)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Position Held
☐ Academic Faculty (07)
☐ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
☐ Bedside/Staff Nurse (01)
☐ Case Manager (39)
☐ Charge Nurse (45)
☐ Clinic Nurse (40)
☐ Clinical Coordinator (44)
☐ Clinical Director (04)

☐ Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
☐ Hospital Administrator (38)
☐ Internist (37)
☐ Legal Nurse Consultant (47)
☐ Manager (03)
☐ Nurse Anesthetist (02)
☐ Nurse Educator (46)
☐ Nurse Midwife (13)
☐ Nurse Practitioner (05)
☐ Outcomes Manager (42)
☐ Physician (16)
☐ Physician Assistant (17)
☐ Researcher (18)
☐ Respiratory Therapist (19)
☐ Technician (21)
☐ Unit Coordinator (22)
☐ Other - *specify below*

_____ (99)

Highest Nursing Degree
☐ Associate's Degree
☐ Bachelor's Degree
☐ Diploma
☐ Doctorate
☐ Master's Degree

Ethnicity
☐ African American (02)
☐ Asian (05)
☐ Hispanic (03)
☐ Native American (04)
☐ Pacific Islander (06)
☐ White/Non-Hispanic (01)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed
☐ College/University (08)
☐ Community Hospital (Nonprofit) (01)
☐ Community Hosp. (Profit) (02)
☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
☐ County Hospital (07)
☐ Federal Hospital (05)
☐ HMO/Managed Care (12)
☐ Home Health (13)
☐ Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (16)
☐ Military/Gov't Hospital (04)
☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)

☐ Registry (10)
☐ Self-Employed (09)
☐ State Hospital (06)
☐ Travel Nurse (15)
☐ University Med. Ctr. (03)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Number of Beds in Institution: _____

Years of Experience in Nursing: _____

Years of Experience in Acute/Critical Care Nursing: _____

Date of Birth: *(mm/dd/yy)*

_____

Gender:
☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Non-binary

Please complete second page of application.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

2 of 2

AACN
CERTIFICATION
CORPORATION

OPTION 2

Honor Statement - ACNPC Renewal
by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam

Please print clearly.

NAME: _____ **AACN CUSTOMER #:** _____
              Last   First   MI

I hereby apply for ACNPC certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the *ACNPC Renewal Handbook* and the *Certification Exam Policy Handbook*.

LICENSURE: I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My _____ (state) nursing license _____ (number) is due to expire _____ (date). During this last 5-year certification period, no license I've held was subjected to formal discipline by the board of nursing in the state(s) in which I practiced and had no provisions or conditions that limited my nursing practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** if any provisions or conditions are placed against any RN or APRN license(s) I hold. I understand I may be eligible for Conditional Certification if my license becomes encumbered.

PRACTICE: I understand that a significant component of APRN practice focuses on the direct care of individuals. During this last 5-year certification period, I have completed 1,000 hours, as an APRN within the U.S. in the care of acutely ill **adult** patients in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner.

PRACTICE VERIFICATION: Following is the contact information of my supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify that I have met the practice hour requirements:

Verifier's Name: _____ **Facility Name:** _____
                    Last   First

Verifier's Phone Number: _____ **Verifier's Email Address:** _____

You may not list yourself or a relative as your verifier.

CONTINUED COMPETENCE: During this last 5-year certification period, I completed 25 Pharmacology CE.

AUDIT: I understand that my certification eligibility is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification. If selected for audit, I understand that switching to renewal by exam, selecting Inactive or another status, or completing CERPs/CE Points is not an option.

ETHICS: I understand the importance of ethical standards and agree to act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

NONDISCLOSURE OF EXAM CONTENT: Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the contents of the exam confidential and not disclose or discuss specific exam content with anyone except AACN Certification Corporation. Per AACN Certification Corporation policy, sharing of exam content is cause for revocation of certification.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application and all supporting documentation is accurate and submitted in good faith. My signature below indicates I have read this honor statement and meet the eligibility requirements as outlined.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

REFER TO: The *Certification Exam Policy Handbook* contains testing site and scheduling information, and day of exam rules.

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE: Mail application with payment to:
AACN Certification Corporation, 27071 Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-3399 **or** fax to: 949-362-2020.
DO NOT fax **AND** mail your application. Please use only ONE method to submit your application.

Please allow **2 to 4** weeks from the date received by AACN Certification Corporation for the processing of your application.

Questions? Please visit www.aacn.org/certification, email APRNcert@aacn.org or call us at 800-899-2226.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

1 of 2

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

OPTION 3

STAPLE CHECK HERE

Application - ACNPC Renewal by CE Points and Exam

Please print clearly.

AACN CUSTOMER: _____ **MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE:** _____ **ACNPC EXP. DATE:** _____

LEGAL NAME: _____

Last | First | MI | Maiden

HOME ADDRESS: _____

City | State | Zip

EMAIL: _____ **HOME PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER NAME: _____ **BUSINESS PHONE:** _____

EMPLOYER ADDRESS: _____

City | State | Zip

RENEWAL FEES

Check *one* box only	AACN Member	Nonmember	Renewal + 1 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 2 Year AACN Membership	Renewal + 3 Year AACN Membership
ACNPC Renewal by CE Points and Exam	☐ $210	☐ $315	☐ $288	☐ $358	☐ $410

AACN membership includes nonrefundable $12 and $15 one-year subscriptions to *Critical Care Nurse®* and the *American Journal of Critical Care®*, respectively. AACN dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes, but may be deducted as a business expense in keeping with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

☐ Please do not include my name on lists sold to other organizations.

PAYMENT INFORMATION - *application must be accompanied by payment*

☐ Check or money order attached – *payable to AACN Certification Corporation. U.S. funds only.*

Bill my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card

Credit Card # ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Exp. Date (mm/yy) ☐☐ / ☐☐

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Amount Billed $_____ Address of Payor (if different than applicant) _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determination.

Primary Area Employed
☐ Acute Hemodialysis Unit (21)
☐ Burn Unit (13)
☐ Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
☐ Cardiac Surgery/OR (36)
☐ Cardiovascular/Surg. ICU (09)
☐ Catheterization Lab (22)
☐ Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (23)
☐ Combined ICU/CCU (01)
☐ Coronary Care Unit (03)
☐ Corporate Industry (24)
☐ Critical Care Transport/ Flight (17)
☐ Direct Observation Unit (39)
☐ Emergency Dept. (12)
☐ General Med./Surg. Floor (18)
☐ Home Care (25)
☐ Intensive Care Unit (02)
☐ Interventional Cardiology (31)
☐ Long-Term Acute Care (27)
☐ Medical Cardiology (34)
☐ Medical ICU (04)
☐ Medical Surgical ICU (35)
☐ Neonatal ICU (06)
☐ Neuro./Neurosurgical ICU (10)
☐ Oncology Unit (19)

☐ Operating Room (15)
☐ Outpatient Clinic (29)
☐ Pediatric ICU (05)
☐ Private Practice (32)
☐ Progressive Care Unit (16)
☐ Recovery Room/PACU (14)
☐ Respiratory ICU (08)
☐ Stepdown Unit (30)
☐ Subacute Care (28)
☐ Surgical ICU (07)
☐ TeleICU (37)
☐ Telemetry (20)
☐ Trauma Unit (11)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Position Held
☐ Academic Faculty (07)
☐ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
☐ Bedside/Staff Nurse (01)
☐ Case Manager (39)
☐ Charge Nurse (45)
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☐ Clinical Coordinator (44)
☐ Clinical Director (04)

☐ Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
☐ Hospital Administrator (38)
☐ Internist (37)
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☐ Manager (03)
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☐ Nurse Educator (46)
☐ Nurse Midwife (13)
☐ Nurse Practitioner (05)
☐ Outcomes Manager (42)
☐ Physician (16)
☐ Physician Assistant (17)
☐ Researcher (18)
☐ Respiratory Therapist (19)
☐ Technician (21)
☐ Unit Coordinator (22)
☐ Other - *specify below*

_____ (99)

Highest Nursing Degree
☐ Associate's Degree
☐ Bachelor's Degree
☐ Diploma
☐ Doctorate
☐ Master's Degree

Ethnicity
☐ African American (02)
☐ Asian (05)
☐ Hispanic (03)
☐ Native American (04)
☐ Pacific Islander (06)
☐ White/Non-Hispanic (01)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed
☐ College/University (08)
☐ Community Hospital (Nonprofit) (01)
☐ Community Hosp. (Profit) (02)
☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
☐ County Hospital (07)
☐ Federal Hospital (05)
☐ HMO/Managed Care (12)
☐ Home Health (13)
☐ Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (16)
☐ Military/Gov't Hospital (04)
☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)

☐ Registry (10)
☐ Self-Employed (09)
☐ State Hospital (06)
☐ Travel Nurse (15)
☐ University Med. Ctr. (03)
☐ Other – *specify below*

_____ (99)

Number of Beds in Institution: _____

Years of Experience in Nursing: _____

Years of Experience in Acute/Critical Care Nursing: _____

Date of Birth: *(mm/dd/yy)*

_____

Gender:
☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Non-binary

Please complete second page of application.

Submit an ONLINE application at www.aacn.org/certification > Renew Certification.

2 of 2

AACN
CERTIFICATION
CORPORATION

OPTION 3

Honor Statement - ACNPC Renewal
by CE Points and Exam

Please print clearly.

NAME: _____ **AACN CUSTOMER #:** _____
            Last   First   MI

I hereby apply for ACNPC certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the *ACNPC Renewal Handbook* and the *Certification Exam Policy Handbook*.

LICENSURE: I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My _____ (state) nursing license _____ (number) is due to expire _____ (date). During this last 5-year certification period, no license I've held was subjected to formal discipline by the board of nursing in the state(s) in which I practiced and had no provisions or conditions that limited my nursing practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** if any provisions or conditions are placed against any RN or APRN license(s) I hold. I understand I may be eligible for Conditional Certification if my license becomes encumbered.

CONTINUED COMPETENCE: During this last 5-year certification period, I completed 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in the area of Acute Care Education Programs (25 as Pharmacology CE).

AUDIT: I understand that my certification eligibility is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification. If selected for audit, I understand that switching to renewal by exam, selecting Inactive or another status, or completing CERPs/CE Points is not an option.

ETHICS: I understand the importance of ethical standards and agree to act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

NONDISCLOSURE OF EXAM CONTENT: Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the contents of the exam confidential and not disclose or discuss specific exam content with anyone except AACN Certification Corporation. Per AACN Certification Corporation policy, sharing of exam content is cause for revocation of certification.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application and all supporting documentation is accurate and submitted in good faith. My signature below indicates I have read this honor statement and meet the eligibility requirements as outlined.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

REFER TO: The *Certification Exam Policy Handbook* contains testing site and scheduling information, and day of exam rules.

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE: Mail application with payment to:
AACN Certification Corporation, 27071 Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-3399 **or** fax to: 949-362-2020.
DO NOT fax **AND** mail your application. Please use only ONE method to submit your application.

Please allow **2 to 4** weeks from the date received by AACN Certification Corporation for the processing of your application.

Questions? Please visit www.aacn.org/certification, email APRNcert@aacn.org or call us at 800-899-2226.