MISSION

AACN Certification Corporation drives patient health and safety through comprehensive credentialing of acute and critical care nurses ensuring 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 ensuring the health and safety of patients experiencing acute and critical illness, the Corporation is guided by a set of deeply rooted values:

- **Providing leadership** to bring all stakeholders together to create and foster cultures of excellence and innovation
- **Acting with integrity** and upholding ethical values and principles in all relationships and the provision of sound, fair and defensible credentialing programs
- **Committing to excellence** in credentialing programs by striving to exceed industry standards and expectations
- **Promoting leading edge, research-based credentialing programs** for all nurses who care for and influence the care of acutely and critically ill patients
- **Demonstrating stewardship** through fair and responsible management of resources and cost-effective business processes

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 National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation arm of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE):

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

Our advanced practice certification programs, ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-P, ACCNS-N and ACNPC-AG, meet the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) criteria for APRN certification programs.
ACNPC-AG RENEWAL HANDBOOK
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

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-AG certification.

Today, more than 125,000 practicing nurses hold one or more of these certifications from AACN Certification Corporation:

Specialty Certifications
- CCRN® is for nurses providing direct care to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.
- CCRN-K™ is for nurses who influence the care delivered to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients, but do not primarily or exclusively provide direct care.
- CCRN-E™ is for nurses working in a teleICU monitoring/caring for acutely/critically ill adult patients from a remote location.
- PCCN® is for progressive care nurses providing direct care to acutely ill adult patients.
- PCCN-K™ is for nurses who influence the care delivered to acutely ill adult patients, but do not primarily or exclusively provide direct care.

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

Advanced Practice Consensus Model-Based Certifications
- ACNPC-AG® is for the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner educated at the graduate level.

The ACCNS credentials are for clinical nurse specialists educated at the graduate level to provide care across the continuum from wellness through acute care:
- ACCNS-AG® is for the adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialists educated to care for adult-gerontology patients.
- ACCNS-P® is for the pediatric clinical nurse specialists educated to care for pediatric patients.
- ACCNS-N® is for the neonatal clinical nurse specialists educated to care for neonatal patients.

Advanced Practice Certifications
With implementation of the Consensus Model in 2015, ACNPC and CCNS are available as renewal options only:
- ACNPC® is for acute care nurse practitioners educated to provide care to adult patients.
- CCNS® is for acute/critical care clinical care specialists educated to provide care to adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.

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.
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### ACNPC-AG Renewal Applications

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Please direct inquiries to:

AACN Certification Corporation, 101 Columbia, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-4109
800-899-2226 • Fax: 949-362-2020 • APRNcert@aacn.org

Please include your AACN customer number with all correspondence to AACN Certification Corporation.
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-AG is an entry-level advanced practice certification for acute care nurse practitioners (ACNPs) educated at the graduate level to provide continuous and comprehensive advanced nursing care to acutely ill adult-gerontology patients (young adults, older adults and frail elderly) experiencing episodic illness, exacerbation of chronic illness or terminal illness.

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-AG Registered Service Mark
ACNPC-AG® is a registered service mark and denotes certification as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner as granted by AACN Certification Corporation. Adult-gerontology ACNPs who have not achieved ACNPC-AG certification or whose ACNPC-AG certification has lapsed are not authorized to use the ACNPC-AG 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 the ACNPC-AG certification program.

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

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

Chris Smith, RN, MSN, ACNPC-AG.

AACN views misuse of the credential as misleading to the public and may result in denial of certification or revocation of certification.

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

Late or retroactive renewal is not available for ACNPC-AG certification. To maintain a current ACNPC-AG certification, renewal must be completed prior to your certification expiration date.

**ACNPC-AG RENEWAL FEES**

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<th>Renewal Method</th>
<th>AACN Members</th>
<th>Nonmembers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal by Practice Hours and Exam</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal by CE Points and Exam</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$305</td>
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Payable in U.S. funds. A $15 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

Fees are subject to change without notice.

The renewal fee is for processing and is nonrefundable.

**NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES**

Renewal notifications will be mailed and 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 the 90-day testing window

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

**ACNPC-AG 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-AG certification, the adequacy of a candidate’s knowledge in caring for the acutely ill.

If Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is not selected as “Primary Position Held” on your ACNPC-AG Renewal application and/or your “Primary Area Employed” is not clearly in an area where acutely ill patients are typically cared for, you must complete the ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form on pages 11-15 and submit with your renewal application.
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 continuing education (CE) including pharmacology
- Practice hours, CE in pharmacology and passing the certification exam
- CE including pharmacology 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-AG renewal must hold a current, unencumbered U.S*. RN or APRN license.

- An unencumbered license has not been subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and has no provisions or conditions that limit the nurse’s practice in any way. This applies to all RN and APRN licenses currently held.
- Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if any restriction is 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-AG-certified.

Nurses who hold an encumbered license, meaning discipline has been taken against the RN and/or APRN license and practice is considered restricted as outlined by State Board of Nursing (SBON) stipulations, may be eligible for Conditional Certification. Email APRNcert@aacn.org to inquire.

- Conditional Certification is a temporary status granted to a nurse seeking APRN certification who is in the process of resolving disciplinary action with any SBON.
- Conditional status will be changed to Active status once stipulations from the SBON order are resolved, RN and/or APRN practice is no longer restricted, and the license is unencumbered.
- If the SBON suspends or revokes the nurse’s license and he/she cannot practice, certification will be revoked.

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

Renewal Options

ACNPC-AGs may seek certification renewal via one of the following options:

Option 1 - Practice Hours and CE Points

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG 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 and 25 of which must be pharmacology-focused.
- Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on pages 9 and 10 of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.
- Candidates must complete the ACNPC-AG Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Renewal Points application/honor statement located on pages 20 and 21.

continued
ACNPC-AG Certification Renewal (continued)

Option 2 - Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG 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-AG Renewal by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 22 and 23.

Option 3 - CE Points and Exam

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG renewal candidates must complete 150 CE Renewal Points, 75 of which must be in Category I - Acute Care Education Programs and 25 of which must be in pharmacology, and apply for, take and pass the ACNPC-AG exam before the certification expiration date.
- Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on pages 9 and 10 of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.
- Candidates must complete the ACNPC-AG Renewal by CE Points and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 24 and 25.

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

- Practice hours for ACNPC-AG renewal includes active involvement in the direct care of acutely ill adult-gerontology 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-gerontology 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-AG renewal.
- Eligible practice hours for ACNPC-AG 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)

- For current test plan and study references, refer to the ACNPC-AG Exam Handbook. 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-AG exam before the expiration date of their certification.

Questions regarding eligibility should be emailed to APRNcert@aacn.org.
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS PROGRAM

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 acute care programs granting approved continuing education credit(s) such as CE, CME or 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-gerontology patient population.
- Address clinical knowledge, skills and abilities utilized by adult-gerontology ACNPs.

Twenty-five (25) CE Points in Category I must be pharmacology-focused:

- Pharmacology content must be at the advanced practice level and related to the APRN’s licensed advanced role and population focus.
- To determine the number of CE Points for programs providing CEs or CMEs that don’t specify pharmacology hours and programs that don’t provide formal contact hours, but include pharmacology content, use the following calculation: 60 minutes = 1 CE Point.
- If audited, submit the educational presentation or conference agenda as evidence to validate the CE point calculation and include a narrative note describing pharmacology content within agenda.

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 adult-gerontology 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. Optional activities 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
### ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

**Number of CEs Points Awarded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial in a journal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Write a column for a journal</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Article in a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original research article (peer reviewed)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbook or chapter editor</td>
<td>2 points / 10 pages (max 30)</td>
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<td>Textbook author less than 300 pages</td>
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<td>Textbook author more than 300 pages</td>
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<td>Professionally authored multimedia aids</td>
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<td>Research abstract</td>
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<td>Journal article (peer reviewed)</td>
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<td>Journal reviewer (articles or book chapters)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Book reviews</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s thesis or equivalent final project</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral dissertation or equivalent final project</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service on editorial boards</td>
<td>5 points per board per year</td>
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**B. Professional Presentations**

Encompasses the certificant’s participation as an instructor delivering content related to the adult-gerontology patient population to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. See the ACNPC-AG 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 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.

*6 points per hour of lecture given*

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.

**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.

*10 points per year*

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

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

*10 points per committee per year*

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

*10 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*

**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.
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS LOG

Please do NOT submit unless being audited.

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<th>NAME:</th>
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RENEWAL PERIOD: 

| 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-focused. 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.

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<tr>
<th>Program/Course Title</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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| TOTALS               |         |                         |             |           |
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS LOG

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 awarded: Editorial in a journal, book review – 5 each; Write a column for a journal – 10; Article for a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter – 3; Original research article (peer reviewed) – 30; Textbook or chapter author or editor – 2 points per 10 pages (max 30); Textbook author less than 300 pages – 30; Textbook author more than 300 pages – 60; Professionally authored multimedia aids – 15; Research abstract – 5; Journal article (peer reviewed) – 20; Journal reviewer (articles or book chapters) – 5; Unpublished master’s thesis – 30; Doctoral dissertation – 45; Service on editorial boards – 5 points per board per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Type of Publication</th>
<th>No. of Authors</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
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| 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.

Six (6) points are granted for each contact hour of lecture given. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation/Program Type</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>No. of Contact Hours Taught</th>
<th>No. of Instructors</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
<th>Office Use</th>
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| 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 year
- Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement on a chapter/regional level – 10 points per committee per year; in professional or health related organizations – 10 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Organization</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>No. of Hours Involved in Activity</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
<th>Office Use</th>
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| TOTALS |         |                     |                |             |            |

(Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

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

Signature ___________________ Printed Name ___________________ Date __________
This form is for use by applicants who are unable to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under “Primary Position Held” on their ACNPC-AG Renewal Application, but believe their practice aligns with the role of the ACNP.

Please check any of the following activities that apply to your practice during the 5-year ACNPC-AG certification renewal period. If you wish to provide any additional information about your practice, please include an additional page.

CLINICAL JUDGMENT

Core ACNP 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

Adult-Gerontology 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
Evaluates the effect of therapies, including but not limited to physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, home health, palliative care and 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

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

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

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

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

Core ACNP 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

Adult-Gerontology 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

Core ACNP 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

Adult-Gerontology 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

COLLABORATION

Core ACNP 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

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

SYSTEMS THINKING

Core ACNP 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

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

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

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

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

Adult-Gerontology 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

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

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

Coordinates comprehensive care in and across care settings for patients who have acute and chronic illness needs

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

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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
CLINICAL INQUIRY

Core ACNP 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

Adult-Gerontology 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

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY, OR CREATE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT USING THE ABOVE FORMAT.
AACN SYNERGY MODEL FOR PATIENT CARE

The ACNPC-AG 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:

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

**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, abilities and experience necessary to meet the needs of patients and families. Thus, nurse characteristics are derived from patient needs and include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurse Characteristic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Judgment</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy/Moral Agency</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caring Practices</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaboration</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Systems Thinking</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response to Diversity</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilitation of Learning</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Inquiry</strong></td>
<td>The ongoing process of questioning and evaluating practice and providing informed practice. Creating practice changes through research utilization and experiential learning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 findings related to nursing care of the patient population studied (e.g., ACNP practice in the care of adult-gerontology patients).
ACNPC-AG 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 mail 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 clinical 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-AG 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 credential
- Conviction of a felony
- Cheating (or reasonable evidence of intent to cheat) on an exam
- Sharing exam content
- Restrictions placed on RN or APRN licensure during the certification period

Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days of any provisions or conditions placed on their RN or APRN license(s) that limit their practice in any way.

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.
**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
101 Columbia
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

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.
ACNPC-AG Renewal Handbook | October 2019

APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL BY PRACTICE HOURS AND CE POINTS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PROCESSING WILL BE DELAYED IF INCOMPLETE OR NOT LEGIBLE. LEGAL NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED ID CARD IS REQUIRED FOR EXAM.

AACN CUSTOMER #: MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE: ACNPC-AG EXP. DATE:

LEGAL NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

EMPLOYER NAME:

EMPLOYER ADDRESS:

RENEWAL FEES

Check one box only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.NC Member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>Renewal + 1 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 2 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 3 Year Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$258</td>
<td>$328</td>
<td>$380</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ACNPC-AG 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 such lists sold to other organizations.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ 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 Medical/Surgical 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

Primary Position Held


Highest Nursing Degree

☐ Associate’s Degree ☐ Bachelor’s Degree ☐ Diploma ☐ Doctorate ☐ Master’s Degree ☐ 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

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/Government Hospital (04) ☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)

☐ Registry (10) ☐ Self-Employed (09) ☐ State Hospital (06) ☐ Travel Nurse (15) ☐ University Medical 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: ☐ Female ☐ Male

If you are not able to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under “Primary Position Held,’ please complete and attach the ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form on pages 11-15. If your “Primary Area Employed” is not a unit that typically houses acutely ill patients, please indicate on which units your direct care of acutely ill patients has taken place.

Please complete second page of application
I hereby apply for ACNPC-AG certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the ACNPC-AG 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 certification period, no license I’ve held was subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and no provisions/conditions have limited my practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if disciplinary action is taken against any RN or APRN license 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 certification period I have completed 1,000 hours as an APRN within the U.S. in the care of acutely ill adult-gerontology 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:**  
Last  First  

**VERIFIER’S PHONE NUMBER:**  

**VERIFIER’S EMAIL:**

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

**CONTINUED COMPETENCE:** During this last certification period, I completed 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in Acute Care Education Programs and 25 in pharmacology.

**AUDIT:** I understand that my certification renewal is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification.

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

**NON-DISCLOSURE 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 requirements as outlined.

**APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE:**  

**DATE:**

**SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE:** Mail application with payment to:  
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.
APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL
BY PRACTICE HOURS, PHARMACOLOGY CE AND EXAM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PROCESSING WILL BE DELAYED IF INCOMPLETE OR NOT LEGIBLE.
LEGAL NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED ID CARD IS REQUIRED FOR EXAM.

AACN CUSTOMER #: MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE: ACNPC-AG EXP. DATE:

LEGAL NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

EMPLOYER NAME:

EMPLOYER ADDRESS:

RENEWAL FEES

AACN AG Renewal by Practice Hours and Exam

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Check one box only.</th>
<th>AACN Member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>Renewal + 1 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 2 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 3 Year Membership</th>
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<td>$278</td>
<td>$348</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 such lists sold to other organizations.

PAYMENT INFORMATION
☐ 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 ___________________ Address of Payor (if different than applicant) _____________________

Signature _____________________

Amount Billed $ ____________

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 ICU/CCU (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 Medical/Surgical 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 (06)
☐ Stepdown Unit (30)
☐ Subacute Care (28)
☐ Surgical ICU (07)
☐ TeleICU (37)
☐ Telemetry (20)
☐ Trauma Unit (11)
☐ Other – specify below

☐ 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

☐ 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)

☐ 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)

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

Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed
☐ College/University (08)
☐ Community Hospital (04)
☐ 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/Government Hospital (04)
☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)

☐ Other - specify below

Number of Beds

☐ University Medical Ctr. (03)

☐ Other - specify below

In Institution: ______________________

☐ Other - specify below

ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form on pages 11-15. If your “Primary Area Employed” is not a unit that typically houses acutely ill patients, please indicate on which units your direct care of acutely ill patients has taken place.

Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy

If you are not able to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under “Primary Position Held,” please complete and attach the ACNPC-AG Practice.

Please complete second page of application.
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME: ___________________________  AACN CUSTOMER #: ___________________________

Last   First   MI

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

LICENSE: I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My ___________________________ (state) nursing license ___________________________ (number) is due to expire ___________________________ (date).

During this last certification period, no license I've held was subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and no provisions/conditions have limited my practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if disciplinary action is taken against any RN or APRN license 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 certification period I have completed 1,000 hours within the U.S. as an APRN in the care of acutely ill adult-gerontology 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 clinical practice hour requirements:

VERIFIER'S NAME: ___________________________  FACILITY NAME: ___________________________

Last   First

VERIFIER'S PHONE NUMBER: ___________________________  VERIFIER'S EMAIL: ___________________________

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

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

AUDIT: I understand that my certification renewal is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification.

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

NON-DISCLOSURE OF EXAM CONTENT: Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the content 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.

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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: ___________________________  DATE: ___________________________

REFER TO OTHER HANDBOOKS: The ACNPC-AG Exam Handbook contains the current test plan, study references and sample questions. The Certification Exam Policy Handbook contains testing site and scheduling information and day of exam rules.


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.
APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL BY CE POINTS AND EXAM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PROCESSING WILL BE DELAYED IF INCOMPLETE OR NOT LEGIBLE. LEGAL NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED ID CARD IS REQUIRED FOR EXAM.

AACN CUSTOMER #: MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE: ACNPC-AG EXP. DATE:

LEGAL NAME:
Last
First
MI
Maiden

HOME ADDRESS:
City
State
ZIP

EMAIL ADDRESS:

EMPLOYER ADDRESS:
City
State
ZIP

EMPLOYER NAME:

BUSINESS PHONE:

EMPLOYER ADDRESS:

EMPLOYER NAME:

HOME PHONE:

RENEWAL FEES

Check one box only.

 AACN Member
ACNPC-AG Renewal by CE Points and Exam
Nonmember
Renewal + 1 Year Membership
Renewal + 2 Year Membership
Renewal + 3 Year Membership

ACNPC-AG Renewal by CE Points and Exam

$200
$305
$278
$348
$400

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PAYMENT INFORMATION

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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)
☐ Critical Care Rehabilitation (26)
☐ Cardiovascular/Surg, ICU (09)
☐ Catheterization Lab (22)
☐ Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (33)
☐ Combined ICU/CCU (01)
☐ Coronary Care Unit (03)
☐ Corporate Industry (24)
☐ Critical Care Transport/Flight (17)
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☐ Telemetry (20)
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☐ Physician Assistant (17)
☐ Researcher (18)
☐ Respiratory Therapist (19)
☐ Technician (21)
☐ Unit Coordinator (22)
☐ Other – specify below

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

☐ Multiracial (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/Government Hospital (04)
☐ Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)
☐ Other – specify below

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: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Please complete second page of application
OPTION 3

HONOR STATEMENT – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL
BY CE POINTS AND EXAM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME: ___________________________ AACN CUSTOMER #: ___________________________

Last name: ___________________________ First name: ___________________________ MI: ___________________________

I hereby apply for ACNPC-AG certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the ACNPC-AG 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).

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