

AANP Certification

Support Options: For questions, email certification@aanpcert.org or call/text (512) 637-0500. AANPCB phone lines will be unavailable between 1:00-2:00 PM CT.

There are videos provided of the certification process: "How to Videos".
The cost is \$240 for Members and \$315 for non-members.

The FNP certification examination is an entry-level competency-based examination that tests clinical knowledge in family/individuals across the life span.

How many questions are on the examination?

- There are 150 questions on each examination. A candidate's score is based solely on the 135 scored questions. Of the 150 questions, 15 are pretest questions.
- Pretest questions are used on the examinations to obtain statistical information for determining how well they perform prior to vetting them for use on the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that are scored. A test-taker's score on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's final score.
- Multiple choice, objective format: The exams are limited to content that can be tested in an objective format, competency-based focused solely on requirements for safe clinical practice.
- Candidates receive a 120-day window to test: This window allows applicants the flexibility of scheduling the exam around one's personal schedule, employment schedule, or religious needs without requiring the need for additional accommodation or forms.

The web site gives information on the process, a candidate handbook, exam blueprint and test taking tips.

An official or unofficial transcript showing academic coursework completed to date or final official transcript showing degree awarded and date conferred is required to begin an application. Mail official transcripts in a sealed envelope directly from the school registrar to AANPCB or email secure, electronic academic transcripts directly from the school to ranscripts@aanpcert.org

How To Apply for AANP Certification

Online Profile

Visit www.aanpcert.org to create an Online Profile account. Once an account is established:

- Apply for the certification exam.
- Upload a copy of your current professional nursing license with expiration date.
- View application status updates.
- Make changes to name, address, or contact information.
- Order verifications to be sent to state boards of nursing and employers.
- Access a printable wallet card when certified.
- Apply for recertification.

How To Videos

- View the How-to Apply Video available on the AANPCB website for information on how to complete the application process.

Application Process

- Apply Online
 - Online applications are recommended. Online applications must be completed within 30 days to avoid loss of data, check your browser's cookie settings for additional information.
- Apply by Paper Application
 - A fillable PDF paper application is available on the website for downloading under Forms on the navigation bar.
 - Paper application processing is longer than the online method. A paper processing fee is assessed.

How early can I apply?

- MSN or Post-Graduate Certificate applicants may begin the application process 6 months prior to completion of their program.
- Candidates may sit for an examination after they have completed all didactic courses and clinical practice hours required for their NP program. Some candidates may complete their NP program several weeks before their scheduled graduation and degree conferral date.
- Program Completion Date is the date all didactic courses and clinical hours are completed. Degree Conferred Date is the date the graduate degree or post-graduate certificate is awarded. Some candidates may complete their NP program several weeks before their scheduled graduation and degree conferral date.

Required Documents

- Current professional nursing license with expiration date and fee payment are required to initiate processing of an application. A copy may be obtained from the state board of nursing.
- For graduate or post-graduate academic nurse practitioner program applicants, an official or unofficial transcript showing academic coursework completed to date or final official transcript showing degree awarded and date conferred is required to begin an application. A final official transcript showing program completion is required for the release of a certification after passing the examination.
- Documents can be uploaded to the online application, or sent via fax, email, or mail after the application has been submitted.
- Documents sent to AANPCB become the property of AANPCB. Individuals should retain copies of their records for personal use and for their professional portfolio. AANPCB is under no obligation to return documents or issue copies of these documents for future use by a certificate.

Signature and Attestation

The applicant's signature (electronic or written) on the application is required for processing. This signature confirms that the information provided by the candidate on their application is accurate and true to the best of their ability.

This signature also confirms that the applicant has read, agrees to adhere to, and understands the AANPCB policies.

Processing Time

- Typical processing time for applications is 3-6 weeks depending upon receipt of a complete application, required documents, and applicable fees. Applications are processed in a timely manner in the order received. AANPCB does not expedite processing of applications or charge an expediting fee.
- Applications are screened using eligibility criteria before forwarding to qualified advanced practice nurses for professional review

DOMAIN I - Domains	# items	% items	DOMAIN II - Patient Age *	# items	% items
01 - Assess	43	32%	Newborn	3	2%
02 - Diagnose	36	26.5%	Infant	4	3%
03 - Plan	36	26.5%	Toddler	5	4%
04 - Evaluate	20	15%	Child	6	4%
TOTAL	135	100%	Adolescent*	12	9%
			Young Adult*	30	22%
			Middle Adult*	35	26%
			Older Adult	40	30%
*Includes Prenatal					
			TOTAL	135	100%

ANCC Certification

Initial Certification Application

You may apply for this computer-based test year-round and test during a 120-day window at a time and location convenient to you. The exam allows 3.5 hours to answer 175 questions (150 scored plus 25 pretest questions that are not scored)

The web site gives information on the process, a candidate handbook, exam blueprint and test taking tips.

The price is \$395 for non-members and \$295 for ANA members.

How To Apply for ANCC Certification

Online Application

Validation of Education (VOE)

- Form available online

Clinical hour documentation

- Clinical hour documentation must be submitted and must minimally include student/applicant name, total number of faculty-supervised clinical hours, and role/population specific areas.

Transcripts

- ANCC accepts varying levels of transcripts for APRN applicants. Submission of official transcripts without degree conferral and unofficial transcripts may result in Authorization to Test (ATT) status. ANCC strongly recommends the submission of e-transcripts.
- ATT status means that APRN candidates have met all eligibility criteria except for receipt of the final degree conferred transcript(s). Candidates may be authorized to sit for the examination after all coursework and faculty-supervised clinical practice hours for the degree are complete, prior to degree conferral and graduation, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met. The Validation of Education (VOE) form, clinical hour documentation, and official/unofficial transcript(s) detailing planning coursework and faculty-supervised clinical hour completion must be submitted before ATT status will be issued.
- With ATT status, even if you pass the exam, you are not considered CERTIFIED until a final, official transcript(s) with degree conferral are received and reviewed. ANCC will retain exam results and issue certification only after all eligibility requirements are met, a passing exam result is on file, and a final, official transcript showing degree-conferral is received. Candidates are responsible for ensuring ANCC receives final, official transcript(s) to reflect completion of program directly from the school.
- Incomplete applications will be considered abandoned if a final official transcript showing degree conferral is not received within two (2) years after taking the national certification examination for candidates regardless of degree type. Abandoned applications will be closed, certification will not be awarded, and applicants must reapply at a later time for consideration.

When should I apply for APRN certification?

- ANCC recommends APRN applicants apply one month prior to graduation. For fastest services, applicants should create an online account prior to submitting application documents. APRN applicants can apply for certification prior to graduation given DNP applicants may complete role/population specific courses prior to completion of university degree requirements and official graduation. For other types of APRN applicants, degree conferral time length varies by university.
- If applying for certification prior to final degree conferral, all coursework and faculty-supervised clinical hours must be completed and reflected on application documents. The applicant's completion status will be verified through completed Validation of Education (VOE) form, clinical hour documentation, and transcript(s).
- The new VOE form, updated March 2025 is available on the website.
- Applicants applying ahead of graduation may be granted Authorized to Test (ATT) candidate status. Review ATT FAQ for more information.

Applicants may review ANCC Study Aids found at the bottom of each Certification information webpage. Preparation recommendations include review of Test Content Outline and Test Reference List for development of a personal study plan. In addition, Readiness Tests may be available for use.

After you receive an Authorization to Test Notice, you will have 120 days to make an appointment with Prometric to take the test at a test center. You cannot schedule an appointment prior to receiving your Authorization to Test Notice or after the expiration date on your Authorization to Test Notice. Schedule as soon as possible for your preferred date and time, which provides you with the flexibility to schedule your examination based on your religious, personal, or other needs. If you wait until near the end of the eligibility period, you may have to accept any appointment available.

As with the current exam format, the new ANCC FNP exam has 175 questions. 150 of these questions are scored, and the remaining 25 are pretest questions that do not count towards your score. The question breakdown is as follows:

- Assessment: 29 questions (19% of the exam)
- Diagnosis: 26 questions (17% of the exam)
- Planning: 29 questions (19% of the exam)
- Implementation: 43 questions (29% of the exam)
- Evaluation: 23 questions (15% of the exam)