

The 2026 Spring APRN Faculty & Staff Townhall

Presented by:

The Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Department

The ANCC Certification Department

The ANCC Measurement Services Department



Certification & Resources



Dr. Page is Here to Assist APRN Students & Faculty



Tonya L. Page, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, LSSGB, FCCS-C
APRN Educational & Faculty Outreach Program Manager

- **Hosting APRN Certification Application Information Sessions**
Virtual meetings are available for students upon faculty request.
- **Providing Quarterly APRN Newsletters for Faculty, Staff, and Students**
Designed to keep you informed and up to date on important announcements and resources.
- **Delivering Live Presentations and Hosting Exhibits**
Connect with Dr. Page at upcoming APRN-related tradeshows and events.
- **Hosting APRN Faculty and Staff Townhalls**
Forums to discuss key policies, updates, and shared concerns.



Benefits of ANCC Certification



Collaboration



With more than **345,000 ANCC-certified nurses** worldwide, you are part of a dynamic global community. From specialty practice to advanced roles and leadership, ANCC is with you at every stage of your professional journey.

Actualization



Our certification programs have been accredited by:

- Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC)
- National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)



Commitment



ANCC-certified nurses exemplify ongoing professional growth and sustained competence. Through the continuum of the nursing journey, we promote opportunities for advancement—including leadership certifications that extend and elevate clinical expertise.



Helping Your Students Grow

ANCC Benefits

- ANCC certification is more than a milestone, it is a foundational **career trajectory**. From entry into practice to evolving roles in clinical excellence, education, research, and system-level leadership, certification supports the power of nursing.
- ANCC specialty certifications—such as **Nurse Executive**, **Nurse Executive Advanced**, and other role-based credentials—provide pathways for APRNs to grow beyond clinical practice and influence healthcare delivery, policy, and outcomes at scale.
- By integrating certification awareness into your programs, you empower students to envision not just their first role, but their future as leaders.





Providing Guidance to APRN Students

Advanced Practice Initiatives Website

We Have Resources to Support You Related to Your Advanced Practice

Whether you are a current APRN, a student, faculty, or a stakeholder, below is the information you need.

Current or Future APRN Student	Practicing APRNs	APRN Faculty	APRN Policy & Regulation
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- Use promo code **APRN** for \$125 off your application fee (For Non-Members)
- Use promo code **APRNMEM** for \$225 off your application fee (For ANA Members)

If you are not an ANA Member and wish to become one, visit <https://www.nursingworld.org/membership/joinANA/>



Free Continuing Education Webinars

**Beyond the Classroom:
The Impact of Academic APRN Leadership**
The APRN Advantage: Redefining Practice in 2026

Webinar Series Hosted By:



The Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Team

CNE: 1.0 hrs. Date: April 21, 2026 Time: 1:00 PM ET



Guest Speaker:
Leanne H. Fowler, DNP, MBA,
AGACNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN

- Designed for **practicing APRNs, APRN faculty members, and APRN students.**
- Provides **valuable insights and benefits** for all participants.
- Features a **diverse lineup of webinars** addressing key issues in APRN practice.
- Offers **Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credits.**
- Includes **pharmacology hours** for select webinars.

Learn more here:



Certification & Aggregate Data Reports



2025 Aggregate Data Report

1. Reports were sent on **April 1st 2026**
2. Updating School Contact information: [ANCC School Contact Information Form for Aggregate Data Report Request](#)
3. Questions about your report: Certificationoutreach@ana.org



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

School: [School Code] [School Name]

Certification: [Program: FNP, PMHNP, AGACNP, AGPCNP, or AGCNS]

Dates Selected: 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Program Type	First Time Takers Passes ¹	First Time Takers Passes Percent	First Time Takers Fails ²	All Takers Passes ³	All Takers Passes Percent	All Takers Fails ⁴	All Takers ⁵
Total	32	96.97%	1	33	97.06%	2	34
Doctorate	1	50.00%	1	2	100.00%	1	2
Graduate	10	100.00%	0	10	100.00%	0	10
Post-Graduate	22	100.00%	0	22	95.65%	1	23



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report for 3 years

Dates Selected: 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2025

Program Type	First Time Takers Passes ¹	First Time Takers Passes Percent	First Time Takers Fails ²	All Takers Passes ³	All Takers Passes Percent	All Takers Fails ⁴	All Takers ⁵
Total	80	97.56%	2	81	98.78%	2	82
Doctorate	8	88.89%	1	9	100.00%	1	9
Graduate	23	100.00%	0	23	100.00%	0	23
Post-Graduate	51	98.08%	1	51	98.08%	1	52

¹ The "first-time pass rate" refers to the percentage of test-takers who pass the certification exam on their first attempt.

² The "first-time takers fails" is a count of test-takers who failed the exam on their first attempt.

³ The overall pass rate refers to the percentage of test-takers who eventually pass the certification exam, regardless of the number of attempts.

⁴ The "all takers fails" is a count of test-takers who failed on subsequent attempt(s), regardless of the number of attempts.

⁵ The "All Takers" is a count of individual test-takers who attempt the exam, regardless of the number of attempts.



Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

Testers Who Have "Opted In" to Sharing Their Individual Data with your school for dates selected 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Last Name	First Name	Pass/Fail	Exam Date	Degree Earned	Program Type	Program Degree Code	Graduation Date
One	Example	P	6/27/2025	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate	MASTER	3/21/2025
Two	Example	P	8/24/2025	Master's Degree	Graduate	MASTER	4/21/2025
Three	Example	P	6/18/2025	DNP	Graduate	DOCTORAL_PRACTICE	9/15/2025
Four	Example	F	9/22/2025	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate	MASTER	5/15/2023

⁶ This data is confidential and recipient will not share or disclose this information to others. This data is used solely for the purposes of evaluating course/program content and curriculum

Certification Resources & The Application Process



Study Resources

APRN Certification	Study Resources	
	Test Content Outline & Reference List	Sample Test Questions
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner AGACNP-BC®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test Content Outline• Test Reference List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner AGPCNP-BC®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test Content Outline• Test Reference List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample Questions
Family Nurse Practitioner FNP-BC™	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test Content Outline• Test Reference List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample Questions
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan) PMHNP-BC™	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test Content Outline• Test Reference List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist AGCNS-BC™	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test Content Outline• Test Reference List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample Questions

Be sure to also review the [7 Tips on How to Prepare for Your Certification Exam](#).

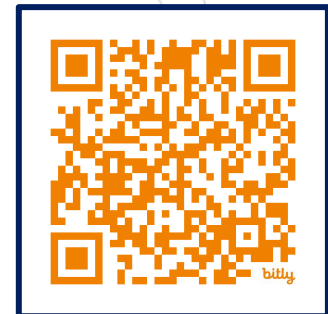
Disclaimer: Use of these or any other course(s)/material(s) does not imply eligibility for certification or successful performance on any certification exam, nor is it a requirement to qualify for individual certification.



Starting January 1, 2026, Candidates for ANCC APRN certification must pass their examination within **five (5) years** of degree conferral from their applicable APRN degree or post-graduate certification program.

Starting January 1, 2026, for post-graduate certificate (PGC) applicants, only PGC APRN program accreditation will be accepted for eligibility for an institution's PGC program. Applicants must demonstrate their program held/holds an active PGC accreditation at the time of graduation.

For more information about these eligibility and policy updates, please visit the [ANCC Certification FAQs](#)





Eligibility Criteria



Licensure

Hold a current, **active RN license** in a state or territory of the United States or hold the professional, legally recognized equivalent in another country.

Graduate Education

Hold a **Master's, Post-Graduate, or Doctoral degree** from an accredited program:

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- National League for Nursing (NLN) Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA)

A minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours must be achieved.

Graduate-Level Courses

Complete

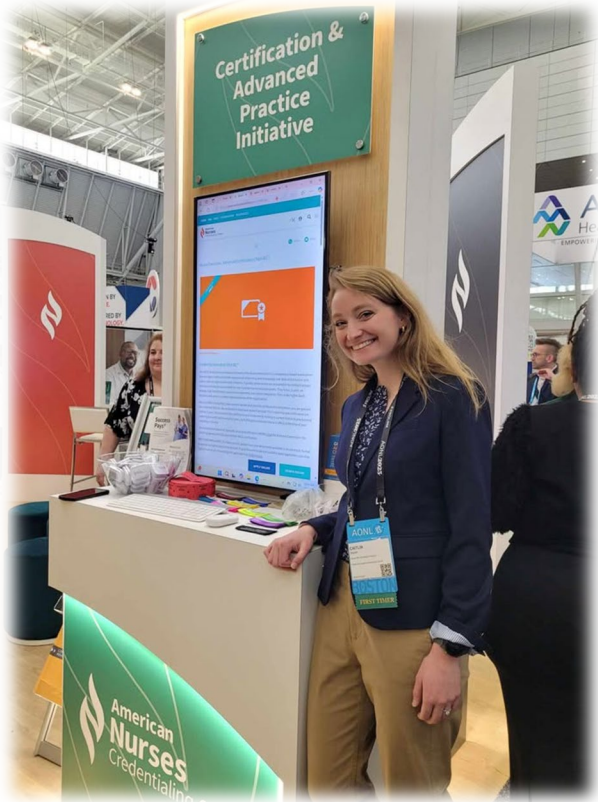
- Advanced physiology/pathophysiology
- Advanced health assessment
- Advanced pharmacology

Content

- Health promotion and/or maintenance
- Differential diagnosis and disease management, *(including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions)*
- **PMHNP ONLY:** Clinical training in at least two psychotherapeutic treatment modalities

Note to Faculty: PACE (Pre-Application Course Evaluation)

The Power of Nurses™



- For students currently pursuing or starting a **post-graduate program**, we now offer a service to help educators prepare their students for certification success.
- The APRN Core Course Review allows faculty members to submit **Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Health Assessment, and Advanced Pathophysiology courses** for review against current ANCC certification eligibility criteria.
- Documents for this service can be submitted before or during a student's program for review by our team. Please follow the steps below to request review:
 - Submit a request via the [Core Course Review Survey](#).
 - Provide details and supporting documentation from time of course, such as *syllabi and/or course descriptions*.
 - For questions, contact us at aprnvalidation@ana.org.



Where to Begin Your Application

It's never too early
for students to
create an ANCC
Account

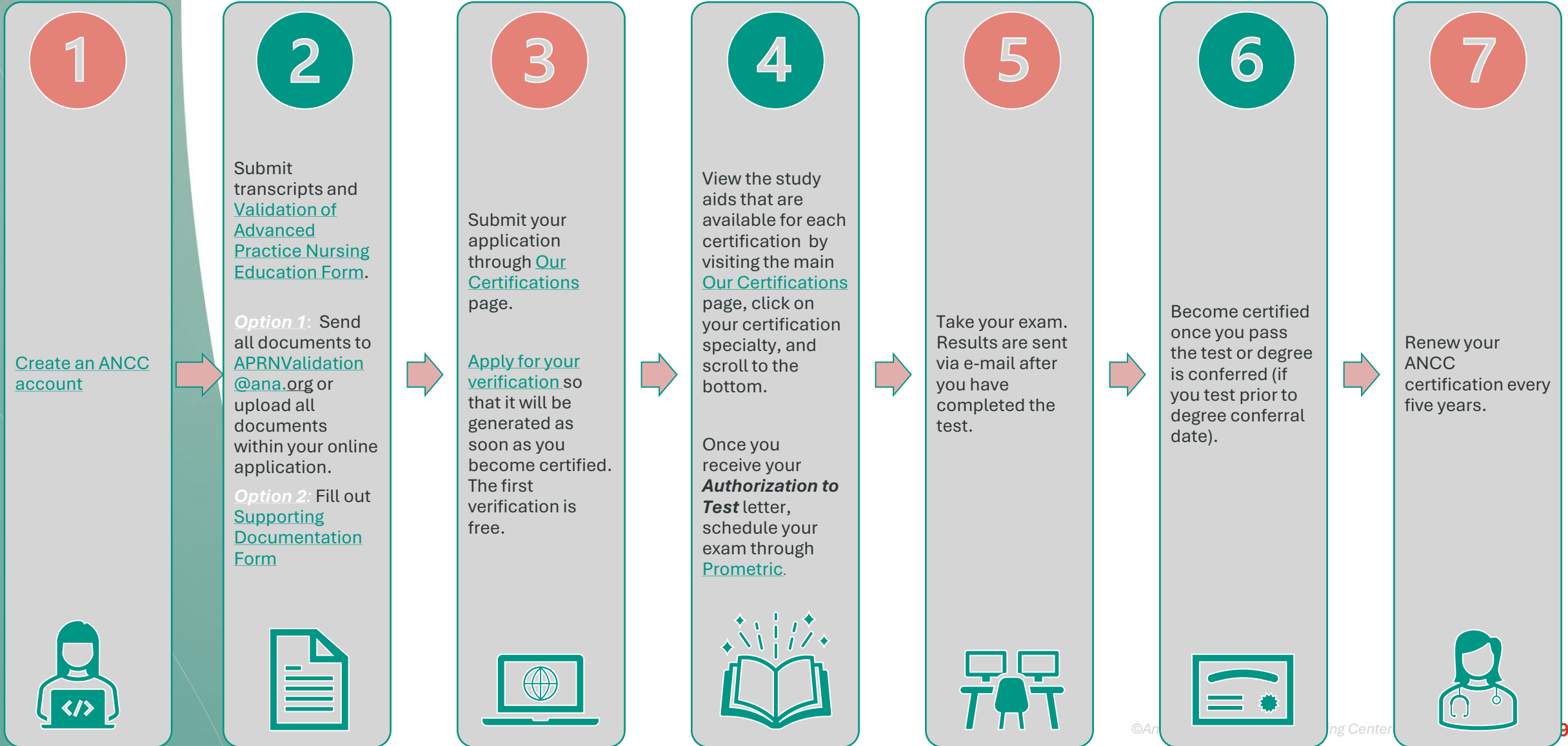
Creating an
account is free

Payment is only
due at the time a
student submits
their ANCC APRN
certification
application





Steps to Apply



Application Processing Time





The Application Steps

Video on How to Complete an Application:



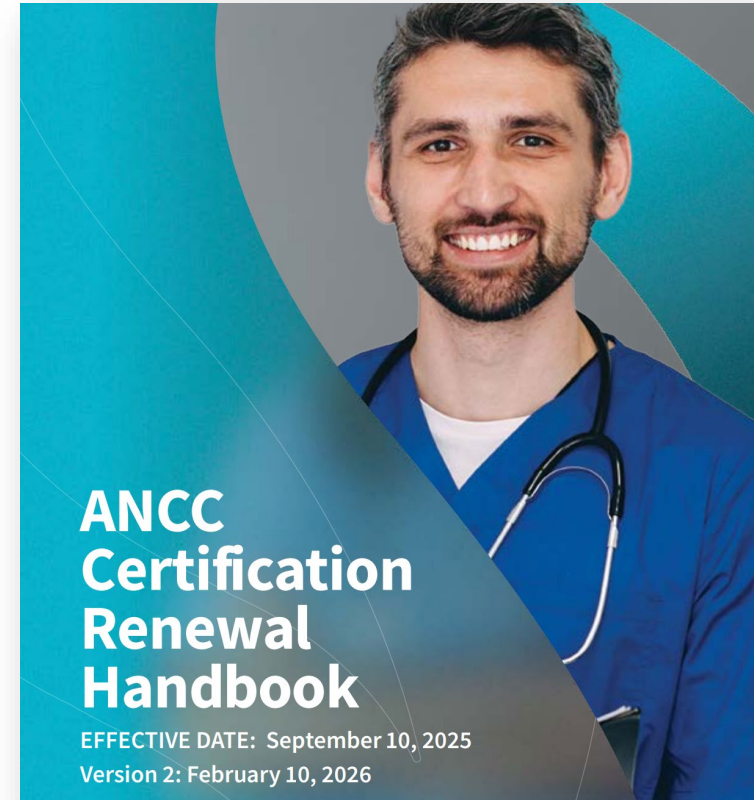


ANCC Renewal Requirements

Due every 5 years



Certification can be renewed through 8 professional development and practice activities



[ancc-certrenewalrequirements.pdf](https://www.nursingworld.org/ancc-certrenewalrequirements.pdf)

The background is a solid teal color with several abstract white elements: thin curved lines and larger, semi-transparent, overlapping shapes that create a sense of depth and movement.

Get Ready With ANCC!

Readiness Test



Support Your Students' Success with Readiness Tests

Benefits

- Ease testing anxiety and build confidence before exam day
- Evaluate your readiness for the ANCC certification exam
- Practice on the actual certification exam testing platform
- Simulate the real exam with a timed, live-proctored experience
- Get actionable feedback to guide your study efforts
- Available for all APRN certifications



Disclaimer: The ANCC Readiness Test is not a requirement to prepare or qualify for the certification exam and does not in any way guarantee a passing score on the certification examination.

Learn more and find out which tests are available by scanning this QR code.



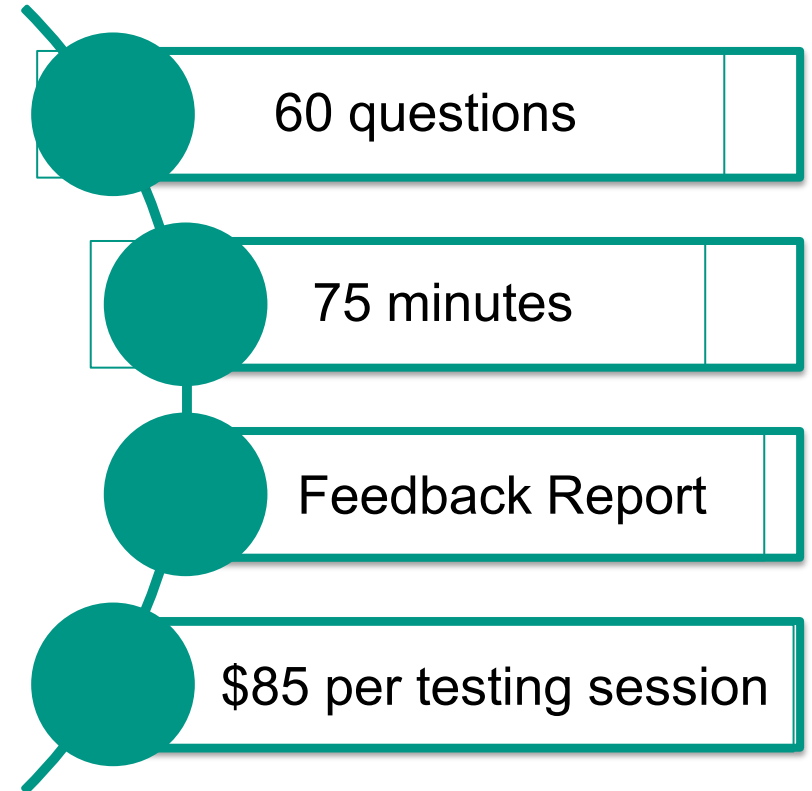


Readiness Test Specifications

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Readiness Tests

An Essential Resource to Help You Confidently Prepare for Your ANCC Certification Exam





Certification Prep vs. Readiness Tests

ANA Certification Prep



Prepare and review



**Online review courses
and manuals**



**PracticeIQ (self-paced,
flexible environment)**

ANCC Readiness Tests



Assess readiness



**Expanded set of sample
questions**



Timed and proctored

Disclaimer: ANCC does not require candidates to use test prep resources or to take a readiness test. If candidates want to use any test preparation resources, we recommend choosing a high-quality provider that offers accredited continuing education and aligns the test prep materials to the test content outline.



Readiness Test Bulk Discount Pricing

- Nursing programs can purchase Readiness Tests in bulk for their students
- Vouchers can be used for **6 months** from purchase, great option to include in curriculum
- Students redeem the voucher code when scheduling a Readiness Test through Prometric
- Interested in learning more?
Contact anccreadinesstest@ana.org

Quantity	Price
1 – 10	\$85
11 – 20	\$80
21 – 99	\$75
100+	\$70

Disclaimer: Use of these or any other course(s)/material(s) does not imply eligibility for certification or successful performance on any certification exam, nor is it a requirement to qualify for individual certification.

Test Writing

Webinars & Workshop Opportunities




Test Writing Webinars and Workshops

Webinars

Workshops

Target Audience	Individuals	Groups or departments
Offerings	Quarterly • Virtual	On-demand • Virtual or in-person
Topics Covered	Introductory content: • Test blueprints • Item fundamentals • Item types • Bias and stereotypes • Peer reviewing • Item development and review checklist	Introductory and in-depth content with engaging breakout sessions • Customized content • Expanded webinar topics + learning objectives and rubrics
Contact Information	For webinar dates and to register, visit Eventbrite →	Contact MS-Consulting@ana.org for more information



Fueling the Future of ANCC

Volunteer Engagement



Overview of Certification Test Development Cycle

- Certification exams are refreshed on a structured 3–5-year cycle
- Volunteer experts' partner with staff and psychometricians at every stage.



- **Define Content**
 - Job Analysis
 - Content Outline and Specifications
- **Develop & Review the Exam**
 - Item Bank Review
 - Exam Form Review
 - Standard Setting
- **Maintain Exam Quality**
 - Exam Administration
 - On-going Item and Performance review



How Can You Help With Certification Development

There are three main content expert volunteer position types:

1. **Content Expert Panelists (CEP)** - Review and define exam content
2. **Item Writers** - Develop and review exam questions.
3. **Standard Setting Panelist** - Help establish passing standards



Eligible candidates also include APRN faculty with a minimum of **three years** of experience and at least **50% active clinical practice**, including researchers.

Benefits = Faculty Professional Development and Contribution to Future APRNs

The Purpose of Storytelling



The Mission Behind Storytelling



- **Inspire others**—one nurse’s story could motivate another to pursue certification.
- **Highlight and celebrate nurses'** achievements, showcasing their hard-earned credentials.
- **Demonstrate a shared commitment to excellence** and continued growth within the nursing profession.
- **Spotlight the rich diversity** of nurses and their experiences.

#ANCCStoriesOfInspiration



Share Your Stories With Katelyn



Katelyn Bern, MA
Outreach Engagement Manager & Tradeshow Liaison

