The 2026 Winter APRN Faculty & Staff Townhall

Presented by:

The Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Department
The ANCC Certification Department
The ANCC Measurement Services Department

American Nurses Credentialing Center

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

We have over 345,000 ANCC certified nurses. You are now part of a **"growing international nursing community".** We are with you through the journey as **specialty nurses**, **advance practice nurses** and beyond

Actualization

Our certification programs have been accredited by:

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

ABSNC Accreditation Board *for* Specialty Nursing Certification

NCCA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGENCIES SPECIALTY

Commitment

ANCC-certified nurses demonstrate the expansion of their professional knowledge and continued competence. We are also committed to growth through the Journey of Nursing, including opportunities for leadership certifications that align with a clinical foundation.

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 |

- 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/

Helping Your Students Grow

ANCC Benefits

Choose a certification that supports not only where you are today, but where you want your career to go.

Whether your path leads to clinical excellence, education, research, or leadership, ANCC certification renewal offers flexible options that allow you to engage in activities that are relevant, meaningful, and aligned with your evolving professional goals.

Continuing Education Webinars

Perimenopause in Primary Care: A Practical Guide for Practitioners
The APRN Advantage: Redefining Practice in 2026

Webinar Series Hosted By:

The Advanced Practice Initiatives & Certification Outreach Team

CNE: 1.0 hrs.   **Pharmacology:** 0.25 hrs.   **Date:** February 10, 2026   **Time:** 3:00 PM ET

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Guest Speaker:

Debora La Torre, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

- 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

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

- This report includes data only for individuals who test in 2025.

- The reports are tied to your specific school code.

- Students must choose the correct school name when applying for an APRN exam to ensure data accuracy.

APRN PROGRAM

Aggregate Data Report

Confidential proprietary information enclosed

Certification — American Nurses Credentialing Center

Example University graduates who sat for the **Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner** examination between **1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025**

School Code **00000** Address: **Example City, MD**

Table 1: Overall Pass Rate Data by Year of Graduation

Year of Graduation[1a]	Number of Candidates[1b]		Number of 1st Time Candidates[1c]	School Pass Rate, 1st Time Candidates[1d]	School Pass Rate[1e]
2023	4		2	50.00%	50.00%
2024	41		33	66.67%	63.41%
2025	MSN			100.00%	100.00%
	Post-Grad	1	1	%	100.00%
	DNP			%	%
Totals	46		36	66.67%	63.04%

Table 1: Overall Pass Rate Data by Year of Graduation

[1a] -**Year of Candidate Graduation:** (3 Yr. capture) -Each row in this column designates the 3 most recent graduation years captured in the aggregate data report. For example: the **2025** school aggregate data report will capture candidates who sat for the certification exam during the **2025** reporting year whose graduation years are from **2023**, **2024** and **2025**. The most recent graduation year will have a breakdown of candidates per graduate degree level -MSN, DNP, Post-Grad.

[1b] - **Number of Candidates:** Each row under this column designates number of graduates both 1ST time and repeat testers (per graduation year) who sat for the exam.

[1c] - **Number of 1st Time Candidates:** Designates the number of 1st time test takers for that graduation year

[1d] - **School Pass Rate 1st Time Candidates:** Designates the 1st time test takers % pass rate.

[1e] - **School Pass Rate:** Designates the overall school pass rate (%) of all 1st time and repeat testers combined.

Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

Review the 5 columns:
- The years the students graduated that tested in 2025.
- The number of test takers for each graduation year.
- The number of 1st time test takers for each graduation year.
- The pass rate of 1st time test takers for each graduation year.
- The overall pass rate for each graduation year.

APRN PROGRAM

Aggregate Data Report
Confidential proprietary information enclosed

Certification
American Nurses Credentialing Center

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2024		41	33	66.67%	63.41%
2025	MSN			100.00%	100.00%
	Post-Grad	1	1	%	100.00%
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Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

The bottom row provides the overall totals for the past 3 graduation years:

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

APRN PROGRAM

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Credentialing Center

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Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

Breaking down the domain levels for the past 3 graduation years:
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

Table 2: Domain Level Performance, by Year of Graduation

2023

Domain	Number of Items (150)	Overall ANCC Average Raw Score	School Average Raw Score
Core Competencies	35	22.53	21.25
Clinical Practice	67	44.14	46.00
Professional Role	48	32.43	33.75
		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00

2024

Domain	Number of Items (150)	Overall ANCC Average Raw Score	School Average Raw Score
Core Competencies	35	24.45	24.59
Clinical Practice	67	47.48	46.98
Professional Role	48	34.46	33.83
Professional Role		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00

2025

Domain	Number of Items (150)	Overall ANCC Average Raw Score	School Average Raw Score
Core Competencies	35	26.00	30.00
Clinical Practice	67	51.13	58.00
Professional Role	48	35.95	41.00
		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00

Table 2: Domain Level Performance, by Year of Graduation

Captures how each graduation group (first time and repeat test takers combined) performed in each domain of the specific APRN certification program, comparing the school's and ANCC's overall average raw scores and can be a reference point for evaluating your program curriculum and identifying its strengths and areas of opportunities for improvement

Breaking Down the 2025 Aggregate Data Report

Pass rate for a 3 graduation years.

Table 3: 3 Yr. Combined ANCC Pass Rate Data Benchmark Section

	Overall ANCC Pass Rate, by 1st Time Candidates[3b]	Overall ANCC Pass Rate[3c]
2023, 2024, & 2025 Combined[3a]	82.57%	76.53%
	Total School Pass Rate, 1st Time Candidates	Total School Pass Rate
	66.67%	63.04%

Table 3: 3 Yr. Combined ANCC Pass Rate Data Benchmark Section (How Your Schools Compare)

[3a] - Previous 3 years combined

[3b] - 3 Yr. ANCC Pass Rate by 1st Time candidates*; Compare this number to total (as listed in Table 1)

[3c] - ANCC Pass Rate (combined 1st time test takers and repeat test takers); Compare this number to total (as listed in Table 1)

Minimum passing score on all ANCC certification examinations is a scaled score of 350 out of a possible maximum score of 500.

Certification Resources & The Application Process

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Study Resources

APRN Certification	Study Resources	
	Test Content Outline & Reference List	Sample Test Questions
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner AGACNP-BC®	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner AGPCNP-BC®	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Family Nurse Practitioner FNP-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan) PMHNP-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• Sample Questions
Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist AGCNS-BC™	• Test Content Outline • Test Reference List	• 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.

Policy Updates

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.

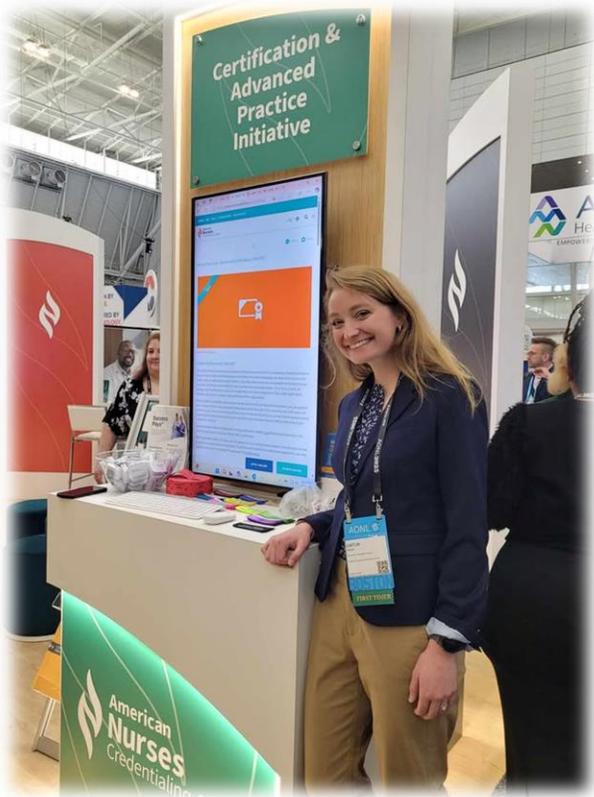## Graduate-Level Courses

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)

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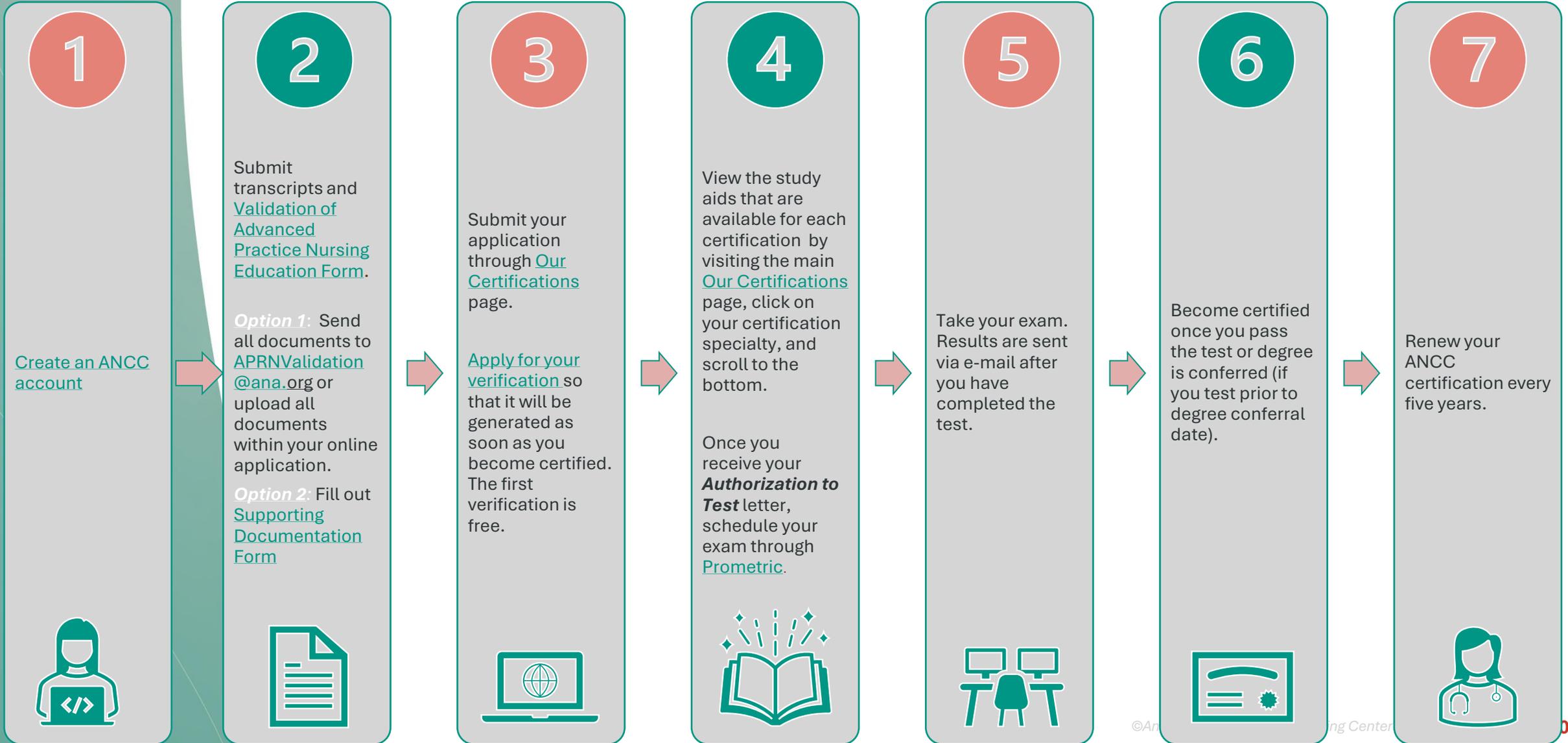
It's never too early for students to create an ANCC Account

Creating an account is free

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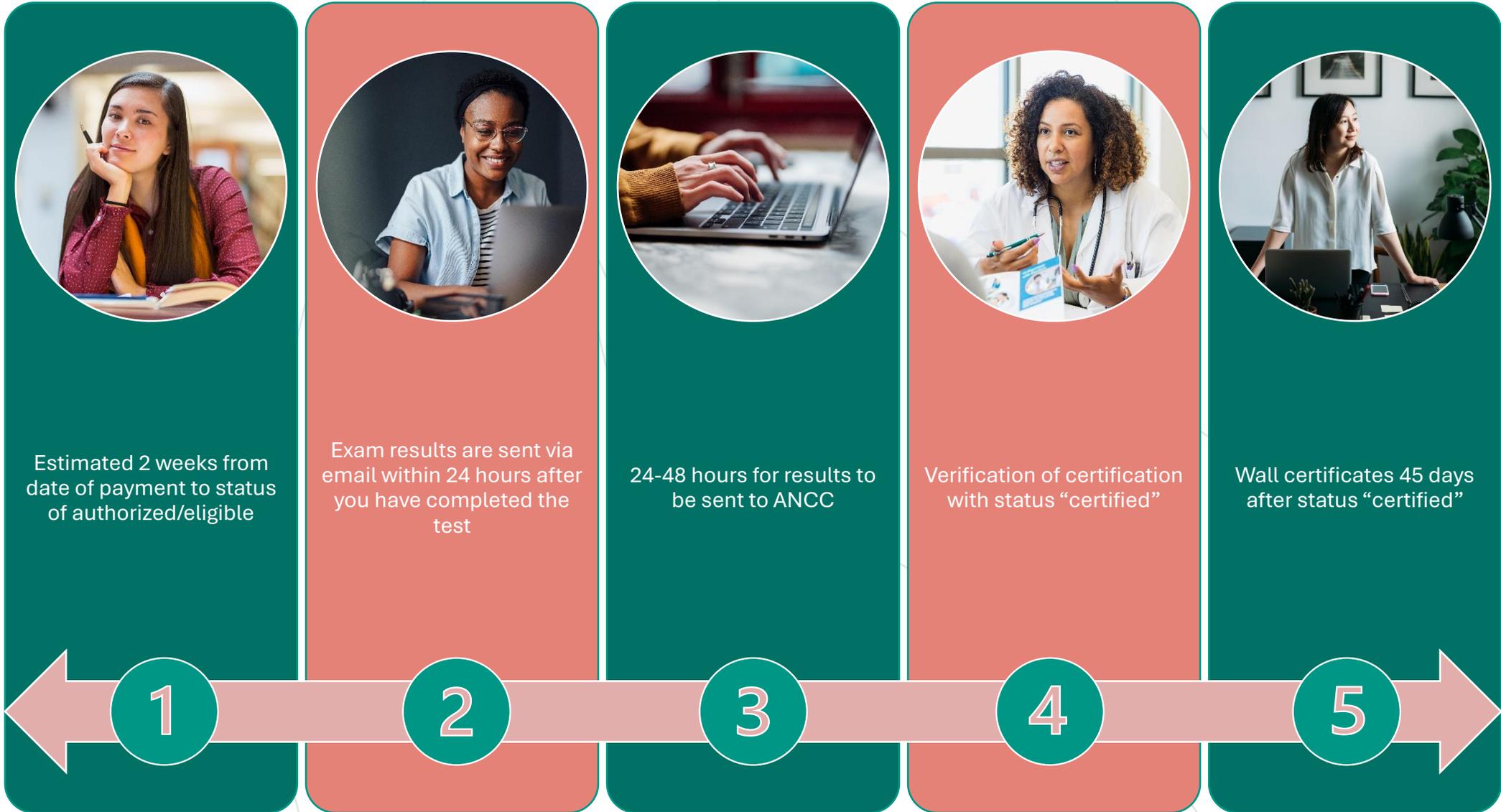
Steps to Apply

1

Create an ANCC account

2

Submit transcripts and Validation of Advanced Practice Nursing Education Form.

Option 1: Send all documents to APRNValidation @ana.org or upload all documents within your online application.

Option 2: Fill out Supporting Documentation Form

3

Submit your application through Our Certifications page.

Apply for your verification so that it will be generated as soon as you become certified. The first verification is free.

4

View the study aids that are available for each certification by visiting the main Our Certifications page, click on your certification specialty, and scroll to the bottom.

Once you receive your *Authorization to Test* letter, schedule your exam through Prometric.

5

Take your exam. Results are sent via e-mail after you have completed the test.

6

Become certified once you pass the test or degree is conferred (if you test prior to degree conferral date).

7

Renew your ANCC certification every five years.

Application Processing Time

Estimated 2 weeks from date of payment to status of authorized/eligible

Exam results are sent via email within 24 hours after you have completed the test

24-48 hours for results to be sent to ANCC

Verification of certification with status "certified"

Wall certificates 45 days after status "certified"

1 2 3 4 5

The Application Steps

Video on How to Complete an Application:

ANCC Renewal Requirements

Due every 5 years

Certification can be renewed through various professional development and practice activities

Certification renewal requirements promote lifelong learning and renewing with the ANCC provides you with 8 different options

ANCC Readiness Test

Why Take a Readiness Test?

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.
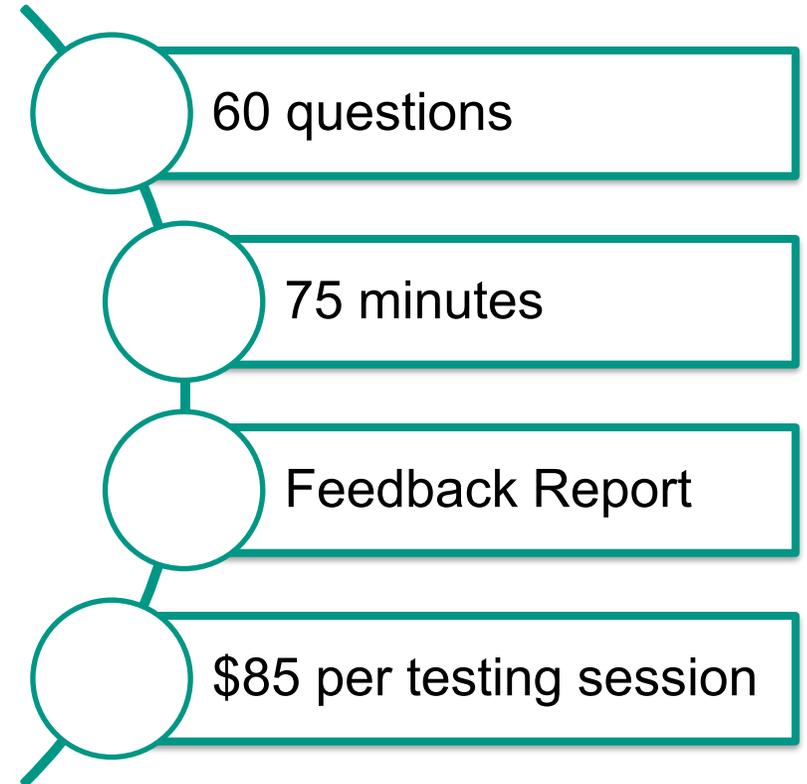
Readiness Test Specifications

American Nurses Credentialing Center

Readiness Tests

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

- 60 questions
- 75 minutes
- Feedback Report
- $85 per testing session

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

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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:

- **Content Expert Panelists (CEP)** - Review and define exam content
- **Item Writers** - Develop and review exam questions.
- **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.

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