

Continued Professional Certification (CPC)

Continuing professional competence is an ongoing, multimodal, and progressive process that maintains and enhances proficiency in nurse anesthesia practice and is a concept that ranges on a continuum from entry-level proficiency to complete mastery.

The goals of the CPC program for nurse anesthetists are (1) to maintain core competence and (2) to enhance competence beyond the expectations of the initially certified nurse anesthetist. The CPC Program requirements take effect on January 1, 2015.

Program Components

Licensure

Current and valid registered nursing and/or advanced nursing practice license.

Length of Certification

The certification period is four years.

Competency Modules

Four core competency modules in every recertification cycle, one in each of four core competency areas.

Continuing Education

NBCRNA requires 35 Continuing Education Credits per year (140 over four years), as follows:

- Up to 20 credits per year can be earned in educational activities that do not have an end-of-activity assessment of learning.
- Other 15 credits (or more) per year must be earned in educational activities that have end-of-activity assessments of learning.

Recertification Examination

Successful completion of a standardized recertification examination based on a published content outline is required every eight years.

Professional Work Practice Requirements

At least 425 hours per year in nurse anesthesia work practice is required. The practice may include clinical practice, nurse anesthesia related administrative, educational or research activities.

Program Competencies

Consistent with program goals, four core competencies underpin a nurse anesthetist's ongoing ability to provide safe and effective patient care, and six are planned to enhance professional competence.

The four core competencies address topics and skills that are essential hallmarks of the specialty:

1. A nurse anesthetist has advanced knowledge and skill in basic, currently available, and commonly used alternative airway management techniques.
2. As practitioners of applied clinical pharmacology, nurse anesthetists are knowledgeable about the actions, interactions, and adverse effects of anesthetics and adjuvants.
3. Nurse anesthetists are knowledgeable about human physiology and pathophysiology and their application to anesthesia practice.
4. Anesthesia technology is continually changing and new devices are introduced into practice regularly. Nurse anesthetists have knowledge of the principles of operation and the ability to interpret and respond to data acquired from anesthesia equipment and instrumentation.

Six additional competencies enhance a nurse anesthetist's ability to provide patient care:

1. A fundamental expectation of the nurse anesthetist is the ability to access, evaluate for currency and reliability, and apply sources of information as required on a day-to-day basis.
2. Nurse anesthetists have knowledge of evidence-based practice and use it to improve the quality of patient care and outcomes.
3. Nurse anesthetists have knowledge of and adhere to current standards of practice, including ethics, privacy, and cultural diversity.
4. Nurse anesthetists have knowledge of and comply with current regulatory and facility accreditation requirements.
5. Nurse anesthetists are leaders in interprofessional teams working to improve patient outcomes and the quality and safety of anesthesia care within the healthcare system.
6. Nurse anesthetists develop expanding specialized knowledge and skill pertaining to specific patients, procedures, conditions, and settings gained through personal study and experience.