ACCREDITATION

The certification programs offered by AANPCP are accredited by both the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

ABSNC, the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification, provides a peer-review mechanism that allows nursing certification organizations to obtain accreditation of their certification programs by demonstrating compliance with the highest quality standards available in the industry.

NCCA, the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE), serves to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of certification programs and organizations that assess professional competence. Accreditation by NCCA indicates AANPCP’s compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs.

RECOGNITION

Certifications by AANPCP are recognized by all State Boards of Nursing, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Veterans Administration, private managed care organizations, institutions, and health care agencies for credentialing purposes.

COMMISSION

AANPCP is an independent, separately incorporated, non-profit organization overseen by a commission composed of nurse practitioners representative of the Certificants, and one public member. Elections are held annually in October; ballots are sent electronically to Certificants’ Online Profile email address. The commission governs all major decisions affecting the certification programs and processes, and offers input and guidance into organizational decisions.

Lorna Schumann — Chair
PhD, FNP, NP-C, ACNS-BC, ACNP-BC, CCRN, FAANP, FAAN

Mary Ellen Roberts — Vice Chair
DNP, RN, ANP-C, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN

Kathy Wheeler — Secretary
PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP

Mona M. Counts — Treasurer
PhD, NP-C, CRNP, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN

Vickie Anderson — Member at Large
MS, APRN, FNP-C

Marianne Hurley — Member at Large
MS, FNP-C, GNP-C, CDOE, FAANP

Lori Martin-Plank — Member at Large
PhD, MSN, MS, GNP-BC, NP-C, FNP-BC, FAANP

Susan D. Ruppert — Member at Large
PhD, RN, FNP-C, ANP-BC, FCCM, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN

Barbara Safriet — Public Member
JD, LLM, FAANP (H), FAAN (H)

Richard F. (Rick) Meadows — Ex-Officio
Chief Executive Officer, AANPCP

AANPCP is affiliated with:

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
The largest full-service national professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties. (aanp.org)

American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) AAENP promotes high quality, evidence base practice for NPs providing emergency care for patients of all ages and acuities. (aaenp-natl.org)

ProExam (Professional Examination Services) A not-for-profit organization collaboratively responsible for conducting detailed test specification, item development, exam construction, and standard setting processes. (proexam.org)

AFFILIATIONS

Whenever this information is used in part or in whole, or when referencing it as part of a report or article, we request that acknowledgment be given to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP).
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANCP) had another exceptional year, marked by continued growth. This year AANCP celebrates its 22nd year of serving the nurse practitioner community by providing high quality certification programs. This Annual Report provides an overview of AANCP activities and accomplishments during the past year.

At the end of 2015, AANCP had 69,704 active Certificants, which is a 50% increase from 2013 and 80% increase since 2012. Applications for Initial Certification rose 23% in the past year, and the total number of Initial examinations administered exceeded 14,700.

Established in 1994, AANCP is an accredited, national certification board that provides mechanisms for evaluation of individuals wishing to enter, continue, and/or advance in the Nurse Practitioner profession through the certification process.

AANCP certifies:
• Adult Nurse Practitioners (ANP)
• Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP)
• Gerontologic Nurse Practitioners (GNP)
• Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (A-GNP)

2015 statistics:
• Number of Certificants by population area:
  FNP (56,658)  ANP (8,812)
  A-GNP (3,978)  GNP (256)
• Number of Initial Exams and Pass Rates:
  FNP (12,301/81.4%)  ANP (143/75.5%)
  A-GNP (2,266/81.7%)
• Number of All Exams and Pass Rates:
  FNP (14,271/77.7%)  ANP (249/65.1%)
  A-GNP (2,574/79.2%)
• Recertification rate for all programs: 93.3%

We are grateful for the contributions of the Commissioners, the volunteer work groups for exam development, consultants, and the dedicated AANCP staff.

While 2015 was an exceptional year and we marvel at what we have accomplished, we are excited about what lies ahead for the NP profession and AANCP. Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and thank you for making AANCP the certifier of choice among primary care nurse practitioners.

Dr. Lorna Schumann  Richard F. (Rick) Meadows
Certification Chair  Chief Executive Officer

MISSION
Provide excellence in testing and certification for Nurse Practitioners

VISION
Adhering to and upholding the highest standards for the certification of Nurse Practitioners

PURPOSE
Provide a valid and reliable program for entry-level Nurse Practitioners to recognize their education, knowledge, and professional expertise and to provide a process for validation of an advanced practice registered nurse’s qualifications and knowledge for practice as a Nurse Practitioner

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2015 HIGHLIGHTS ...................... 6-7
NP CERTIFICATION
HISTORICAL TIMELINE............... 8
FROM OUR CERTIFICANTS ......... 8
### 2015 AT A GLANCE

#### NUMBER OF NPs CERTIFIED

<table>
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<th>Region</th>
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<th>ANP</th>
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<th>A-GNP</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,704</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,368</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,625</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,710</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,704</strong></td>
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#### NUMBER OF EXAMS

- **Initial Exam:** 14,710
- **Re-exam:** 1,368
- **Recertification by Exam:** 2,285

*The American Association of Nurse Practitioners*

### ACTIVE CERTIFICANTS BY AANP* REGIONS 1-11

*The American Association of Nurse Practitioners*
PASSING RATE REPORT  

For exams taken 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015

This Score Report indicates the standardized score performance for the 2015 Adult, Family, and Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners National Certification Examinations. Standard scores permit comparison of the performance among individuals taking the same certification examination.

**ADULT NURSE PRACTITIONER**

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<th>% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower</th>
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<tr>
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Total ANP Pass Rate 65.1%

Initial Exam Pass Rate 75.5%

**FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

<table>
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<td>480</td>
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Total FNP Pass Rate 77.7%

Initial Exam Pass Rate 81.4%

**ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Test Standard Score</th>
<th>% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>480</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total AGNP Pass Rate 79.2%

Initial Exam Pass Rate 81.7%

**FINANCE REPORT**

**REVENUES**

- Verification & Processing Fees
- Finance Interest
- Recertification
- Certification

**EXPENSES**

- Finance Fees
- Other
- Operations
- Human Resources & Payroll
- Testing Fees
- BOC, Accreditation, Professional Dues, Travel, Marketing & Advertising

**OUTLOOK FOR 2016**

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) remains conservative with budgeted projections for 2016. Revenues are holding, and as expected, fees associated with exam development and administration remain our highest expense. While expenses increased 35.8% from 2014 to 2015, AANPCP application fees have not changed in 10 years. This statement represents an un-audited income statement report for the Fiscal Year ending 12/31/2015.
2015 HIGHLIGHTS

50 YEARS OF THE NP ROLE

AANPCP celebrated the 50-year Anniversary of the NP Role at the 2015 AANP National Conference in New Orleans by co-hosting with the University of Colorado, School of Nursing a reception for AANPCP certificants and conference attendees. The first nurse practitioner program was established at the University of Colorado in 1965 by Dr. Loretta ‘Lee’ Ford, who is recognized as the founder of the NP role. Dr. Ford led the precession into the reception wearing her famous Super Hero attire.

To further commemorate this milestone for Nurse Practitioners, AANPCP presented a Historical Timeline of NP Certifications at the reception (see last page.)
**FNP PRACTICE ANALYSIS**

The Family Nurse Practitioner Practice Analysis, which is the basis of the FNP certification examinations, was initiated and completed in 2015. A special ‘thank you’ is extended to the Task Force members, pilot participants, and all the FNP Certificants who responded to the FNP Practice Survey. The 2017 FNP certification examinations will reflect the updates found in the survey. A summary report of the FNP practice analysis will be made available on the website www.aanpcert.org under the About Us tab.

**EMERGENCY NP CERTIFICATION BY EXAM**

Plans for developing the first national Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) certification by examination were initiated. AANPCP entered into an agreement with the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) to collaborate on an ENP specialty certification examination. Information about the ENP certification, including eligibility criteria and exam launch date, can be found under the FAQs tab on the AANPCP home page.

**PRECEPTORSHIP RECOGNITION**

AANPCP also participated in research conducted by NP faculty in collaboration with AANP to examine the role of preceptorship in maintaining clinical competence for nurse practitioners. The results clearly demonstrate the benefits serving as a preceptor has on utilization of and access to current evidence and guidelines for practice, as well as other educational resources. AANPCP recently revised recertification criteria to include preceptor hours as an option for recognizing on-going clinical competency. Information about the revised certification renewal requirements can be found under the Recertify tab on the AANPCP home page (aanpcert.org).

**AANPCP SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

In 2015, AANPCP represented NP certification by sponsoring exhibits and special events at several professional meetings, such as at the American Board of Nursing Specialties Spring and Fall Assemblies (March/September), AANP Health Policy Conference (March), National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties Conference (April), APRN Round Table (April), AANP National Conference (June), National Nurse Practitioner Symposium (July), National Council of State Boards of Nursing Annual Meeting (August), Texas Nurse Practitioner Annual Conference (September), AANP Leadership & Specialty Conference (October), Institute for Credentialing Excellence (October), and Anniversary of the APRN Consensus Model (December). In addition to the reception at the 2015 AANP National Conference, AANPCP also held an Item Writing Workshop for clinical experts who wish to participate in developing items for the national certification examinations.

**EDUCATION CATEGORY STATISTICS**

AANPCP has added posting of Initial Examination Pass Rates by education categories to the 2015 Annual Report statistics. The categories include Master’s, Post-Graduate, and Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ANP (135)</th>
<th>FNP (11,290)</th>
<th>A-GNP (2,053)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MASTERS</strong></td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POST-GRADUATE</strong></td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DOCTORATE</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
NP Certification Historical Timeline

1974
American Nurses Association (ANA) administers first certification exam for Pediatric NPs

1975
ANA launches Adult NP and Family NP certifications

1976
ANA launches Neonatal Nurse Clinician certification

1977
NCC launches Neonatal Nurse Clinician certification

1979
ANA launches Gerontological NP and School NP certifications

1980
NCC launches Obstetric and Gynecologic NP certification

1983
NCC launches Neonatal Nurse Clinician certification becomes Neonatal NP certification

1990
ANCC forms ANCC

1992
AANPCP launches Adult NP and Family NP certifications

1993
ANCC launches Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP certification

1994
AANPCP launches Gerontological NP certification

1995
ANCC launches Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health NP and Psychiatric Mental Health NP certifications

1997
PNCB launches Primary Care Pediatric NP certification

1998
ANCC launches Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health NP and Psychiatric Mental Health NP certifications

1999
AANPCP launches Gerontological NP certification

2001
AANPCP launches Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP certification

2005
PNCB launches Acute Care Pediatric NP certification

2007
AANPCP launches Gerontological NP certification

2011
PNCB launches Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist certification

Organizations that certify NPs
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP)
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation (AACN CertCorp)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- National Certification Corporation (NCC)
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)

NP-C®

NP-C is the registered trademark of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Board, Inc. It is the credential authorized for use by those individuals who have met the standards, qualifications, testing requirements, and maintenance of certification requirements established by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Board, Inc. Individuals who allow their AANPCP certification to expire may not use the NP-C credential and may not represent themselves as being certified by AANPCP.