



# Report of the Practice Analysis of Family Nurse Practitioners

Conducted on behalf of the  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
Certification Board



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# Executive Summary

This report describes the methodology and procedures used to conduct a practice analysis and develop the exam specifications for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification examination.

The three major activities that comprise the practice analysis process described in this report are as follows:

1. **Practice Analysis Committee Meeting** – A gathering of subject matter experts (SMEs) to discuss and develop a description of the scope of practice.
2. **Practice Analysis Survey** – A large-scale survey of practitioners not involved with the SME panel to validate the task and knowledge statements developed by the committee.
3. **Development of Examination Specifications** – The development of an Examination Content Outline by the committee based on the results of the survey.

Several practitioners were assembled by AANPCB to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). The individuals selected represent a wide variety of work-related characteristics such as years of experience, work setting, geographic location, and areas of specialty. This helps in developing a scope of practice that is reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the practice role and is relatively free from bias. By analyzing the experiences and expertise of current practitioners, the results from the practice analysis become the basis of a validated assessment that reflects the competencies required for competent practice performance.

The practice analysis process utilized in this study yields exam specifications that accurately reflect the scope of practice, allowing for the development of fair, accurate, and realistic assessments of candidates' readiness for certification. The resultant Examination Content Outline indicates a 135-item examination with content distribution requirements at the task domain (i.e., competency area) level as well as age category level:

## Task Domains

1. Assessment
2. Diagnoses
3. Plan
4. Evaluation

## Patient Age Categories

- Newborn
  - Infant
  - Toddler
  - Child
  - Adolescent\*
  - Young Adult\*
  - Middle Adult\*
  - Older Adult
- \*Includes Prenatal