



AANPCB

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION BOARD

MESSAGE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

Looking back, 2020 was a year unlike any other in our lifetime. It was designated the **Year of the Nurse and Nurse Midwife** with many planned events to recognize Florence Nightingale’s 200th birthday in May, and the 100th birthday of the Nurse Practitioner role founder Loretta ‘Lee’ Ford, in December. Like most everything else in 2020, the planned celebrations for these historic nursing pioneers were held as remote events.

Similarly, the AANPCB office converted to working remotely as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened. We greatly appreciate the patronage of our certificants, dedication and resilience of our staff, and perseverance of our service partners. Due to their collective efforts, you will see a sustained performance in number of certifications, verifications, recertifications, and exam applications.

In addition to the COVID-19 **Temporary Certification Extension** for those facing hardship situations in meeting recertification requirements, AANPCB also recognized **Faculty Supervised Evaluation of Students** providing direct patient care as meeting a portion of the 1,000 clinical practice hour requirements for certification renewal.

We also completed two major examination development activities. The 2020 **Family Nurse Practitioner Practice Analysis** resulted in updates to the exam content outline which will be published in late 2021 and will be the basis for the FNP certification examinations released in 2022. **Remote Item Writing** was also held for all the certification programs. We wish to thank the many clinical expert volunteers who have contributed to test development activities in 2020.

This report provides an overview of our annual activities and year-end number of certifications, exams administered, passing rate report, financial profile, and featured events from 2020.

Our staff and governing board members are committed to ensuring excellence in NP certification. To our active certificants who have maintained certification through the renewal process and to the new certificants in 2020, we say thank you for choosing AANPCB.

Richard F. (Rick) Meadows

Richard F. (Rick) Meadows, MS, RN, NP-C, FAANP
Chief Executive Officer

Lorna Schumann

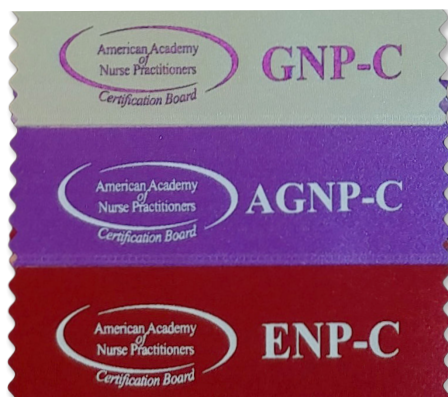
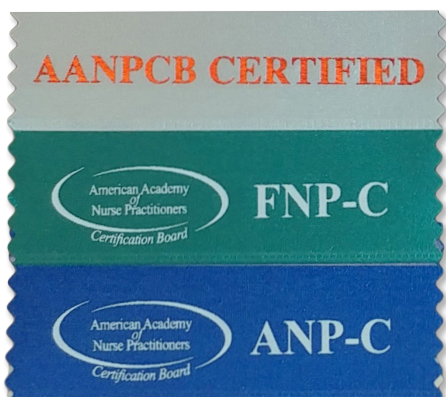
Lorna Schumann, PhD, FNP-C, ENP-C, ACNS-BC, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Chair

2020 STATISTICS

Number of active certifications: 159,323

Recertification rate for all programs: 94%

Number of Certificants by population/ specialty area:	Number of Initial Exams / Pass Rates:
FNP 134,807	TOTAL 21,113
ANP 7,967	FNP 18,515 / 85%
A-GNP 15,193	ENP 378 / 89%
ENP 1,177	A-GNP 2,220 / 86%
GNP 179	
	Number of All Exams administered:
	TOTAL 24,332
	FNP 21,292
	ENP 408
	A-GNP 2,632



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2020 COMMISSION

AANPCB is an independent, separately incorporated, nonprofit organization overseen by a commission composed of certified nurse practitioners, who are representative of Certificants, and two public members. 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.

CHAIR

Mary Ellen Roberts

DNP, RN, ANP-C, FNAP,
FAANP, FAAN

SECRETARY

Pam King

PhD, FNP-BC, PNP-C, FAANP

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Joyce M. Knestrick

PhD, CRNP, NP-C, FAANP, FAAN

Lorna Schumann

PhD, FNP-C, ENP-C, ACNS-BC,
ACNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Josie A. Weiss

PhD, PNP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP

Kathy Wheeler

PhD, FNP-BC, FNAP, FAANP

VICE CHAIR

Susan D. Ruppert

PhD, RN, FNP-C, ANP-BC, FCCM,
FNAP, FAANP, FAAN

TREASURER

Dixie Harms

DNP, ARNP, FNP-C, BC-ADM, FAANP

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Kim Byas

PhD, FACHE

Barbara Safriet

JD, LLM, FAANP (H), FAAN (H)

EX-OFFICIO,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Richard F. (Rick) Meadows

MS, RN, NP-C, FAANP

MISSION

Provide excellence in testing and certification for Nurse Practitioners

VISION

Adhere to and uphold the highest standards for the certification of Nurse Practitioners

PURPOSE

Provide a valid and reliable program for nurse practitioners to recognize their education, knowledge, and professional expertise, and to provide a process for validation of an advanced practice registered nurses' qualifications and knowledge for practice as a Nurse Practitioner

CORE VALUES

- ACCOUNTABILITY
- QUALITY
- TRANSPARENCY

RECOGNITION

Certifications by AANPCB 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.

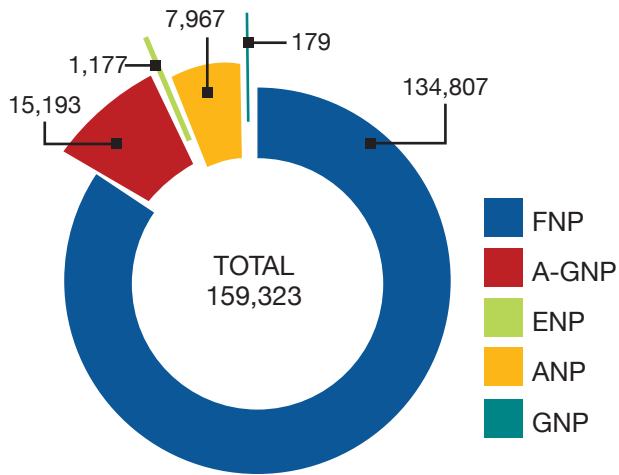


EXCELLENCE
in Nurse Practitioner Certification

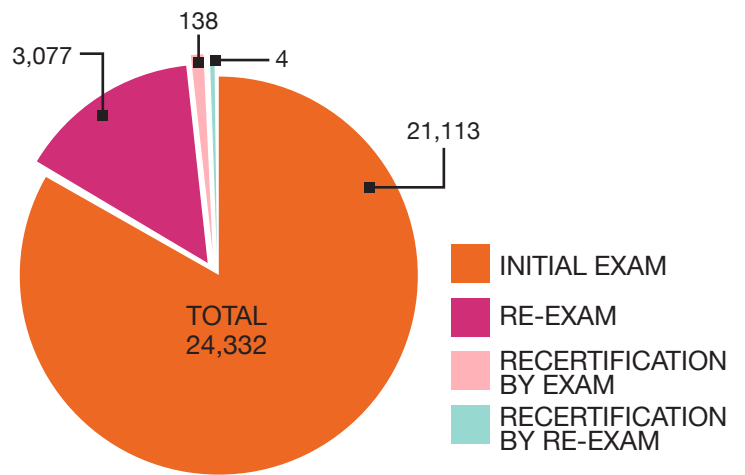
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2020 AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF NPs CERTIFIED

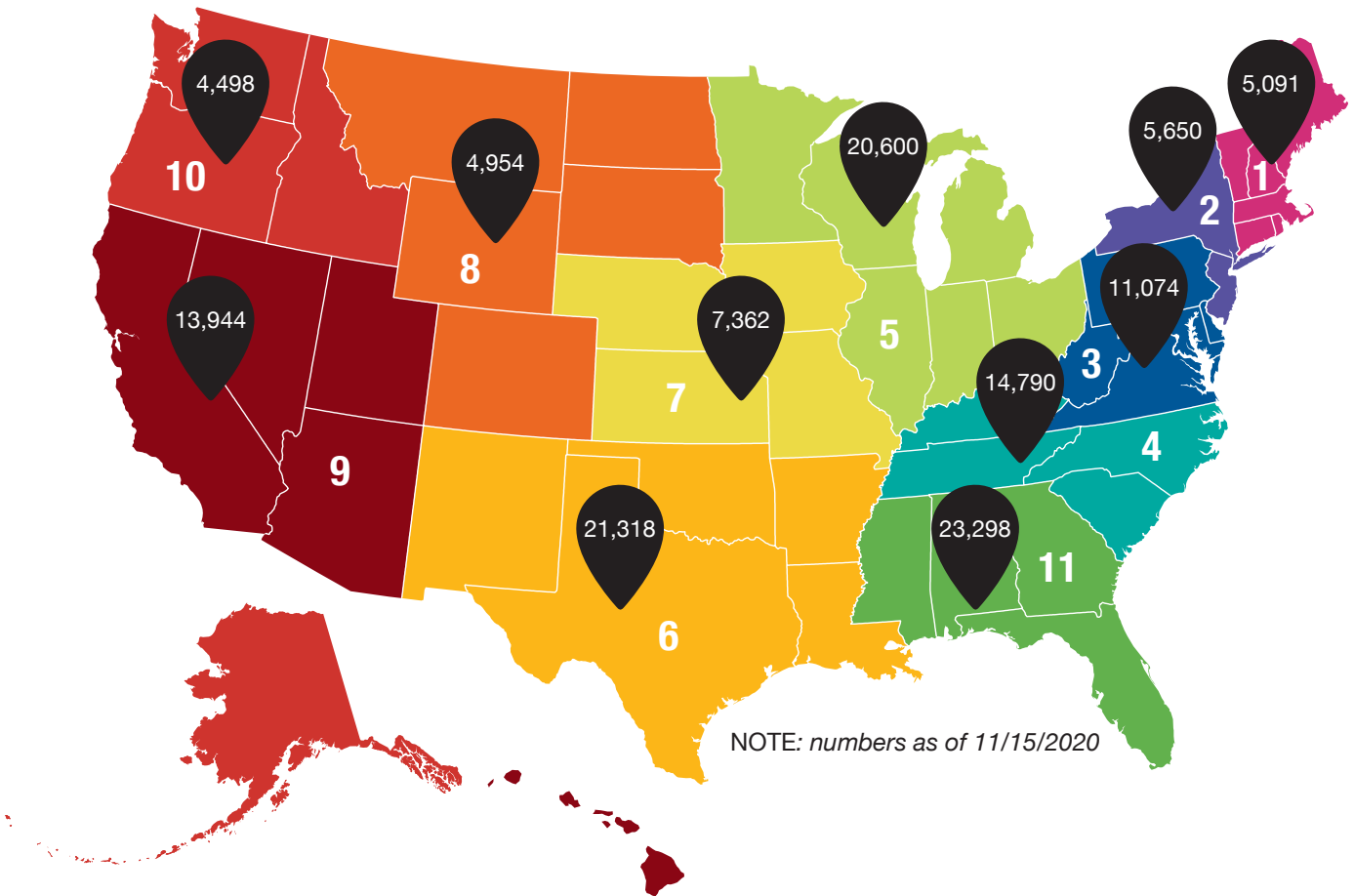


NUMBER OF EXAMS



ACTIVE CERTIFICANTS BY AANP* REGIONS 1-11

*American Association of Nurse Practitioners



PASSING RATE REPORT

For exams taken 01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020

This Pass Rate Report indicates the standardized score performance for the 2020 Family NP, Adult-Gerontology NP, and Emergency NP Specialty National Certification Examinations. Standard scores permit comparison of the performance among individuals taking the same certification examination.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700+	94
680	89
660	82
640	73
620	63
600	54
580	47
560	38
540	30
520	23
500	18
480	15

Total FNP Pass Rate: 82%
Initial Exam Pass Rate: 85%

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700+	95
680	84
660	84
640	74
620	66
600	57
580	49
560	41
540	33
520	27
500	20
480	15

Total AGNP Pass Rate: 81%
Initial Exam Pass Rate: 86%

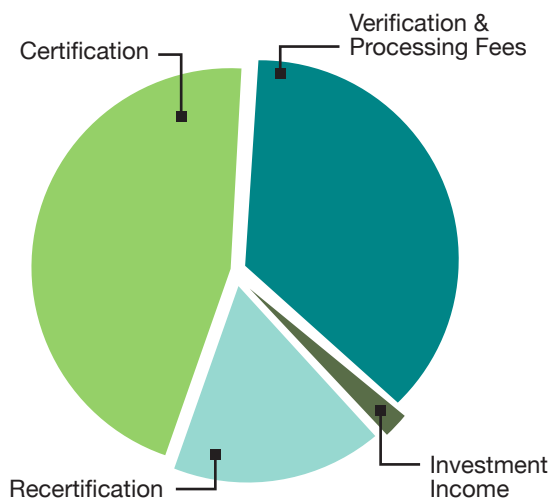
EMERGENCY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700+	99
680	98
660	96
640	90
620	83
600	72
580	60
560	44
540	35
520	24
500	13
480	9

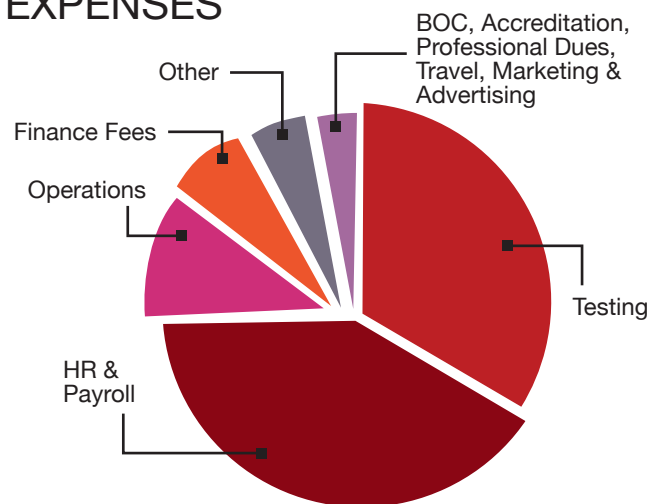
Total ENP Pass Rate: 87%
Initial Exam Pass Rate: 89%

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES



EXPENSES



OUTLOOK FOR 2021

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) budgeted projections for 2021 remain conservative. Revenue sources are primarily from certification examination, employer verification, and recertification fees. Costs associated with exam development and administration (testing service fees) remain our greatest expense. This statement represents an unaudited income statement report for the Fiscal Year ending 12/31/2020.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

RECERTIFICATION UPDATE

The option to renew certification with *Clinical Practice Hours & Continuing Education* was revised to include **Faculty Supervised Evaluation of Students** providing direct patient care as meeting a portion of the 1,000 clinical practice hour requirements for certification renewal. Faculty may claim a maximum 500 hours of direct supervision of advanced practice students providing care to patients in the clinical setting. All recertification requirements must be completed during the 5-year certification period.

EXAM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

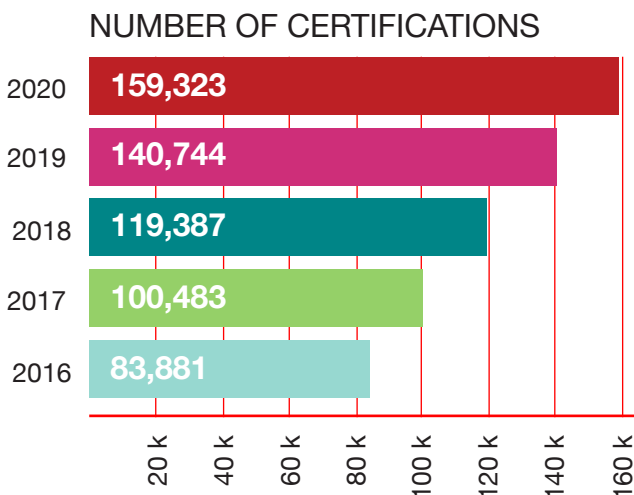
Two major examination development activities were completed in 2020.

- AANPCB conducts a national practice analysis for each certification program every five years. This type of study serves to identify and validate current clinical practice within the certified population. The **Family Nurse Practitioner Practice Analysis**, conducted in 2020, resulted in updates to the exam content outline which will be published in late 2021 and will be the basis for the FNP certification examinations released in 2022.
- **Remote Item Writing** was also held for all the certification programs.

We wish to thank the many clinical expert volunteers who have contributed to test development activities in 2020.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The chart below shows our certification growth over the past 5 years.



2020 LEADERSHIP, NETWORKING, OUTREACH

In addition to AANPCB's strong record of certifying NPs for practice, our Board of Commissioners continues to provide leadership in representing certificants in areas of NP education, regulation, and certification accreditation. Contributions included participation in the revision of the National Task Force *Criteria for Evaluation of NP Programs*, with an updated document forthcoming, and updating the LACE Network structure and processes.

There was also collaboration with colleagues that produced a consensus statement to uphold educational standards for NP students during the COVID crisis which greatly affected many students' clinical placements. This work provided guidance for faculty and confirmed competency expectations of NP entering the role for the public.

Many certificants were similarly affected by the pandemic. With cancellation of educational events and clinic closures, many NPs had difficulty completing certification renewal requirements in 2020. Therefore, AANPCB created an exception policy to allow a COVID-19 **Temporary Certification Extension** for those facing hardship situations in meeting recertification requirements.

Outreach and networking with our affiliate membership organizations, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) remains strong.

EMERGENCY NP CERTIFICATION

The ENP certification program has continually grown since its launch in 2017. Below are the number of first-time testers (Initial Exams) and pass rates by ENP eligibility option* for those who tested in 2020. The similar pass rates across the three eligibility options provides supporting evidence that there is equivalence among these options to qualify for certification.

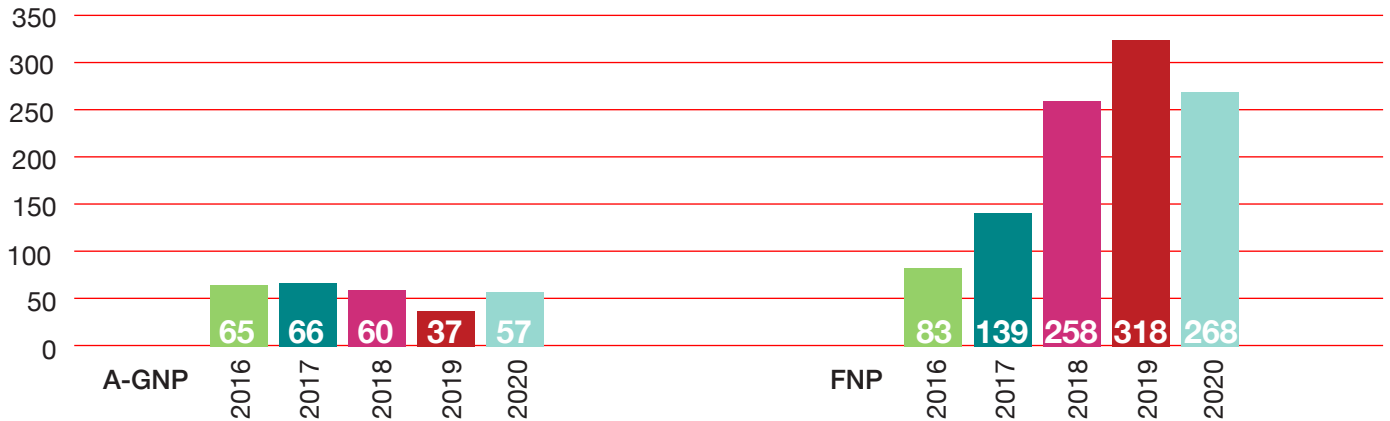
2020 Initial Exams (Pass %)	
ENP-CE	248 (87%)
ENP-AP	120 (92%)
ENP-FP	10 (90%)

ENP eligibility option:
 CE – Continuing Education
 AP – Academic ENP Program
 FP – Fellowship Program

CANADIAN CERTIFICANTS

In addition to U.S. resident NPs, applicants who completed approved Canadian NP programs may take the AANPCB certification examinations.

Initial Applications from Canadian NPs over the past 5 years



PASS RATES BY EDUCATION CATEGORY

Since 2016, AANPCB has reported the certification examination pass rates of graduates by educational category of NP program completed. These comparisons are reported annually and presented on our website under the About AANPCB tab.

MASTERS

	number of candidates	pass %
FNP	16,508	85%
A-GNP	1,920	86%
OVERALL	18,428	85%

POST-GRADUATE

	number of candidates	pass %
FNP	870	82%
A-GNP	144	81%
OVERALL	1,014	82%

DOCTORATE/DNP

	number of candidates	pass %
FNP	1,136	90%
A-GNP	156	90%
OVERALL	1,292	90%

NP-C®

NP-C is a registered trademark. This designation presents NP certification by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Board, Inc. (AANPCB).

Only individuals who have met the standards, qualifications, testing requirements, and maintenance of certification requirements established by AANPCB may use this mark. NPs who allow their AANPCB certification to expire may not use the NP-C credential and may not represent themselves as being certified by AANPCB.



2021 COMMISSION



Lorna Schumann
Chair
PhD, FNP-C, ENP-C, ACNS-BC,
ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP

Susan D. Ruppert
Vice Chair
PhD, RN, FNP-C, ANP-BC,
FCCM, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN



Pamela King
Secretary
PhD, APRN, FNP-BC,
PNP-BC, FAANP

Josie A. Weiss
Treasurer
PhD, PNP-BC,
FNP-BC, FAANP



Robin Arends
Member at Large
CNP, DNP, FNP-BC,
CNE, FAANP

Dixie L. Harms
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BC-ADM, FAANP



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COHN-S, FAANP

Karen S. Moore
Member at Large
APRN, DNP, ANP-BC,
FNP, FAANP, FAAN



Barbara Safriet
Public Member
JD, LL.M., FAANP (H),
FAAN (H)

Kim C. Byas, Sr.
Public Member
PhD, FACHE



Richard F. (Rick) Meadows
*Ex-Officio, Chief Executive
Officer, AANPCB*
MS, RN, NP-C, FAANP

ACCREDITATION

The AANPCB advanced practice certification programs are accredited by the **Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC)** and the **National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)**.



ABSNC 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. (absnc.org)



NCCA, the **Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)** accrediting body, 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 AANPCB's compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs. (credentialingexcellence.org/ncca)

AFFILIATIONS

AANPCB 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-based practice for NPs providing emergency care for patients of all ages and acuties in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team. (aaenp-natl.org)



PSI Services LLC (PSI)
PSI is the test delivery and development vendor for AANPCB certification programs. PSI has over 70 years of experience providing worldwide testing solutions to corporations, federal and state government agencies, professional associations, certifying bodies and leading academic institutions. (psionline.com)

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