



**AANPCP**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## 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.



## AFFILIATIONS

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)



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).

## 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

MS, RN, NP-C, FAANP

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# THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

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

At the end of 2015, AANPCP 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, AANPCP 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.

### AANPCP 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 AANPCP 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 AANPCP. Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and *thank you for making AANPCP the certifier of choice among primary care nurse practitioners.*

*Dr. Lorna Schumann*  
Certification Chair

*Richard F. (Rich) Meadows*  
Chief Executive Officer

## MISSION

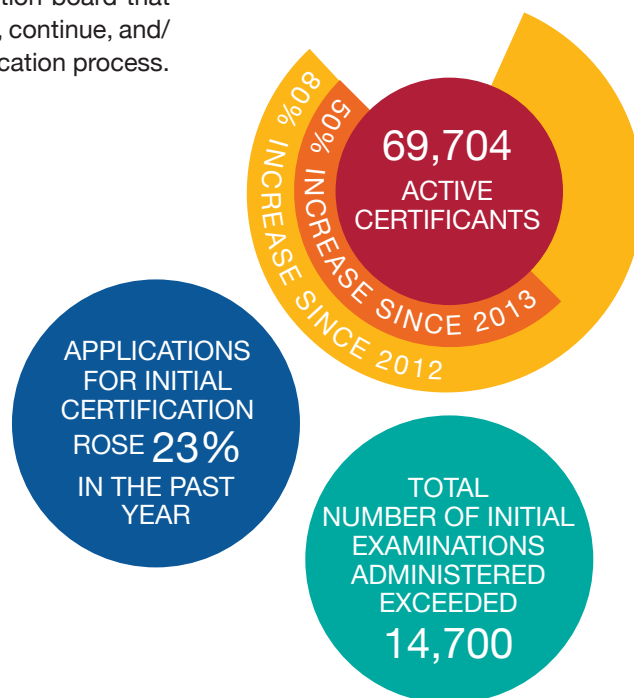
Provide excellence in testing and certification for Nurse Practitioners

## 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

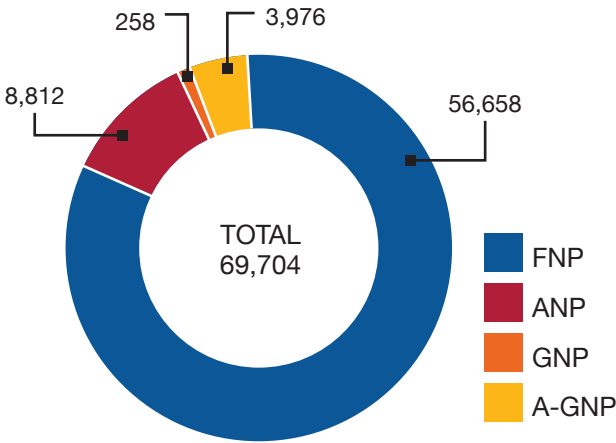


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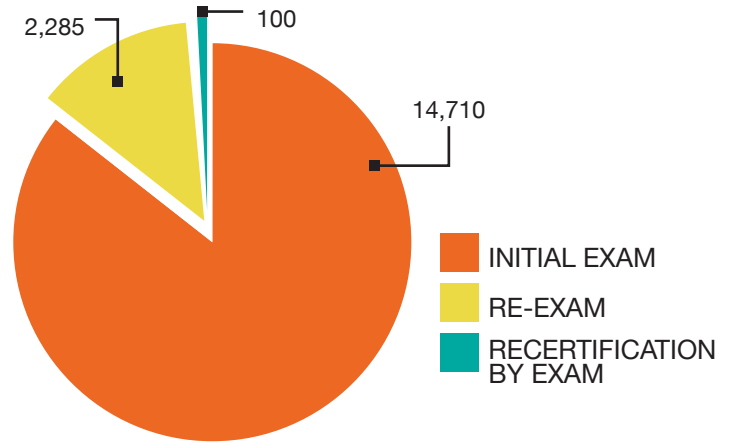
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# 2015 AT A GLANCE

## NUMBER OF NPs CERTIFIED

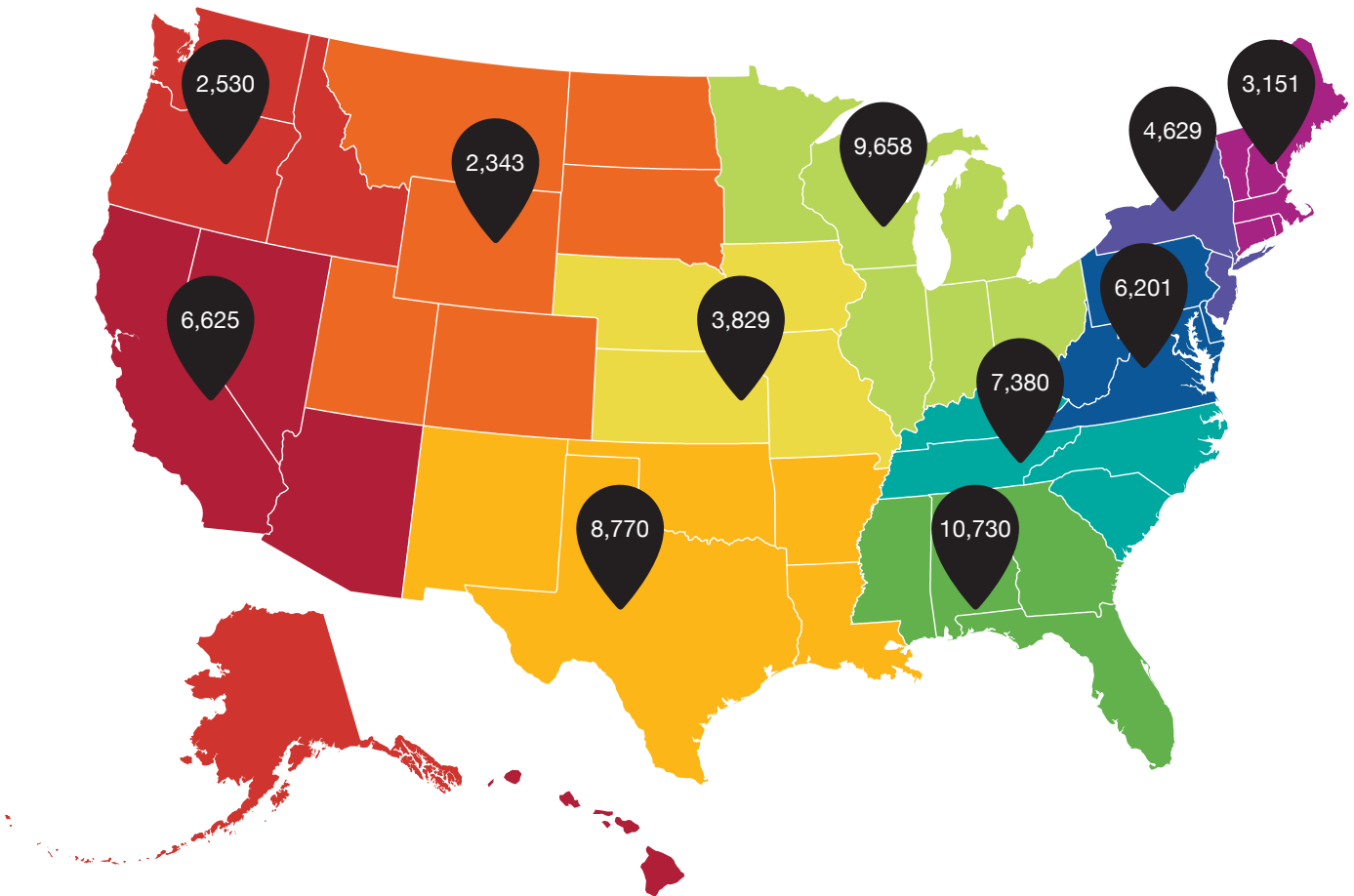


## NUMBER OF EXAMS



## 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

Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700	98
680	95
660	92
640	88
620	84
600	79
580	70
560	65
540	57
520	49
500	35
480	27
Total ANP Pass Rate 65.1%	
Initial Exam Pass Rate 75.5%	

## FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

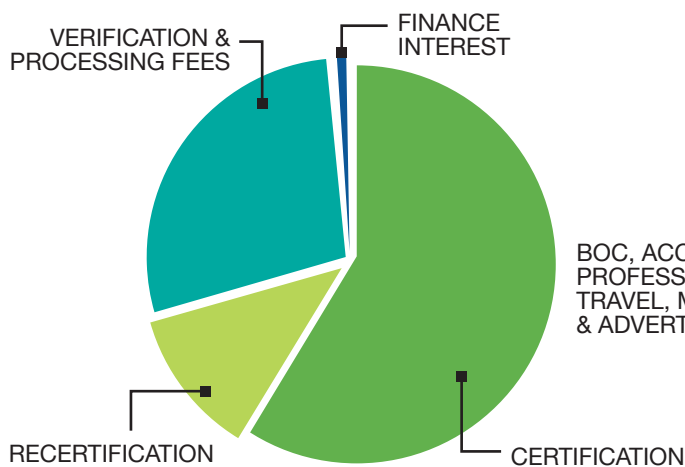
Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700	97
680	93
660	87
640	80
620	72
600	63
580	54
560	45
540	36
520	29
500	22
480	18
Total FNP Pass Rate 77.7%	
Initial Exam Pass Rate 81.4%	

## ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER

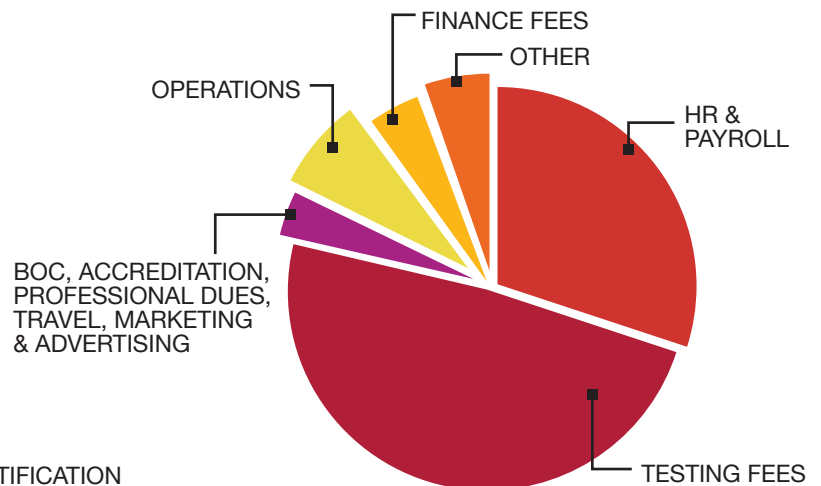
Total Test Standard Score	% of Examinees in Total Group Scoring Lower
700	99
680	96
660	92
640	86
620	78
600	69
580	58
560	49
540	38
520	29
500	21
480	16
Total AGNP Pass Rate 79.2%	
Initial Exam Pass Rate 81.7%	

# FINANCE REPORT

## REVENUES



## EXPENSES



## 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

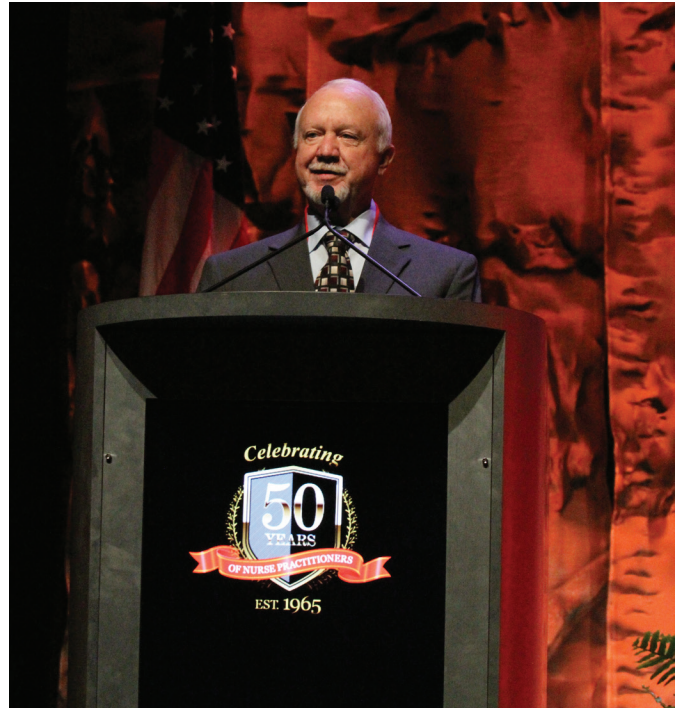
## 50 YEARS OF THE NP ROLE

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 procession 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.)



Rick with Dr. Loretta 'Lee' Ford and Naomi Judd (a former RN), who gave the keynote address at the opening session of the 2015 AANP National Conference.



Rick Meadows, AANPCP CEO, at the podium announcing the reception.

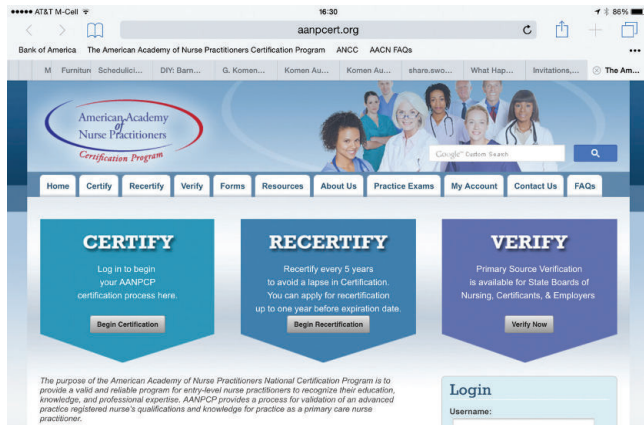


## FNP PRACTICE ANALYSIS

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](http://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

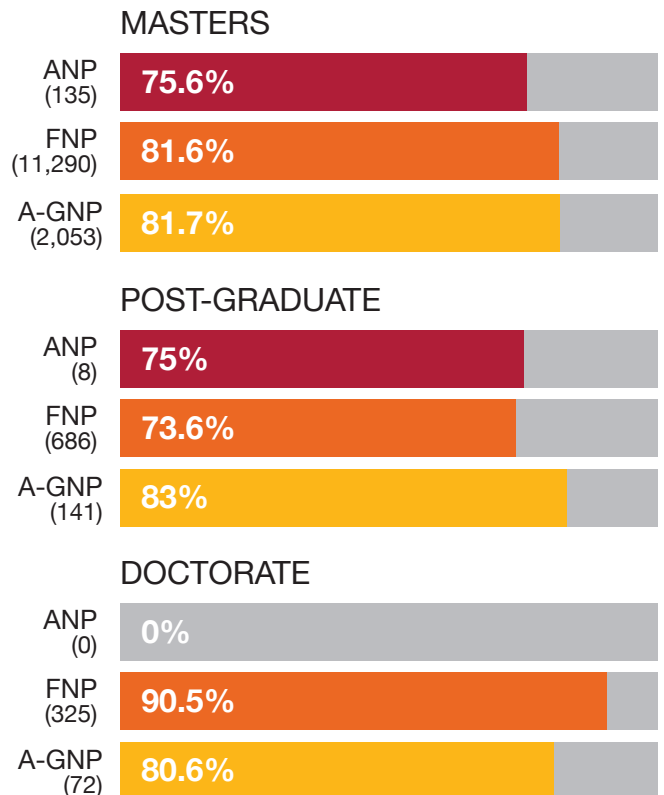
AANPCP also participated in research conducted by NP faculty in collaboration with AANP to examine the role of preceptorship in maintaining clinical competence for nurse practitioners. The results clearly demonstrate the benefits serving as a preceptor has on utilization of and access to current evidence 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](http://aanpcert.org)).

## AANPCP SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

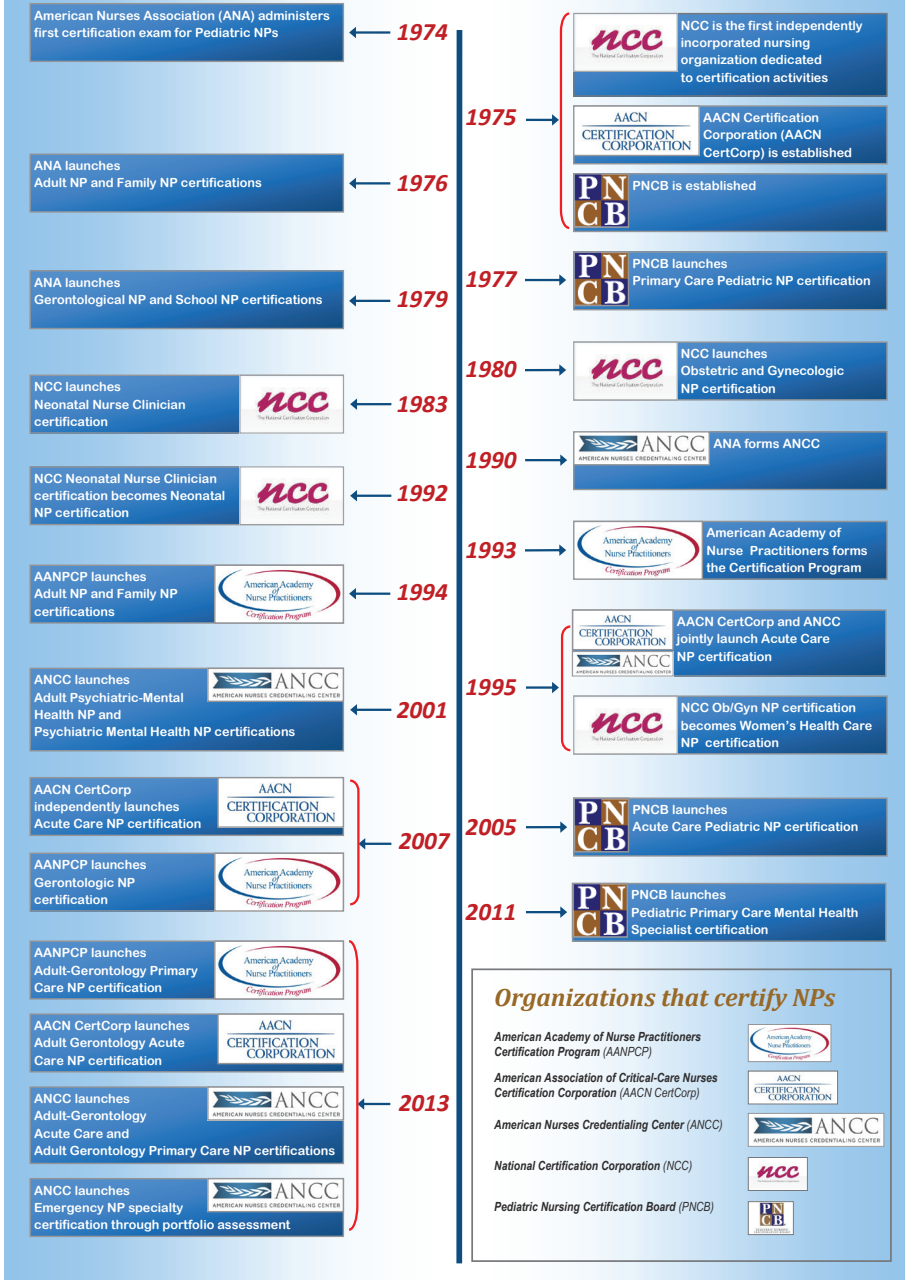
In 2015, AANPCP represented NP certification by sponsoring exhibits and special events at several professional meetings, such as at the American Board of Nursing Specialties Spring and Fall Assemblies (March/September), AANP Health Policy Conference (March), National Organization for Nurse Practitioner 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.



# NP Certification Historical Timeline



## WE'VE HEARD FROM OUR CERTIFICANTS ON INSTAGRAM

 #AANPCP



## 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.

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