

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
2501 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 207  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 962-1800  
<http://oklahoma.gov/nursing>

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Future Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Applicants

RE: APRN Certification Programs (Examinations)

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New advanced practice registered nurse certification examinations continue to be launched and old examinations continue to be retired. Not all examinations meet the requirements of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Statutes and *Rules*, which include the certification programs (examinations) be accredited by a national accreditation body as acceptable by the Board. [OAC 485:10-15-4(d)(5)]

**For initial licensure as an APRN, applicants must pass an examination that is on the *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure, #P-52A.***

Once an examination is accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing will evaluate each examination for inclusion on the *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure, #P-52A.* If the APRN examination is approved the name of the examination will be added to the *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure, #P-52A.*

For renewal or endorsement, the APRN certification examinations that were once approved and now listed on the *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification Examinations No Longer Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure, #P-52B* can be used for renewal or endorsement provided there has been no lapse in licensure. [OAC 485:10-15-4(c)(1)]

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ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) CERTIFICATION  
 EXAMINATIONS APPROVED BY THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
 FOR INITIAL LICENSURE

The following APRN certification examinations have been approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for use by applicants for initial licensure as an APRN. The APRN who is practicing in a role that requires APRN licensure must use the title “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” or “APRN” and the APRN role title, i.e., “Certified Nurse Practitioner” or “CNP”, “Clinical Nurse Specialist” or “CNS”, “Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist” or “CRNA”, or “Certified Nurse-Midwife” or “CNM” in their representations to the public, which may include, but are not limited to, name tags, signatures in medical records and on prescriptions, and signage. The *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act* does not designate the order of the credentials; whether the credentials are to be separated by a dash or a comma; or whether the APRN may add other credentials to their title, such as specialty certifications and educational credentials. These decisions may be made by the individual APRN. An exception is for APRNs who hold a doctoral degree. Oklahoma law [59 O.S. Supp. 2009 §725.1, et. seq.] addresses the use of the “Doctor”, and any abbreviation thereof. If the term “doctor” is used by a licensed nurse holding the appropriate educational credentials, such usage must be in accordance with this statute [OAC §485:10-13-1. (e)].

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act establishes a criminal penalty for using the title Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or APRN; any of the specialty role titles or abbreviations; or any other language that may lead people to believe that the user is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, unless the user of the title is licensed as an APRN by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing [O.S. 59 §567.3a (5)].

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
7	CNM	Certification Examination in Nurse-Midwifery/Midwifery	American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)	CNM
9	CNP	Family Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	FNP-BC
36	CNP	Primary Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, Inc. (PNCB)	CPNP-PC

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
39	CNP	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	NNP-BC
40	CNP	Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	WHNP-BC
60	CNP	Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (across the life span)	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PMHNP-BC
65	CNP	Family Nurse Practitioner	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB)	FNP-C
67	CNP	Acute Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, Inc. (PNCB)	CPNP-AC
69	CNP	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB)	A-GNP-C
70	CNP	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	AGACNP-BC
71	CNP	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	AGPCNP-BC
72	CNP	Adult Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	ACNPC-AG
73	CNS	Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (wellness through acute care)	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	ACCNS-AG
74	CNS	Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (wellness through acute care)	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	ACCNS-P
75	CNS	Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (wellness through acute care)	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	ACCNS-N

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Board Revised: 5/29/07; 9/25/07; 3/25/08; 9/23/08; 5/19/09; 11/8/11; 9/25/12; 1/28/14; 5/20/14; 7/14/14; 3/23/15;  
5/19/15; 7/19/16; 3/21/17; 5/23/17; 5/22/18; 9/25/18; 9/24/19; 11/16/21; 9/27/22  
P:/Administration/Executive/Policies/Practice/P-52A Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certification  
Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
76	CNS	Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (wellness through acute care)	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	AGCNS-BC
4	CRNA	Certification Examination for Registered Nurse Anesthetists	National Board on Certification/Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)	CRNA

As new examinations become available, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing will evaluate them to ensure that they meet the standards in the Rules of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and will make a decision on whether the new examinations can be added to the list of approved APRN certification examinations for initial licensure.

APRNs licensed in the State of Oklahoma who are certified with the current Adult Nurse Practitioner, Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner, Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Practitioner, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist examinations may continue to utilize those certifications for licensure provided the APRN license remains in an active status and current certification is maintained. In addition, APRNs applying for licensure by endorsement may request licensure using the current Adult Nurse Practitioner, Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner, Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Practitioner, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist certification examinations, if the APRN applicant holds current certification and is licensed or recognized in another state in that specialty.

**Regulatory Authority**

59 O.S. §567.3.a.5.(b),7.a.(2), 8., and 10.a.(1); §567.5a.B.4.; §567.5a.B.5  
OAC 485:10-15-4.(a)(3); 485:10-15-4.(d); 485:10-15-4.(e); 485:10-15-6.(b)(3) and (5); 485:10-15-7.; 485:10-15-8.(b); 485:10-15-9.(a)(b).

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**ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS**  
**NO LONGER APPROVED BY THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING**  
**FOR INITIAL LICENSURE**

**No initial licensure** as an APRN is granted from this list, but Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with national certifications from this list may continue to be licensed as APRNs provided the APRN license remains in active status and current certification is maintained.

This list may be used to correctly complete renewal and endorsement applications, if the current national certification is from an examination on this list.

Certification examinations on this list were previously approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, but such approval has been discontinued for initial licensure.

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
8	<b>CNP</b>	Adult Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	ANP-BC
10	<b>CNP</b>	Gerontological Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	GNP-BC
11	<b>CNP</b>	Pediatric Primary Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PNP-BC
53	<b>CNP</b>	Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	ACNP-BC
59	<b>CNP</b>	Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PMHNP-BC [Adult]

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
64	CNP	Adult Nurse Practitioner	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCB)	NP-C
77	CNP	Pediatric Nurse Practitioner	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PNP-BC
1	CNS	Certification for Addictions Registered Nurses	Addictions Nursing Certification Board (ANCB)	CARN
3	CNS	Certification for Adult, Pediatric and Neonatal Critical Care Nurses	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Program (AACN)	CCRN
5	CNS	Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse	American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)	CNRN
6	CNS	Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse	American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABPANC) [formerly known as American Board of Post Anesthesia Nursing Certification]	CPAN
13	CNS	Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PMHCNS-BC [Adult]
14	CNS	Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PMHCNS-BC [Child/Adolescent]
15	CNS	Public Health Nursing, Advanced	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	*PHCNS-BC **APHN-BC

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Board Revised: 9/25/07; 3/25/08; 9/23/08; 5/19/09; 11/8/11; 3/23/15; 5/19/15; 7/19/16; 3/21/17; 5/22/18; 9/25/18; 9/24/19; 11/16/21  
P:/Administration/Executive/Policies/Practice/P-52B Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certification Examinations No Longer Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing

OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
16	CNS	Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	GCNS-BC
17	CNS	Adult Helth Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	ACNS-BC
19	CNS	Community Health Nurse	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
21	CNS	Gerontological Nurse	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
23	CNS	Medical-Surgical Nurse	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
24	CNS	Pediatric Nurse	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
25	CNS	Perinatal Nursing	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
26	CNS	Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	RN-BC
29	CNS	Certification Examination for Emergency Nurses	Board Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN)	CEN
31	CNS	a.Certified Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse b.Certified Ostomy Nurse c.Certified Continence Nurse	Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB)	a. CWOCN b. COCN c. CCCN
34	CNS	Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators	National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE)	CDE

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OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
37	CNS	General Pediatric Nursing	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, Inc. (PNCB)	CPN
38	CNS	Certification of Operating Room Nurses	Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI)	CNOR
43	CNS	Inpatient Obstetric Nurse	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	RNC-OB
44	CNS	Low Risk Neonatal Nurse	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	RNC-LRN
46	CNS	Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	RNC-NIC
48	CNS	Certified Nephrology Nurse	Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)	CNN
49	CNS	Oncology Certified Nurse	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)	OCN
50	CNS	Orthopaedic Certified Nurse	Orthopaedic Nurses Certification Board (ONCB)	ONC
52	CNS	Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse	Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)	CRRN
56	CNS	Neonatal Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	CCNS
57	CNS	Pediatric Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	CCNS
58	CNS	Adult Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certificate Program (AACN)	CCNS

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OBN Exam Code #	OBN APRN Category	National Certification Examination	National Certifying Body	National Certification Credential
61	CNS	Advanced Diabetes Management Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	BC-ADM
63	CNS	Advanced AIDS Certified Registered Nurse	HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board (HANCB)	AACRN
66	CNS	Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	PCNS-BC
68	CNS	Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)	AOCNS

\*PHCNS-BC applies to nurses who took and passed the exam *on or prior* to May 17, 2008, and maintain an active certification.

\*\*APHN-BC applies to nurses who took and passed the exam *after* May 17, 2008.

**Regulatory Authority:**

59 O.S. §567.3a.5.(b),7.a.,(2), 8., and 10.a(1); §567.5a.B.4.; §567.5a.B.5  
OAC 485:10-15-4.(a)(3);485:10-15-4.(d); 485:10-15-4.(e); 485:10-15-6.(b)(3); 485:10-15-7.;  
485:10-15-8.(b); 485:10-15-9.(a)(b).