



The Basics

- The CNS-CP certification was established in 2014
- 3-year credentialing program

Exam Snapshot

- 100 multiple-choice questions
- Six subject areas
- 2 hours and 20 minutes
- 3-month testing window
- Computer-based test offered at over 300 Prometric testing centers nationally

Audience

Minimum Master's prepared Clinical Nurse Specialists who work in the perioperative setting

Recertification Options

1. Exam and Professional Activity
2. CE and Professional Activity

CNS-CP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Education Requirement:

Candidate must meet one of the following two requirements:

1. Graduated from an accredited graduate, post-master's certificate, or postgraduate CNS program in nursing which contains both the 3Ps (advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, advanced physical assessment) and a clinical practicum specific to the role/population;
OR
2. Provide documentation of serving in an advanced practice role if graduated from an accredited CNS program not containing 3Ps and/or a clinical practicum.

Licensure Requirement:

Candidate must meet one of the following two requirements:

1. Current full, unrestricted license (RN and/or APRN);
OR
2. Current full, unrestricted RN license with recognition as a CNS by state board of nursing.

Experience Requirement:

Candidate must meet one of the following two requirements:

1. If currently enrolled in a CNS program that complies with current accreditation standards (3Ps and 500-hour clinical practicum), candidate may sit for CNS-CP exam upon graduation; **OR**
2. If graduated from a CNS program prior to implementation of the above standards, applicant must validate 2,400 hours and two years as a practicing CNS in the perioperative setting.

Practice Requirements:

1. Completed a minimum of two years and 2,400 hours of experience in perioperative nursing, with a minimum of 50% (1,200 hours) in the intraoperative setting.
2. Be currently employed, either full-or part-time, as a perioperative nurse.

Exam Preparation Resources

- Recommended bibliography
- Task and knowledge statements