



**The National Certification Corporation  
Annual Review  
State of the Organization  
2019  
MILESTONES**

**101,802 STRONG:** ...NCC has certified over 175,000 professionals since 1975. Of the 16,306 who registered and were eligible for the exams in 2019, 11,843 took the exam and of these, 10,446 passed the exam. (An overall 88% pass rate). The Inpatient Obstetric Nursing exam and the Electronic Fetal Monitoring exam continue to bring in the largest number of new professionals with over 2,300 in INPT and over 3,800 in EFM taking the exam in 2019.

**Maintenance and Reinstatement:** Over 24,828 maintained in 2019. NCC does a 3% random audit for all maintenance applications and audits reinstatement applications. For maintenance audits, 11,264 applications were maintained using all NCC CE which do not require an audit. Of the remaining applications 425 were randomly selected for audit with a 98% approval rate. All candidates who let their certification lapse can reinstate their certification within 12 months of their maintenance due date. 838 reinstatement applications were submitted with 517 candidates using all NCC CE. All remaining applications were audited and all were approved. The alternate maintenance options is used by some who do not want to take a self-assessment. It requires CE in across every core area and all applications are audited. 115 alternate maintenance applications were submitted in 2019. All applications were audited and 75% were approved.

**Continuing Competency Initiative** – Over 186,000 have participated in this innovative program since 2010. The use of assessment and the development of an individualized educational plan is a strong approach to certification

maintenance. The use of a continued competency assessment with a focus on core areas has demonstrated a continued decrease need for CE over time. The initial assessments showed that 63% of those certified required 45 CE across all core areas to maintain. This has dropped to 46% (a decrease of 27%). Seventeen percent of certificants require 35-40 CE with the remainder requiring 30 or less CE. Currently, less than 1% are taking alternate maintenance.

**Alternative Certification Program (ACP)** – NCC launched the ACP program in 2016. This program was designed for APRNs who hold graduate degrees in the role and population but are not within the 8-year rule from graduation to sit for the examination. We had 10 apply in 2019 and a total of 41 have passed the program since starting it in 2016. (Seven NNPs and 34 WHNPs). Of those not qualifying for the program, this is usually due to lack of a graduate degree or graduation from a program not approved by NCC at any time in the past.

**PR Outreach to the Public** –NCC spent 2019 working on the campaign “Trained to be Different” in a partnership with the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board. This new public service announcement (PSA) will showcase the skills and roles of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioners to the general public, employers and institutions. NCC provided the budget for creative, filming and editing and this will be launched in 2020. In addition, the PSA “Your Baby Communicates”, that launched in 2018 continued to play nationally in 2019.

**APRN Advocacy Efforts** continue with NCC’s ongoing participation in activities to promote the Consensus Model to achieve congruity between education, accreditation, certification and licensure of nurse practitioners. NCC has representatives at the National Council of state Boards of Nurse Round table, the national LACE initiative, the NONPF meeting and participated in the committee to develop common APRN Doctoral level competencies. NCC is involved with advocacy for bills being submitted across the US regarding certification. In addition, NCC worked with NANN/NANNP on a workforce salary survey for NNPs that will be launched in 2020.

NCC is a member of the Professional Certification Coalition. This organization addresses efforts to enact state legislation that would undermine the activities or recognition of certifications developed or offered by non-governmental, private

certification organizations. Recent occupational licensing reform legislation considered in various states has alerted private certification organizations to significant threats to their activities in including protection of the term “certified” or “registered” and the establishment of governmental certification programs in place of private certification programs. They monitor for any barriers to state professional licensure laws recognizing or requiring certifications from private organizations. The organization has been successful in educating legislators about the value of private certifications and achieving modifications to potential legislation to protect the value and use of private certification.

**NCC Practice Resource** – Our monthly practice resource has been received positively by the constituents. It takes some of the top issues in nursing and medicine and provides an easy to read format to assist in keeping up to date. It has been a great format for updating our certified constituents. NCC will be moving to a new practice bulletin by Bulletin Healthcare in 2020. This resource is provided free to you weekly and highlights hot topics in Obstetrics, Gynecology, Neonatology and Women’s Health.

**Special Projects** –NCC completed a new publication “Neonatal Imaging book” in December 2017. The publication was launched January of 2018 and the reviews in 2019 continue to be very positive. More than 1,000 copies have sold. This book is a teaching resource for all providers in the NICU. NCC launched the second edition of the book, “Golden Hours: Care of the Very Low Birth weight Infant, “ in January of 2019 and have received wonderful reviews. Over 900 were sold to date. Some institutions are purchasing the book and CE and adding it to the NRP requirements to improve care to this very special population of babies. The book is also being used as a resource for the ELBW examination. Three websites are available by NCC and provide free resources and opportunities. These include:

- EFM Toolkit website: [ncc-efm.org](http://ncc-efm.org)
- Quality and Safety.org website: [ncc-qualityandsafety.org](http://ncc-qualityandsafety.org)
- Neonatal Educational Resources: [NeonatalEducationalResources.org/](http://NeonatalEducationalResources.org/)

**Work of the NCC** – Some of other updates and things to watch for

- **Verifications**- Over 20,000 maintenance verifications were done by individuals, state boards and employers in 2019. The majority of these were for looking up and downloading a certification verification.

- **New exams**- NCC is currently working on four new exams. The two new subspecialty Exams “Care of the ELBW Neonate” (ELBW) and “Neuro-Intensive Care of the Neonate” (NNIC) are both in the final phases of testing and the first scores should be out in late March. The new subspecialty certifications Obstetrical Neonatal Quality and Safety Certification (ONQS) will be launch in July of 2020. The new “Inpatient Antepartum Nursing” (IAP) core exam is in the final stages of test grid development, after a national Job Analysis survey. Test question development will begin this spring with an expected launch date of early 2021. NCC is always looking for volunteers to help with these new exams.
- **Second Chance Free Promotion**- NCC launched a second chance free promotion to promote the new ELBW and NNIC exams. A decision of the board to also offer a Second Chance Free Promotion from October 2019 through December 2019 increased national certification. This promotion was well received.
- **LIVE Remote Proctoring**- NCC was chosen as one of 4 certification organizations to participate in a trial comparing two types of test methods (Live Remote Proctoring (LRP) and Computer Test Center). Accreditation has been slow to allow LRP as a method of test taking. Based on the results of this study, LRP may become an option for taking some of the NCC exams. Live Remote Proctoring allows candidates to take the exam from their own computer and in their own location using an online, live proctor. The trial will run on EFM exams April 1 2020- May 31, 2020. Candidates will have a choice of taking the exam using either LRP or a computer test center. Those who take the exam using LRP will receive a SECOND CHANCE FREE if they fail to pass the exam. The second attempt will be required at a Computer Center.
- **Free CE**- Over 5,938 hours of CE was provided for free in 2019 to certificants who took Pretests.
- **National CE**- NCC CE modules are low cost CE for all health care providers working in the perinatal/neonatal field. CE is often required for on-going nursing licensure and not everyone can travel to conferences to meet their CE needs. NCC offers the available CE modules to everyone in the perinatal/neonatal/women’s health field and it does not require certification to obtain CE from NCC.
- **National Volunteer Committee**- NCC is always looking for new volunteers for the National Volunteer Committee. Individuals take a short item writing

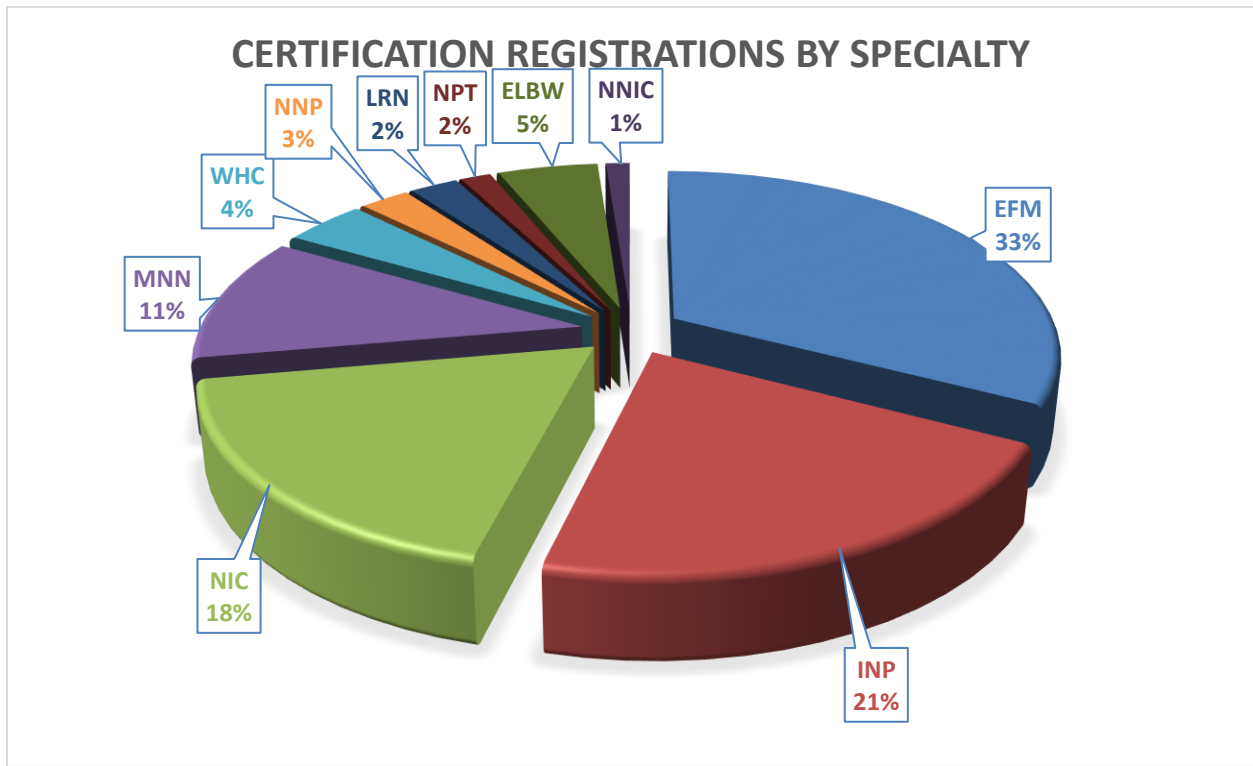
course to be part of the National Volunteer group. This item writing course is on-line and taken at your own pace. It provides CE once completed. Once the item right course is completed certificants become a member of the National Volunteer Committee. When NCC has projects, job analysis, standard setting or content team needs, individuals from the National volunteer group are asked to participate. It is a great opportunity to get involved nationally. To submit your interest, visit

<https://www.nccwebsite.org/faculty-students-state-boards-volunteers/volunteer-opportunities>

- **NCC-E**: 140 certificants placed their certification on Emeritus status in 2019. In-line with the 2018 numbers. Emeritus is a one-time fee for life and recognizes your commitment to certification after retirement. It holds the credential of NCC-E.
- **NEW TEST GRIDS and Exams**- NCC completed national job analysis surveys for all of its certifications in 2019. Based on the results of the survey, the national job analysis teams developed new content grids that will be used in test development. All 2020 guides and Catalogs related to testing have the old test grids and information on the new test grids that will be used in testing beginning April 1, 2020. EFM will begin using the test grid in July of 2020. This delay is related to the LRP research that will be completed in June.
- **MISSION AND VISION**- NCC updated the mission and vision in 2019. The new Mission and Vision statements can be found at <https://www.nccwebsite.org/about-ncc/ncc-mission-and-vision-statements>

**ACCREDITATION**: NCC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC). The NCCA Commission/Council made the decision to accredit all 8 of NCC's certification programs for another 5-year period. This was a huge honor and accomplishment.

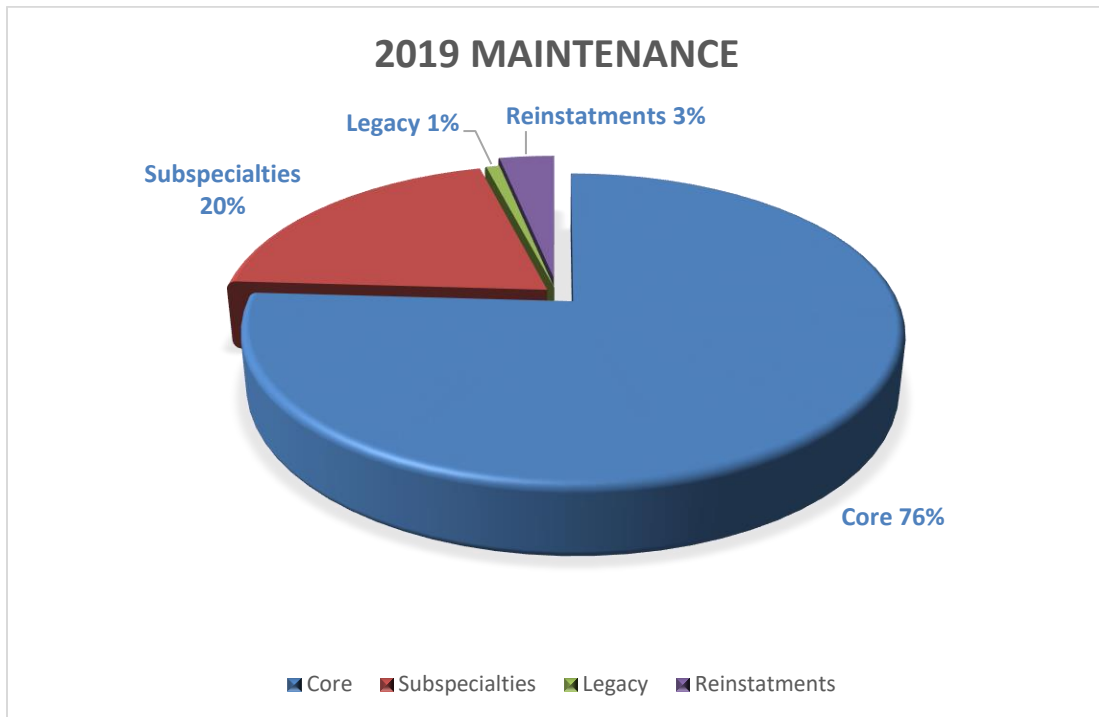
# 2019 EXAM REGISTRATION



EFM	Electronic Fetal Monitoring
ELBW	Care of the Extremely Low Birth Weight Infant
INP	Inpatient Obstetric Nursing
NIC	Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing
MN	Maternal Newborn Nursing
WHNP	Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner
LRN	Low Risk Neonatal Nursing
NNP	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
NPT	Neonatal Pediatric Transport
NNIC	Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care

**Total Participation 16,362 (almost 6,000 more than 2018)**

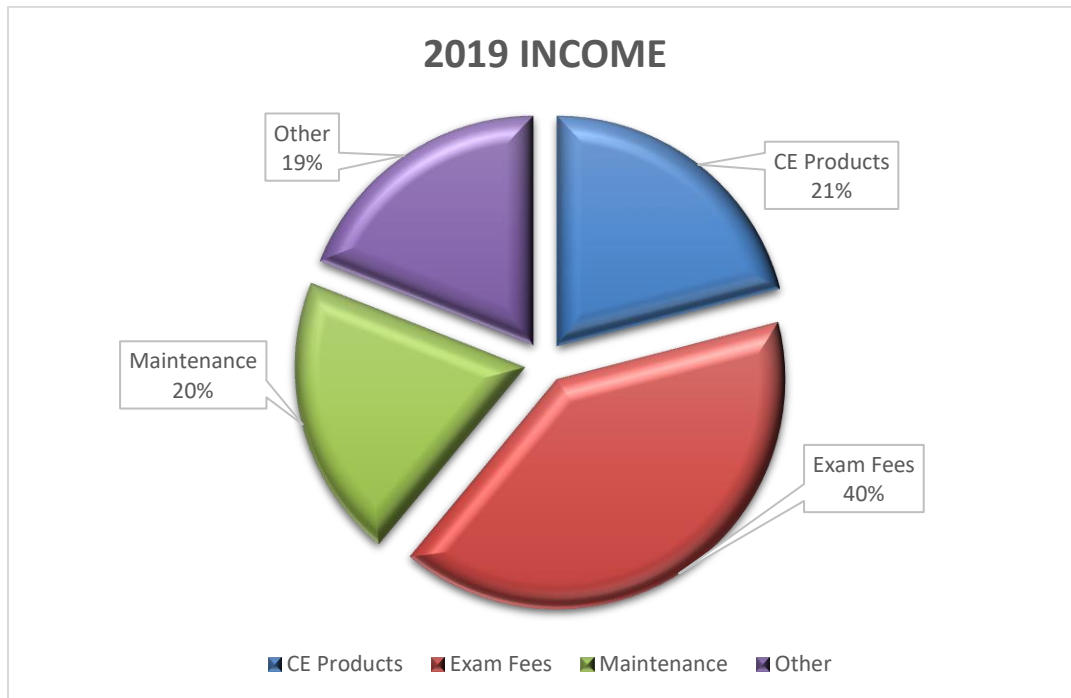
# 2019 MAINTENANCE



**Total Participation: 25,757**

- Core Maintenance – Maintenance of those holding an RNC or NP credential.
- Subspecialty Maintenance – Maintenance of those holding the current subspecialty certificates of added qualifications in Electronic Fetal Monitoring and Neonatal-Pediatric Transport. There are also legacy holders for those credentials as well.
- Legacy – This includes the legacy exams which are no longer currently offered
- Reinstatement – Allows individuals, whose certifications have lapsed, to come back into the system without retesting. This is time limited, within 1 year of the original maintenance due date.

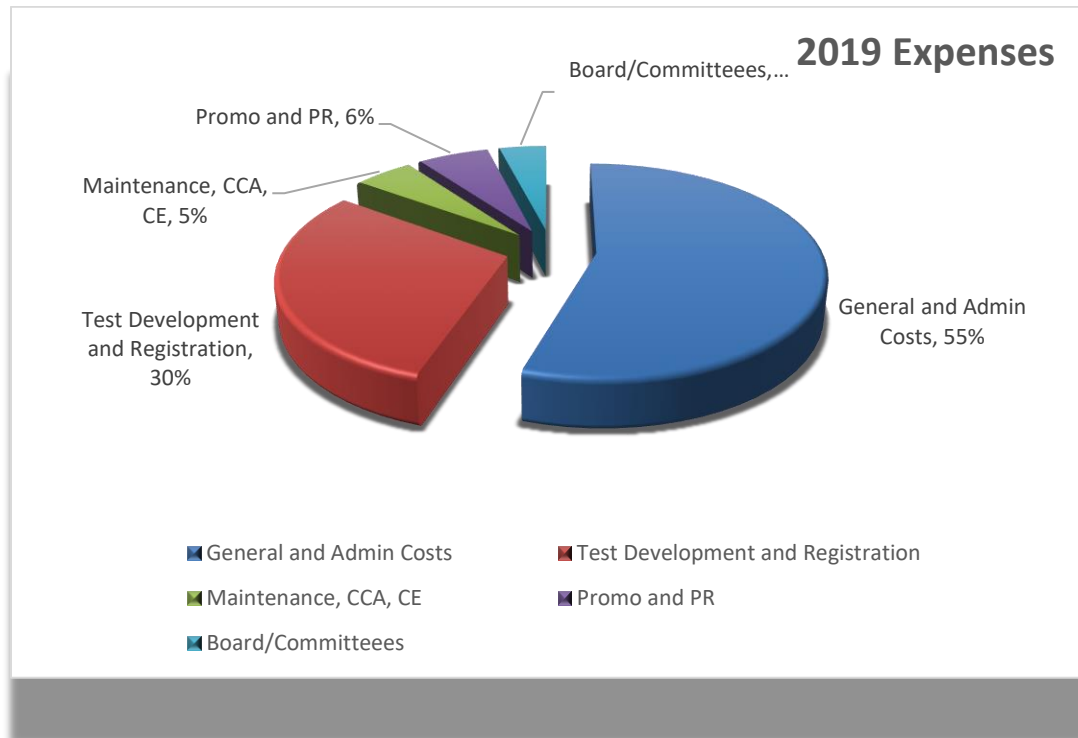
## 2019 INCOME



- Exam Fees: 40 %: Exam fees from all programs, computer, ICP, PEC
- Maintenance Fees: 20 %: Maintenance, reinstatement, extensions, deferrals and preapproval fees
- CE Products- 21%: Sales from CE modules
- Other Fees – 19%: Certification verification fees, branded merchandise website, recognition certificates, pins & plaques, EFM tracing game and other miscellaneous fees



# 2019 EXPENSES



- Board/Committees: 4%: Meetings, activities of the board, committees and representation on allied organizations
- Test Development/ Registration & Administration 30%: Test development and administration costs for all NCC exams in all modes (Computer, ICP, PEC, paper/pencil).
- General Operations & Admin 55%: Staff personnel, office equipment, fees, Video and conferencing, website management, updates and development and contract payments, rental and all office operations via contract with HAB Associates, Inc
- Maintenance/CCI/Modules 5%: CCI platform and evaluation of data
- Promo & PR 6%: promotional activities, Certified Nurses are everywhere, Promotional items.