



The National Certification Corporation Annual Review State of the Organization

2021 MILESTONES

110,500 STRONG: ...NCC has certified over 196,000 professionals since 1975. Of the 10,419 who registered and were eligible for examinations in 2021, 8,992 took an examination and of these, 7,673 passed. (An overall 85% pass rate). The Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (INPT) and the Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM) examinations continue to bring in the largest number of new certified professionals with over 2,000 in INPT and over 3,800 in EFM in 2021. Candidates take the examinations at test centers 73% of the time and 27% are using live remote proctoring to test at home or work.

Maintenance and Reinstatement: Over 26,197 professionals maintained in 2021. NCC does a 3% random audit for all maintenance applications and audits all reinstatement applications. If an application is audited, the certificant must provide a description of the CE offering and the CE certificate. Candidates who use all NCC CE for maintenance are not audited since the descriptions and CE certificates are already created by NCC. 13,421 applications were maintained using all NCC CE. Of the remaining applications, 760 were randomly selected for audit with an 89% approval rate. Candidates who let their certification lapse can reinstate their certification within 12 months of their maintenance due date. 1,022 reinstatement applications were submitted with 667 candidates using all NCC CE. The remaining applications were audited and approved. The alternate maintenance option is used by some who do not want to take the continuing competency assessment. It requires CE across every core competency area and all applications are audited. 99 alternate maintenance applications were submitted in 2021. All NCC CE was used in 48 of these applications which does not require audit. All other applications were audited and 100% were approved.

Continuing Competency Initiative: Over 238,000 NCC certified professionals have participated in this innovative program since 2010. The use of the assessment and the development of an individualized education plan provides a third-party assessment of knowledge to determine CE requirements for certification maintenance. The use of a continued competency assessment with a focus on core areas has demonstrated a decreased 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 41%.

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. There were six applicants in 2021 and a total of 54 have passed the program since its inception in 2016. (8 NNPs and 46 WHNPs). Of those not qualifying for the program, the lack of a graduate degree or graduation from a program not approved by NCC at any time in the past are the primary reasons for this determination.

PR Outreach to the Public: NCC launched a new public service announcement (PSA), “Trained to be Different” in a partnership with the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board during the last quarter of 2020 which ran throughout 2021. This PSA showcases 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 had over 102 million impressions. NCC has developed a storyboard and is working with other certifying organizations to launch a new PSA, “Certified Nurses make a Difference.” The plan is to launch in Fall of 2022.

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 (NCSBN) Round table, the national LACE (licensure, accreditation certification and education) initiative, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioners Faculty (NONPF) annual meeting and participated in the committee to develop common APRN doctoral level competencies. NCC is involved with advocacy for legislative bills being submitted across the US regarding certification.

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 is working with other organizations on a Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH) initiative to develop an action plan for nursing education, research, practice, and policy regarding the intersection of women’s and maternal child health and the environment. This work began in 2021 and is ongoing.

NCC Bulletin: NCC provides a weekly Bulletin with links to top issues impacting the health of mothers and neonates. This practice resource has been received positively by our constituents and helps to provide up-to-date information. This resource is provided free weekly and highlights hot topics in Obstetrics, Gynecology, Neonatology and Women’s Health.

Special Projects: NCC has begun work on its third publication “Neurological Care of the Neonate.” NCC plans to launch the book in Fall of 2022. NCC has two current books, “Neonatal Imaging book” and “Golden Hours: Care of the Very Low Birth Weight Infant, “which is in its second edition. Over 4,000 copies have sold. The current publications can be purchased on Amazon and both have CE available on the NCC website. These books are teaching resources for all providers in the NICU. Some institutions purchase the Golden Hours book and CE package, adding it to the NRP requirements to improve care to this very special population of neonates.

Three websites are available by NCC to provide free resources and opportunities. These include:

- EFM Toolkit website: ncc-efm.org

- Quality and Safety.org website: ncc-qualityandsafety.org
- Neonatal Educational Resources: NeonatalEducationalResources.org/

The EFM toolkit has a free EFM tracing game to test EFM knowledge. Over 988,000 tracings have been played by over 55,000 health care professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants and registered nurses. On average 23, 415 tracings are played each week. NCC also offers a new free 2021 EFM monograph “Fetal Assessment and Safe Labor Management.”

Work of the NCC: Some of other updates and activities that have occurred in 2021 include

- **Verifications**- Over 21,000 maintenance verifications were done by individuals, state boards and employers in 2021. The majority of these were for looking up and downloading a certification verification.
- **New exams** - NCC developed a new Inpatient Antepartum (IAP) examination that launched in February of 2022. The ELBW examination was offered by live remote proctoring in 2021 and ONQS examination in 2022. To date, over 1,255 candidates have registered for ELBW and 711 for ONQS. In addition, the new Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care examination (NNIC) has had over 368 registered.
- **Institutional Payment Programs**- NCC continues to offer bulk purchases to institutions and there is an institutional bulk purchase option for organizations who provide seek certification for large numbers of their employees. This program offers a fee discount and/or a “second chance free” promotion for their staff based on total numbers of bulk purchases. The examinations are offered at either computer test centers or test delivery using live remote proctoring. NCC works with institutions to set up computer testing within the institution’s own computer labs or learning centers. This was launched in 2021. Currently 10 discount purchases have been made and 239 bulk purchases completed providing thousands of certifications to health care providers.
- **Certification Review Courses**: Certification review programs who guarantee 500 NCC certification exam registrations a year can provide a discounted fee or “second chance free” promotion to those who take their review program. This was launched in 2021. Currently three review programs are providing this second chance free opportunity. Please note: *NCC does not*

endorse any review programs and has no input into any certification preparation endeavor. Candidates should carefully review any certification preparation opportunities before participating.

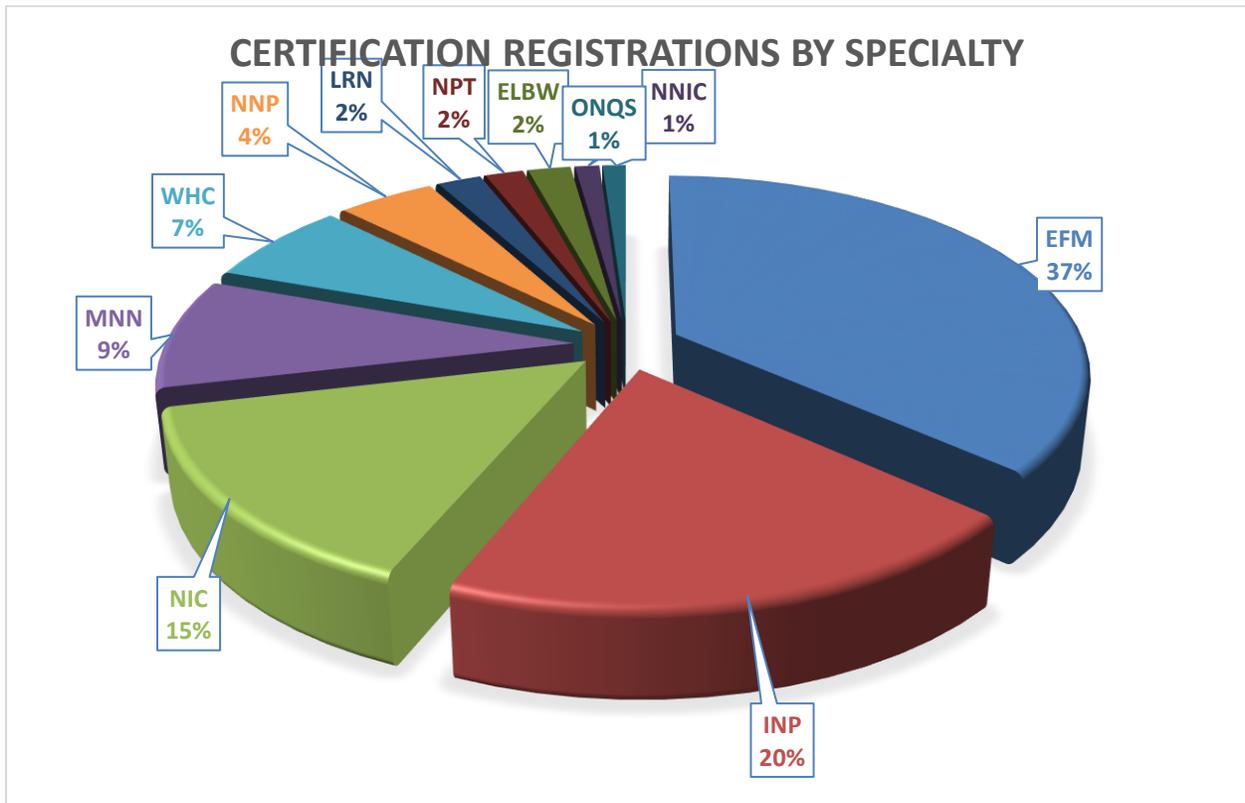
- **LIVE Remote Proctoring**- NCC completed a national study comparing the modes of computer testing (live remote proctoring (LRP) compared to test center (TC) testing). NCC began offering LRP for most of our examinations in 2020. In 2021, over 2,800 candidates tested using LRP. There had been no significant difference in the psychometrics when comparing pass rates on the same examination forms offered at a test center or by LRP. Based on these findings, all accredited NCC certifications are available to test by remote proctoring or at a computer test centers.
- **Magnet Status**: All accredited certifications by NCCA and/or ABSNC are now approved for magnet. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in collaboration with the Magnet Recognition Program will now limit the certifications to those that meet industry standards for board certification. ANCC Magnet will limit inclusion only to board certifications that are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), the National Commission Certifying Agencies (NCCA), or another recognized accreditor. **NCC's certifications are accredited by NCCA except for the two newest certifications, Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care (NNIC) and Inpatient Antepartum Nursing (IAP). WHNP and NNP are also accredited by ABSNC.**
- **Pretests-Free CE**- Over 4,900 hours of CE was provided for free in 2021 to certificants who took pretests. Pretests are provided to certified professionals in their certification specialty. The pretest program provides an opportunity to assist NCC in testing newly developed questions and earn the test taker free CE. Certificants currently certified by NCC in a core or subspecialty certification are provided with 50 questions to answer. Questions can cover one topic area or multiple areas and completion provide the certificant with 1 CE to apply to maintenance. Certificants can earn up to 5 CE during their maintenance cycle by completing 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 licensure and not everyone can travel to conferences to meet their CE needs. NCC offers CE modules with open book post exams to everyone in the perinatal/neonatal/women's health field. NCC certification is not required to use NCC CE modules for professional needs. Over 90,000

modules were sold in 2021. NCC also offered a free module on “Coronavirus in the Maternal Newborn Population” that was taken by over 20,000 people who earned a total of over 100,000 CE hours.

- **National Volunteer Committee**- NCC is always looking for new volunteers to work on national committees for certification. Individuals take a short item writing course to become a volunteer. This item writing course is on-line and taken at the individual’s own pace. It provides CE once completed. Once the item writing course is completed certificants can be asked to join the item writing team. When NCC has projects, job analysis, standard setting, item writing or content team needs, individuals that have submitted their CV as a volunteer are asked to participate. It is a great opportunity to get involved nationally. To apply for consideration, visit <https://www.nccwebsite.org/faculty-students-state-boards-volunteers/volunteer-opportunities>
- **NCC-E**: 199 certificants placed their certification on Emeritus status in 2021. This is slightly higher than 2020 numbers. Emeritus is a life designation for a one-time fee and recognizes commitment to certification after retirement. It assigns the credential of NCC-E.
- **New Test Grids and Exams**- Items writers and content teams worked to develop new examination forms in 2021 to be introduced in 2022.
- **Preview Tests**: NCC offers preview tests for those who are considering an NCC certification. Over 2,000 preview tests were taken by candidates for certification in 2021.

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 (March 31, 2025). In addition, the Care of the Extremely Low Birth Weight (ELBW) certification was accredited for five years through April 30, 2026, and the Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and safety examination was NCCA accredited through November 30, 2026. NCC received approval from ABSNC to provide the NNP and the WHNP certification examinations using live remote proctoring. The full ABSNC accreditation for NNP and WHNP examinations was approved in 2021 for a five-year period through March 31, 2025.

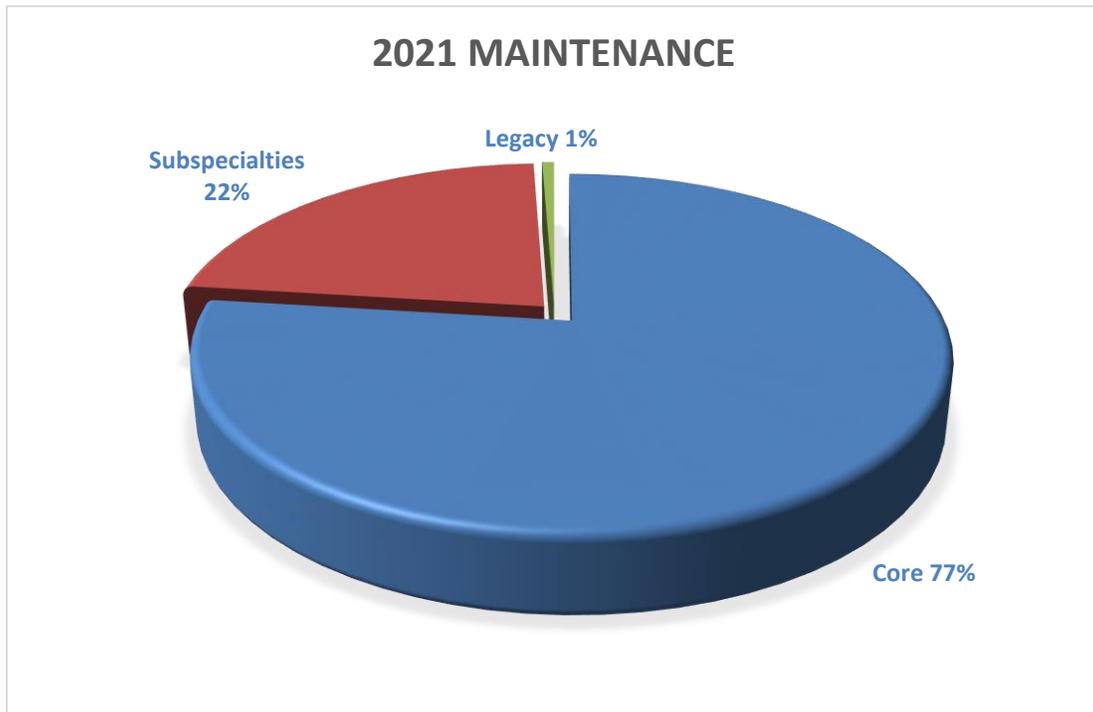
2021 EXAM REGISTRATION



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 Intensive Care Nursing
NNP	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
NPT	Neonatal Pediatric Transport
NNIC	Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care
ONQS	Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety

Total Participation 10,416 with an overall 86% pass rate.

2021 MAINTENANCE

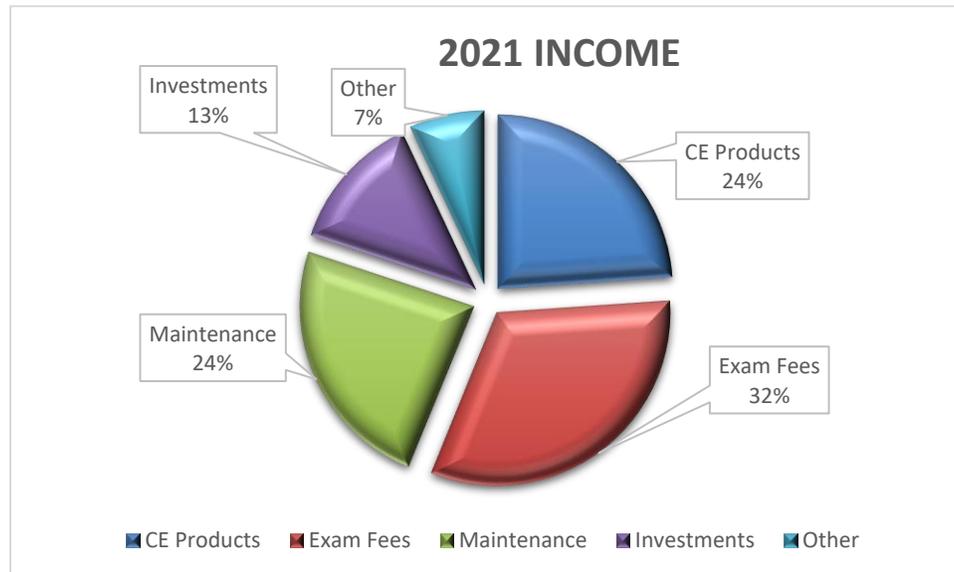


Total Participation: 26,197

- 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.
- Legacy – This category includes the legacy core and subspecialty examinations 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. 1022 Certificates reinstated in 2021. (3.7% of all those who maintained)

2021 INCOME



- Exam Fees: 32 %: Exam fees from all programs, computer, and the last of PEC
- Maintenance Fees: 24%: Maintenance, reinstatement, extensions, and preapproval fees
- CE Products: 24%: Sales from CE modules
- Investments and Interest: 13%
- Other Fees: 7%: Certification verification fees, branded merchandise website, recognition certificates, pins & plaques, and other miscellaneous fees

2021 EXPENSES



- Board/Committees: 1%: Meetings, activities of the board, committees, and representation on allied organizations
- Test Development/ Registration & Administration: 29%: Test development and administration costs for all NCC exams in all modes (Computer, ICP, PEC, paper/pencil).
- General Operations & Admin 56%: 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: 6%: CCI platform and evaluation of data
- Promo & PR: 8%: promotional activities, toolkits for certified nurse’s week, press releases, PSA’s such as “Trained to be Different” and promotional items.