



## The National Certification Corporation Annual Review State of the Organization 2022 MILESTONES

**115,000 STRONG:** ...NCC has certified over 207,000 professionals since 1975. NCC currently has 12 active certification examinations. In 2022, of the 13,583 who registered and were eligible for the exams, 12,445 took the exam and of these, 10,568 achieved certifications. (An overall 85% pass rate). The Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (INPT) examination and the Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM) examination continue to bring in the largest number of new professionals with over 2,000 in INPT and over 3,500 in EFM examinees in 2022. 83% of Candidates test at test centers and 17% are using live remote proctoring.

**Maintenance and Reinstatement:** Over 27,209 maintained their NCC certification in 2022. NCC performs a 3% random audit for all maintenance applications each year. 100% of reinstatement applications are audited. If an application is audited, the certificant must provide a description of the offering and the CE certificate. Certificants who use all NCC CE modules for maintenance are not subject to audit since the descriptions and CE certificates are already on file. For maintenance audits, 14,561 applications maintained using all NCC CE modules and were auto approved. Of the remaining 12,956 applications, 628 were randomly selected for audit with a 91% approval rate.

All certificants who allow their certification to lapse can reinstate their certification within 12 months of their maintenance due date. 1,251 reinstatement applications were submitted with 853 using all NCC CE modules to meet the reinstatement requirements. All remaining applications were audited, and all were approved. The alternate maintenance option is used by those who

opt out from taking the continuing competency assessment. It requires CE across every core specialty competency area and all applications are audited. 117 alternate maintenance applications were submitted in 2022. 62 of these applications utilized NCC CE modules to meet the CE requirements and did not require audit. All other applications were audited and 99% were approved.

**Continuing Competency Initiative** – Over 263,000 have participated in this innovative program since 2010. The use of the assessment and the development of an individualized educational plan is a strong approach to certification maintenance. The initial assessments showed that 63% of those certified required 45 hours of CE across all core competency areas to maintain. With the use of a continued competency assessment, with a focus on assessment of knowledge in the core specialty areas, a decreased need in the amount of CE required for maintenance has been demonstrated. Currently, less than 1% opt out of taking the assessment and use the alternate maintenance pathway.

**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 five applicants in 2023 with 4 eligible. A total of 56 have passed the program since its inception (8 NNPs and 48 WHNPs). Of those not determined eligible for the program, a lack of a graduate degree or graduation from a program not approved by NCC at any time in the past was usually the disqualifying factor.

**PR Outreach to the Public** –NCC launched a new public service announcement (PSA) in 2022, “Certified Nurses Make a Difference” in a partnership with many other national certifiers. The purpose of the PSA was to create a public awareness campaign promoting certified nurses. The national certification organizations shared the budget for creative, filming and editing and had over 10 million impressions and 7,734 airings have been done. A special airing of the PSA will be made in March. Dates and times will be posted on the NCC website and distributed through regular communication with all those certified by NCC. View the video at <https://www.nccwebsite.org/about-ncc/ncc-recognizes-certified-nurses> and please share the video and post it within your organization.

**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 Roundtable, the national LACE initiative, the NONPF annual meeting and participated in the committee to develop common APRN Doctoral level competencies. NCC participated in the National Task Force (NTF) for Nurse Practitioner Education and endorsed the "Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2022)". One of the changes in this document is an increase in the direct patient care clinical hour requirements to 750 for all NP programs. Changes in NCC eligibility criteria to the WHNP and NNP examinations to incorporate these new guidelines will not be made until these changes are broadly implemented within program curricula, program accreditation and recognized by the regulatory licensing agencies. The NCC president, Dr. Carol Wallman was selected to participate on the LACE strategic work group which will 1. Clarify the APRN Core Courses (3Ps); 2. Review and update the statement on age parameters for APRN practice developed in 2012; and 3. Review the statement on APRNs changing a population or role.

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. 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 Bulletin** – NCC provides a weekly Bulletin with links to top issues impacting the health management of the reproductive age population, mothers and neonates. This practice resource has been received positively by the NCC 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 hopes to launch the book in 2023. 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 4,900 copies have sold.

The current publications can be purchased on Amazon, and both have CE available on the NCC website. These books are teaching resource for all providers in the NICU. Some institutions are purchasing the Golden Hours 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 Care of the Extremely Low Birthweight Neonatal examination.

Three websites are available from 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/)

The EFM toolkit has a free EFM tracings game to test basic and advanced knowledge. In 2022, over 1,671,392 tracings have been played by over 106,500 health care professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants and registered nurses. On average 32,142 tracings are played each week. Over 4,800 certificants have used the free EFM monograph “Fetal Assessment and Safe Labor Management” to obtain NCC CE.

**Work of the NCC** – Some of other updates and activities include.

- **Verifications**- Over 22,257 maintenance verifications were done by individuals, state boards and employers in 2022.
- **New exams**- NCC continues its work on the new Inpatient Antepartum (IAP) examination that launched in February of 2022. 565 registered for the examination and 369 passed with a 79% pass rate. Of the other new examinations, 788 have taken the Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety (ONQS) examination with an 81% pass rate and 1,459 have taken the Care of the Extremely Low Birthweight (ELBW) Examination with an 80% pass rate. The ELBW was offered by live remote proctoring in 2021 and ONQS in 2022. In addition, the new Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care examination (NNIC) has had over 355 take the exam with a 77% pass rate. NCC will be working on a new Reproductive Health and Infertility subspecialty certification to launch in 2024.
- **Institutional Payment Programs**- NCC continues to offer a bulk purchases program to Institutions that support certification by paying certification fees for many professionals within their organization. This program, first

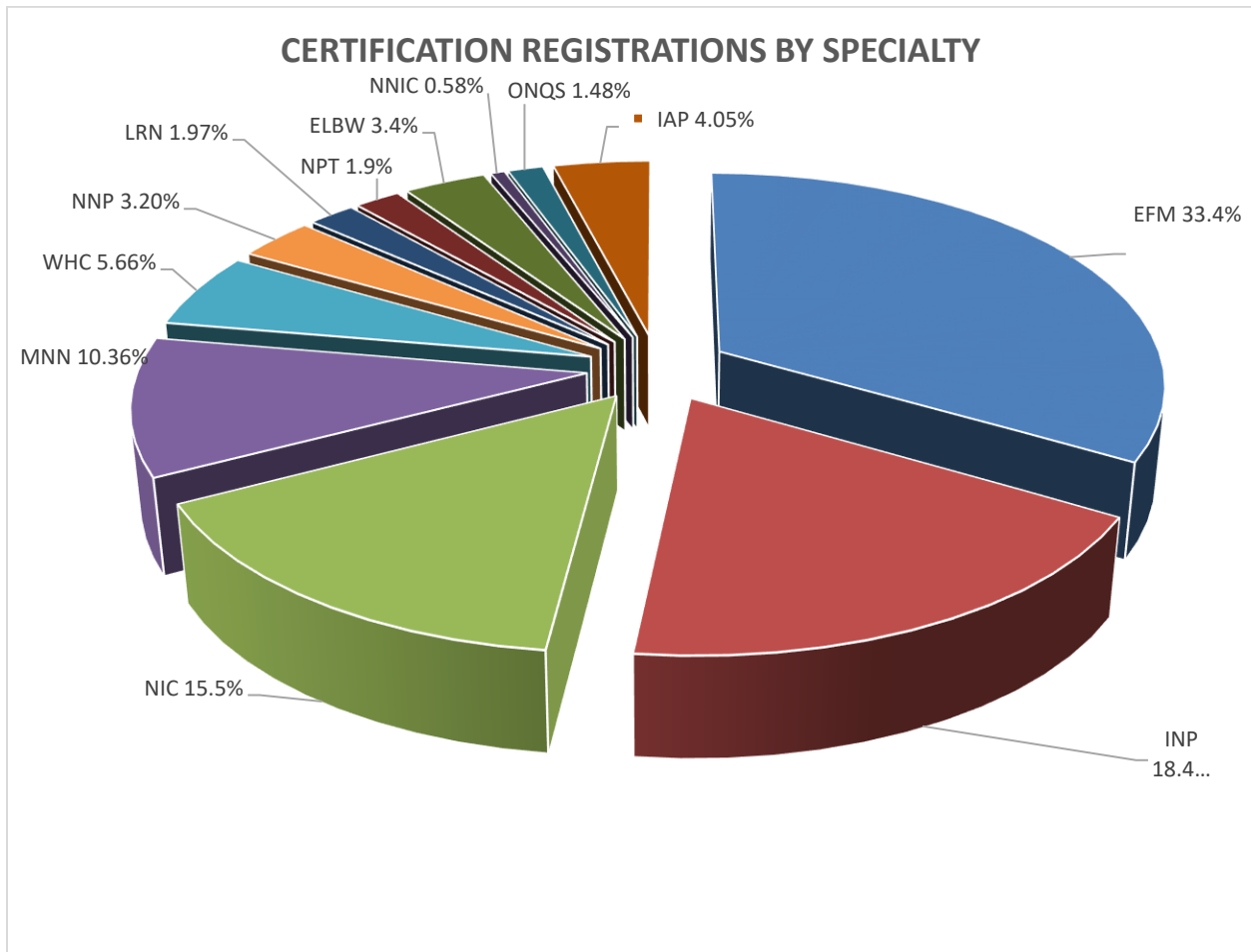
offered in 2021 provides a fee discount and or a “second chance free” promotion for their staff based on total numbers of bulk purchases. In 2022, 236 Institutional bulk purchases were made for 867 exam registrations for staff throughout the country. Currently 362 discount purchases were made in 2022. Both these programs provide thousands of certifications and CE to health care providers.

- **Pretests-Free CE**- Over 15,500 hours of credit for maintenance was provided for free in 2022 to certificants who took Pretests. This was an increase from 4,900 in 2021 with the addition of direct links to the program in each certificant's personal NCC website account. Pretest can only be taken in the specialty area in which the certified professional holds a certification. The pretest program provides an opportunity to assist NCC in testing newly developed questions. 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 hour of credit to apply to maintenance. Certificants can earn up to 5 hours of credit per maintenance cycle, free, for completing the pretests.
- **National CE**- NCC CE modules are low-cost CE option designed for use for health care providers working in the women's health/perinatal/neonatal field. NCC offers the available CE modules with open book posttests. A 70% score must be achieved to earn the stated CE. NCC certification is not a prerequisite to participate in the module program and the CE earned may assist in meeting licensure or other professional CE needs. Discounts on core maintenance fees can be earned if at least 15 hours of CE are earned from the program. Over 96,000 modules were sold in 2022.
- **National Volunteer Committee**- The volunteer platform “Vtopia” continues to grow with new item writers and content team members. NCC is always looking for new volunteers to work with NCC on national job analysis, item writing and content teams. Individuals take a short item writing course to become a volunteer. This item writing course is on-line and taken at your 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 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**: 237 certificants placed their certification on Emeritus status in 2022. This was an increase from 2021. 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**- Items writers and content teams worked to develop new examination forms in 2022. Several new exams will be introduced in 2023.
- **Preview Tests**: NCC offers preview tests for those who are considering an NCC certification. Over 2,280 preview tests were taken by candidates for certification in 2022.
- **Social Media**: NCC continues to share information out to certificants and those who are not certified through social media including Facebook and LinkedIn. The NCC Facebook page had to move this year due to new Facebook requirements for nonprofit organizations. Please follow NCC at <https://www.facebook.com/nationalcertificationcorporation>.
- **Exhibits**: NCC exhibited at the Academy of Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, Association of Women's health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses and National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. NCC codes all the conference lectures that are provided by these meetings for certified nurses who will use the lectures for maintenance CE. This year NCC will also exhibit at the ANCC National Magnet Conference as we continue to ensure our certifications are Magnet approved.

**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. All accredited examinations are ANCC Magnet approved.

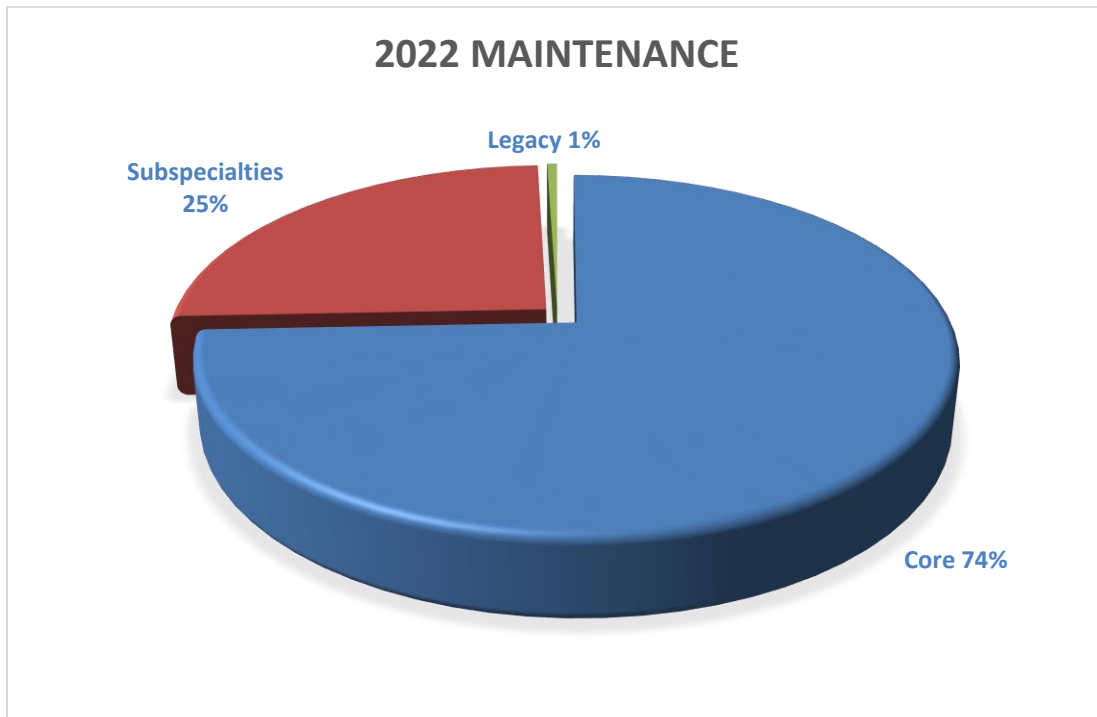
# 2022 EXAM REGISTRATION



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
IAP	Inpatient Intrapartum Nursing

**Total Participation 12,509 with an overall 85% pass rate.**

## 2022 MAINTENANCE



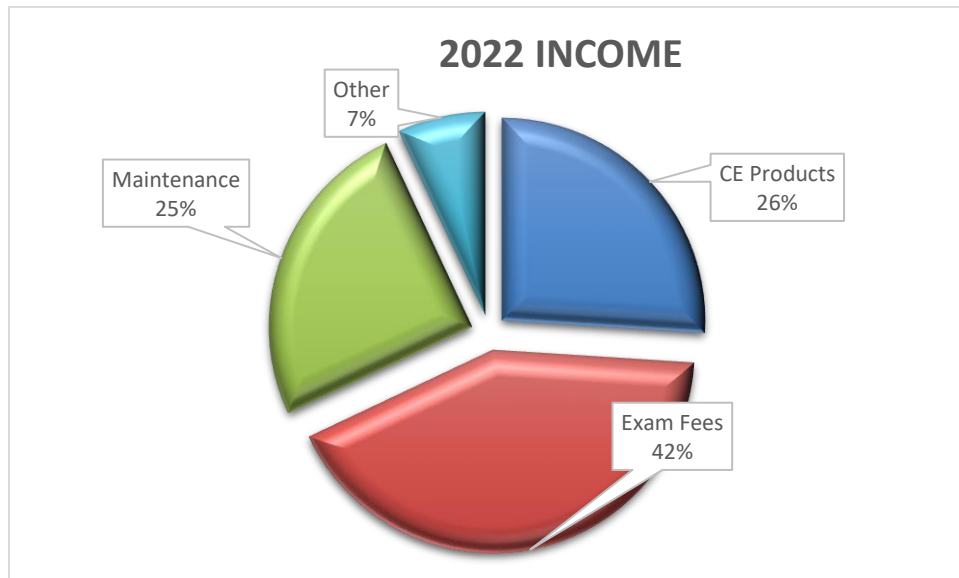
**Total Participation: 27,634**

- Core Maintenance – Maintenance of those holding an RNC or NP credential.
- Subspecialty Maintenance – Maintenance of those holding the subspecialty credential in Electronic Fetal Monitoring, Neonatal-Pediatric Transport, Care of the Very Low Birthweight Infant, Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care and Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety. There are also legacy holders for those credentials as well.
- Legacy – This includes the legacy 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. 1251 Certificates reinstated in 2022.***



## 2021 INCOME



- Exam Fees: 42 %: Exam fees from all programs, computer, ICP, PEC
- Maintenance Fees: 25%: Maintenance, reinstatement, extensions, and preapproval fees
- CE Products: 26%: Sales from CE modules
- Other Fees: 7%: Certification verification fees, branded merchandise website, recognition certificates, pins & plaques, and other miscellaneous fees

# 2022 EXPENSES



- Board/Committees: 1%: Meetings, activities of the board, committees, and representation on allied organizations
- Test Development/ Registration & Administration: 33%: Test development and administration costs for all NCC exams in all modes (Computer, ICP, PEC, paper/pencil).
- General Operations & Admin 52%: 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: 7%: CCI platform and evaluation of data
- Promo & PR:7%: promotional activities, toolkits for certified nurse’s week, press releases, PSA’s such as “Trained to be Different” and promotional items.