



## The National Certification Corporation Annual Review State of the Organization 2023 MILESTONES

**116,190 STRONG:** ...NCC has certified over 215,500 professionals since 1975. NCC currently has 12 active certification examinations. In 2023, of the 11,235 who registered and were eligible for the exams, 10,074 took the exam and of these, 8,272 achieved certifications. (An overall 82% pass rate). The Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM) examination and the Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (INPT) examination continue to bring in the largest number of new professionals with over 5,378 in EFM and over 1,700 in INPT examinees in 2023. 74% of Candidates test at test centers and 26% are using live remote proctoring.

**Maintenance and Reinstatement:** Over 29,934 maintained their NCC certification in 2023. NCC performs a 3% random audit for all maintenance applications each year and 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, 16,157 applications were maintained using all NCC CE modules and were auto approved. Of the remaining 13,663 applications, 1,090 were randomly selected for audit with an 85% approval rate.

All certificants who allow their certification to lapse can reinstate their certification within 12 months of their maintenance due date. 1,533 reinstatement applications were submitted with 1,013 using all NCC CE modules to meet the reinstatement requirements. All remaining applications were audited, and 99% 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. 114 alternate maintenance applications were submitted in 2022. 67 of these applications utilized NCC CE modules to meet the CE requirements and did not require audit. All other applications were audited and 100% were approved.

**Continuing Competency Initiative** – Over 283,312 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 three applicants in 2023 with 3 eligible. A total of 63 have passed the program since its inception (8 NNPs and 55 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 67.8 million impressions and 45,733 airings done. 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, the AANP Extended APRN round table and presented the NCC continued competency initiative at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) board meeting. 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 changes to Multiview** – NCC provides a weekly update to the certificants 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. Beginning in 2024, NCC along with Multiview will be providing specialty specific newsletters. The newsletters are developed to provide up-to-date, timely and interesting articles on the specialty. To ensure you receive the free briefing, please add [NCC@multibriefs.com](mailto:NCC@multibriefs.com) to your email address book. You may unsubscribe from the newsletters at any time.

**Special Projects** –NCC has almost completed a third publication “Neurological Care of the Neonate Handbook”. NCC plans to launch the book Spring of 2024. 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. The second edition of the “Neonatal Imaging” book will be available for purchase by the end of March. Over 5,000 copies of the current books have sold. NCC publications can be purchased on Amazon, and 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 and add it to the NRP requirements to improve

care for this very special population of babies. The book is also being used as a resource for the Care of the Extremely Low Birthweight Neonatal certification 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 tracing game to test basic and advanced knowledge. In 2023, over 1,55,231 tracings have been played by over 89,634 health care professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants and registered nurses. On average 22,215 tracings are played each week. Over 8,694 certificants have used the 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 24,300 verifications were requested by individuals, state boards and employers in 2023. 1,400 were requested through the maintenance and reinstatement application.
- **New exams**- NCC launched the new Inpatient Antepartum (IAP) examination in February of 2022. Since the launch, 660 registered for the examination and 556 passed it (440 passed with a 79% pass rate). Accreditation is pending. NCC is currently working on two new subspecialty certifications (“Reproductive Health and Infertility” and “Obstetric Emergencies”). NCC is hoping to launch these examinations by the end of 2024 and is looking for more volunteers to assist in item writing.
- **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 2023, 179 Institutional bulk purchases were made with 1,680 vouchers for exam registrations purchased for staff throughout the country. 12 Hospitals signed bulk purchase contracts and purchased 885 voucher codes for

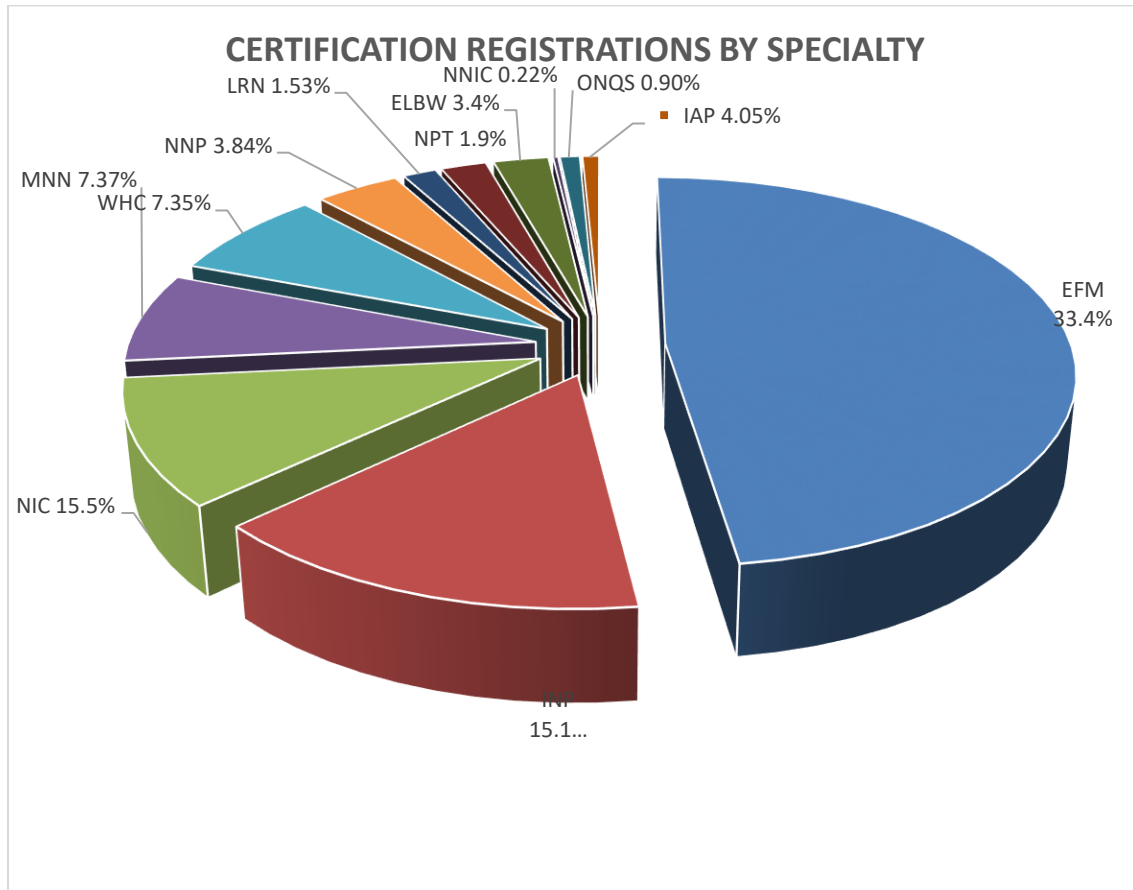
certification examinations. Both these programs provide thousands of certifications and CE to health care providers.

- **Pretests-Free CE**- Over 17,638 hours of CE credit for maintenance was provided for free in 2023 to certificants who took Pretests. This was an increase from 2,138 in 2022. Pretests 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 of the pretest provides 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 accredited CE options designed for use by 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 100,242 modules were sold in 2023.
- **National Volunteer Committee Opportunities**- 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 an item writer. This item writing course is on-line and taken at your own pace. Once the item writing course is completed certificants may provide items at any time electronically. NCC usually appoints the content team members from the item writing group. Members on the content team put the examinations together for testing. This work provides 5 CE every 3 years that can be used for maintenance. When NCC has projects such as job analysis, standard setting or content team needs, a call will go out asking for willingness 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**: 256 certificants placed their certification on Emeritus status in 2023. This was an increase from 2022. 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 9 new examination forms in 2023. Several new examination forms will be introduced in 2024.
- **Preview Tests**: NCC offers preview tests for those who are considering an NCC certification. Over 2,190 preview tests were taken by candidates for certification in 2023.
- **Social Media**: NCC continues to share information to certificants and those who are not certified through social media including Facebook and LinkedIn. 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. Also this was the first year that NCC exhibited at the ANCC National Magnet Conference and plans are to continue to attend this event. All accredited 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 will be turning in the 5-year renewals this year. The newest certification, Inpatient Antepartum, is pending final approval for accreditation. 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.

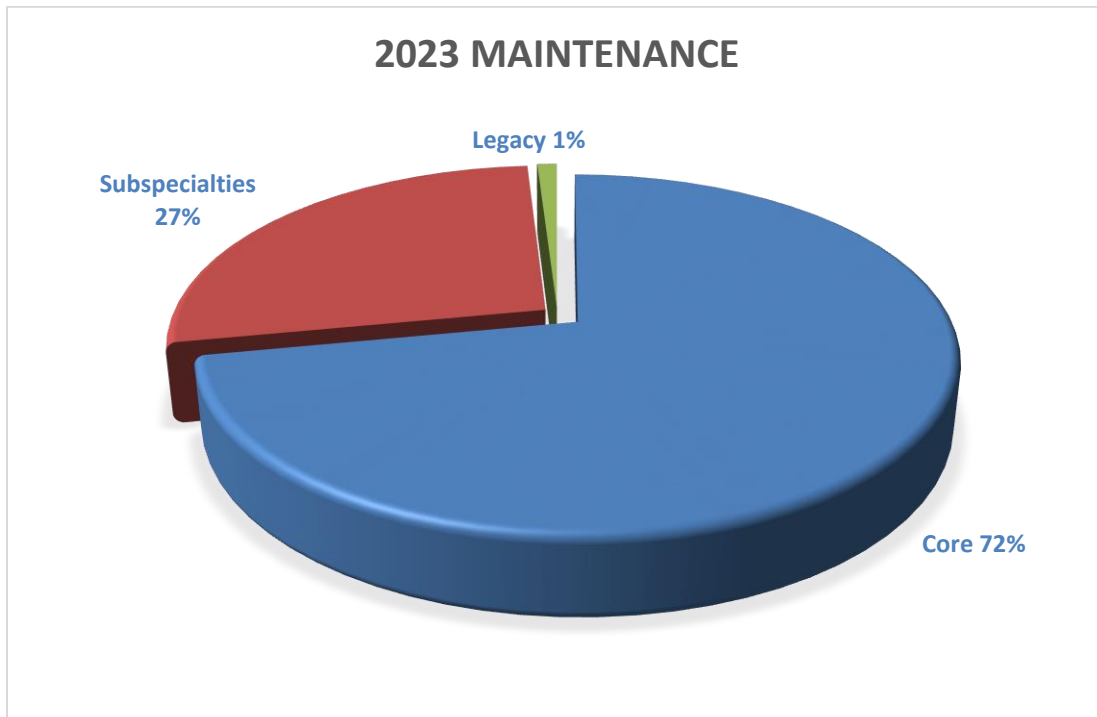
# 2023 EXAM REGISTRATION



- 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 11,235 with an overall 82% pass rate.**

# 2023 MAINTENANCE



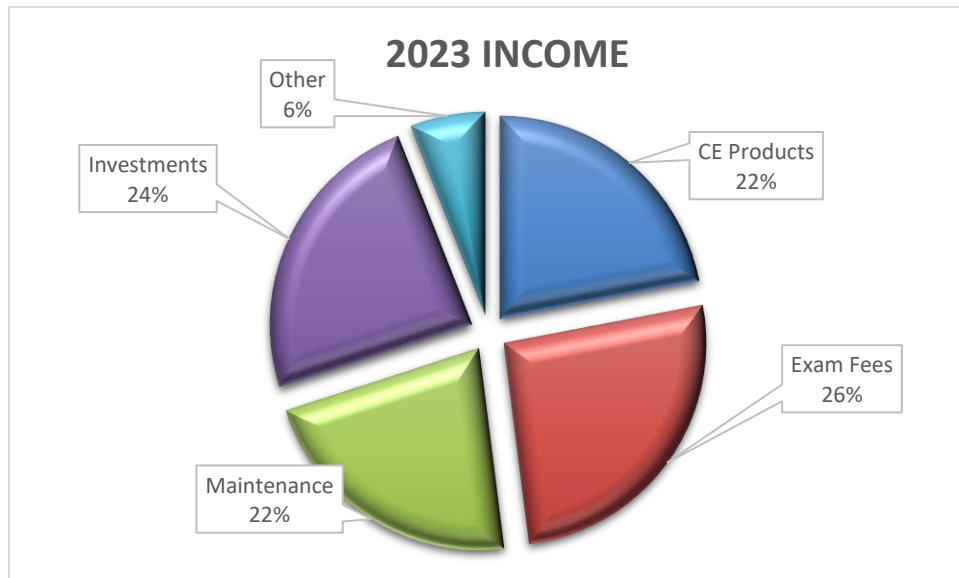
**Total Participation: 29,920**

- 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. 836 Certificates reinstated in 2023.***



## 2023 INCOME



- Exam Fees: 26 %: Exam fees from all programs, computer, LRP
- Maintenance Fees: 22%: Maintenance, reinstatement, extensions, and preapproval fees
- CE Products: 22%: Sales from CE modules
- Investments: 24% from interest and dividends
- Other Fees: 6%: Certification verification fees, branded merchandise website, recognition certificates, pins & plaques, and other miscellaneous fees

# 2023 EXPENSES



- Board/Committees: 3%: Meetings, activities of the board, committees, and representation on allied organizations.
- Test Development/ Registration & Administration: 31%: 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.