



Continuing Competency Assessment

NCC Core Maintenance Program Education Plan Examples

Sample plans for each core certification can be found within this guide

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1)	5.71	5 hours
Postpartum Assessment and Management (Code 2)	7.66	Standard met
Newborn Care (Code 3)	6.11	20 hours
Pharmacology (Code 4)	10	Standard met

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1) Missed keywords: Anesthetic Factors, Intrauterine Factors Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1) - 5 hours	5 hours
Newborn Care (Code 3) Missed keywords: Infection, Complications, System Management and Family Education, Transition of Care Newborn Care (Code 3) - 20 hours	20 hours
15 Continuing Education hours in any of your content-specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

The Education Plan is **BINDING** and must be followed to maintain your NCC certification.



Breakdown of the CCA results


The Specialty Index Report contains the ratings for each core competency area within a specialty. Each core content area relates to a code for required CE.

The specialty index report is not based upon a grading system but uses mathematical calculations to provide a scaled 1-10 conversion based upon the type and amount of content within each core specialty's competency content area.

Core competency areas with ratings of less than 7.5 (shown on the report in red type) indicate the need for continuing education in those competency categories to meet your maintenance needs. A specialty index rating of 7.5 or better achieved in any core competency area will satisfy the maintenance needs for the specific specialty area during that maintenance cycle.

The Education Plan will identify those specialty competency areas upon which continuing education should focus.

Core competency areas with ratings of less than 7.5 (shown on the report in red type) will generate a CE amount for that specific competency area (Code). Each certified nurse will need to earn CE to meet those specific content hours for the specified code in the education plan.



Core competency areas ratings of 7.5 or higher have been determined to "meet the standard" and no continuing education needs to be earned for those particular specialty competency categories.

In many cases, the Education Plan will have a baseline requirement for CE in any topics within the specialty. This baseline reflects weighting that adjusts based on the individual's specialty index ratings within the content categories of their certification specialty. Baseline requirement for CE can be in any code that meets that specialties core competency. See the detailed Continuing Competency Initiative brochure for complete details.

The 5 hours of CE awarded by NCC for completion of the assessment tool is deducted from the CE hour total. You can count that 5 hours awarded by NCC toward any Education Plan CE need.

Missed Keywords are generated for core competency areas with ratings of 7.5 or less. They are intended to show what specific topics had a knowledge gap on the assessment tool.

Missed Keywords are an excellent way to provide some guidance for continuing education topics. They are broad in scope and you are not required to cover all keywords or topics for your NCC certification maintenance.

The Education Plan also provides links to NCC CE modules that meet the Education Plan's requirements. *There is no requirement to use NCC CE modules, the links are provided as a convenience.*

Specialty Index: Inpatient Obstetric Nursing Competency Assessment

INP Core Competency Area

Fetal Assessment (Code 1)

*10 hours

- Antepartum assessment
- Electronic fetal monitoring
- Non-electronic fetal monitoring
- Acid-base assessment

Labor and Birth (Code 2)

*15 hours

- Physiology of labor
- Labor management
- Obstetrical procedures
- Pain management

Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3)

*10 hours

Maternal Factors Affecting the Newborn

- Disease processes
- Pregnancy risks

Obstetric Complications

- Labor and placental disorders
- Multiple gestation
- Preterm Labor
- Prolonged pregnancy

Postpartum (Code 4)

*5 hours

- Physiology of the postpartum woman
- Family adaptation
- Lactation
- Complications of the postpartum period

Newborn (Code 5)

*5 hours

- Adaptation to extrauterine life
- Physical assessment
- Complications (initial assessment/nursing interventions)
- Infant nutrition
- Resuscitation and Stabilization

Professional Practice (Code 6)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Fetal Assessment (Code 1)	7.62	<i>Standard met</i>
Labor and Delivery (Code 2)	7.83	<i>Standard met</i>
Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3)	6.84	10 hours
Postpartum (Code 4)	7.27	5 hours
Newborn (Code 5)	2.86	5 hours
Professional Practice (Code 6)	5	5 hours

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3) Missed keywords: Disease processes affecting mother/fetus/newborn, Labor/Placental Disorders, Multiple gestation, Pregnancy Risks, Preterm labor, Prolonged pregnancy Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3) Self Assessment modules »	10 hours
Postpartum (Code 4) Missed keywords: Anatomy and physiology of lactation, Postpartum complications, Postpartum physiology, Postpartum Psychosocial Adaptation Postpartum (Code 4) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
Newborn (Code 5) Missed keywords: Adaptation to Extrauterine Life, Infant Nutrition, Newborn Complications, Newborn Resuscitation Newborn (Code 5) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
Professional Practice (Code 6) Missed keywords: Ethical Principles and Theories, Patient Safety Professional Practice (Code 6) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
15 Baseline CE hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to any Plan CE need)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

Specialty Index: Low Risk Neonatal Nursing Competency Assessment

LRN Core Competency Area

Mother/Fetus (Code 1)

*5 hours

- Assessment and Evaluation of Intrauterine Environment
- Maternal Factors and Complications Affecting the Fetus and Newborn

Physical Assessment, Thermoregulation and Normal Management (Code 2)

*15 hours

Newborn Assessment

- General Physiologic Assessment
- Gestational Age Assessment
- Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Data
- Thermoregulation
- Behavioral/Developmental Care

General Management

- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Neonatal Nutrition and Feeding
- Fluid and Electrolyte
- Oxygenation and Acid-base Balance

Family Integration

- Role Adaptation/Grieving Process
- Discharge Planning and Home Care

Neonatal Complications (Code 3)

*20 hours

Physical Assessment and Management of Complications

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Integumentary
- Genitourinary
- Hematopoietic
- Neurological
- Immune System
- Endocrine/Metabolic
- Musculoskeletal
- Genetic Disorders
- Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat
- Hyperbilirubinemia
- Perinatal Substance Abuse

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Mother/Fetus (Code 1)	7.89	<i>Standard met</i>
Physical Assessment, Thermoregulation and Normal Management (Code 2)	6.77	15 hours
Neonatal Complications (Code 3)	8.23	<i>Standard met</i>
Pharmacology (Code 4)	6	5 hours
Professional Practice (Code 6)	6.67	5 hours

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Physical Assessment, Thermoregulation and Normal Management (Code 2) Missed keywords: Behavioral assessment, Breastfeeding, Gestational age assessment, Laboratory test evaluation, Neonatal nutrition, Thermoregulation Physical Assessment, Thermoregulation and Normal Management (Code 2) Self Assessment modules »	15 hours
Pharmacology (Code 4) Missed keywords: Breastfeeding and Medication, Drug Therapies, Hyperbilirubinemia, Perinatal Substance Abuse, Pharmacokinetics Pharmacology (Code 4) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
Professional Practice (Code 5) Missed keywords: Legal Issues, Legal/Ethical Issues, Patient Safety, Research Professional Practice (Code 5) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
15 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

Pharmacology (Code 4)

*5 hours

- Pharmacokinetics
- Breastfeeding and Medications
- Drug Therapies

Professional Practice (Code 5)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

Specialty Index: Maternal Newborn Nursing Competency Assessment

MNN Core Competency Area

Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1)

*5 hours

- Antenatal Factors
- Intrapartal Factors

Postpartum Assessment and Management (Code 2)

*20 hours

- Physiological Changes and Physical Assessment (including lab values)
- Nursing Care and Education
- Lactation and Newborn Feeding
- Family Dynamics after Childbirth
- Postpartum Complications

Newborn Assessment and Management (Code 3)

*20 hours

- Transition to Extrauterine Life
- Physiologic Changes and Physical Assessment (including lab values)
- Nursing Care and Family Education
- Newborn Complications

Professional Practice (Code 4)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1)	5.71	5 hours
Postpartum Assessment and Management (Code 2)	7.66	<i>Standard met</i>
Newborn Assessment and Management (Code 3)	6.73	20 hours
Pharmacology (Code 4)	10	<i>Standard met</i>

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1) Missed keywords: Antepartal Factors, Intrapartal Factors Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
Newborn Assessment and Management (Code 3) Missed keywords: Newborn Complications, Newborn Management and Family Education, Transition to Extrauterine Life Newborn Assessment and Management (Code 3) Self Assessment modules »	20 hours
15 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

Specialty Index: Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Competency Assessment

NIC Core Competency Area

General Assessment (Code 1)

*15 hours

General Assessment and Management

- Maternal History and Risk Factors
- Gestational Age
- Physical Assessment
- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Fluids and Electrolytes
- Nutrition and Feeding
- Oxygenation and Acid Base Homeostasis
- Thermoregulation
- Developmental Care

Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)

*20 hours

Assess and Manage Pathophysiologic States

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Hematopoietic
- Neurologic/Neuromuscular
- Infectious Diseases
- Metabolic/Endocrine
- Genetic Disorders
- Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat

Assess and Manage Psychosocial Behavioral States

- Discharge Planning and Follow up
- Grieving Process
- Family Integration

Pharmacology (Code 3)

*10 hours

- Drug Therapies
- Pharmacokinetic Principles

Professional Practice (Code 4)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
General Assessment (Code 1)	6.34	15 hours
Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)	7.74	<i>Standard met</i>
Pharmacology (Code 3)	6.67	10 hours
Professional Practice (Code 4)	10	<i>Standard met</i>

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
General Assessment (Code 1) Missed keywords: Developmental care, Fluid and electrolyte management, Gestational age assessment, Nutrition, Oxygenation and Homeostasis, Physical Examination, Resuscitation, Risk Assessment, Thermoregulation General Assessment (Code 1) Self Assessment modules »	15 hours
Pharmacology (Code 3) Missed keywords: Drug Therapies, Pharmacologic Principles Pharmacology (Code 3) Self Assessment modules »	10 hours
15 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

Specialty Index: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Competency Assessment

NNP Core Competency Area

Physical Assessment (Code 1)

*5 hours

- Maternal Factors Affecting the Newborn (Antepartum/Intrapartum)
- Physical Examination & Gestational Age/Behavioral Assessment
- Clinical Laboratory Tests
- Diagnostic Procedures, Techniques and Equipment

Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)

*20 hours

The Disease Process

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Renal/Genitourinary
- Metabolic/Endocrine
- Hematopoietic
- Infectious Diseases
- Musculoskeletal
- Integumentary
- Genetics
- Neurological
- Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat
- Intrauterine Drug Exposure

General Management (Code 3)

*10 hours

General Assessment

- Family Integration (Communication and Grieving)
- Discharge Planning and Follow Up

General Management

- Thermoregulation
- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Nutrition
- Fluid and Electrolytes

Pharmacology (Code 4)

*10 hours

- Drug Therapies
- Pharmacokinetic Principles

Professional Practice (Code 5)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Physical Assessment (Code 1)	7.69	<i>Standard met</i>
Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)	7.16	20 hours
General Management (Code 3)	8.33	<i>Standard met</i>
Pharmacology (Code 4)	7.92	<i>Standard met</i>
Professional Practice (Code 5)	6.67	5 hours

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2) Missed keywords: Cardiac, EENT, Endocrine, Genetics, GI, Hematopoietic, Infectious Diseases, Intrauterine drug exposure, Musculoskeletal, Neurological, Renal, Respiratory, Skin, Thermoregulation Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2) Self Assessment modules »	20 hours
Professional Practice (Code 5) Missed keywords: Ethical Principles and Theories, Patient Safety, Research Professional Practice (Code 5) Self Assessment modules »	5 hours
15 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

Specialty Index: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Continuing Competency Assessment

WHC Core Competency Area

Normal Physiology and Management (Code 1) *10 hours

- Health Promotion and Patient Counseling
- Gynecologic - Normal
- Fertility Control
- Physiology of Pregnancy
- Prenatal Care
- Assessment of Fetal Well Being
- Postpartum

Pathophysiology (Code 2) *20 hours
Feedback in the specific pathophysiologic areas of gynecology, obstetrics and primary care will be provided in your Education Plan.

Primary Care

- Recognition, Basic Management and/or Referral of Common Health Problems

Gynecology

- Gynecologic – Deviations
- Male Issues Affecting Women's Health

Obstetrics

- Complications of Pregnancy

Physical Assessment & Diagnostic Tools (Code 3) *5 hours

- Health History and Physical Exam
- Diagnostic Studies/Laboratory Tests

Pharmacology (Code 4)

*10 hours

- Pharmacokinetics/dynamics
- Indications, Side Effect, Drug Interactions and Contraindications and Patient Education

Professional Practice (Code 5)

*5 hours

- Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Patient Safety
- Research

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	YOUR SPECIALTY INDEX	CE HOURS REQUIRED
Normal Physiology and Management (Code 1)	6.5	10 hours
Pathophysiology (Code 2)	7.76	<i>Standard met</i>
Physical Assessment & Diagnostic Tools (Code 3)	7.5	<i>Standard met</i>
Pharmacology (Code 4)	6.15	10 hours
Professional Practice (Code 5)	8	<i>Standard met</i>

Your education plan

CORE COMPETENCY AREA	CE HOURS
Normal Physiology and Management (Code 1) Missed keywords: Fertility control, Gynecology, Health Promotion, Obstetrics, Postpartum, Prenatal Care Normal Physiology and Management (Code 1) Self Assessment modules »	10 hours
Pharmacology (Code 4) Missed keywords: Drug Therapy, Pharmacokinetics Pharmacology (Code 4) Self Assessment modules »	10 hours
15 Baseline CE hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	15 hours
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to any Plan CE need)	-5 hours
Total hours required	35 hours

*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.

NCC Maintenance Application

How do I complete it?

- All certification maintenance applications must be filed online.
- Your education plan is recapped in your online maintenance application.
- You may access your online maintenance application any time after you take your assessment and keep track of your earned CE credits by saving them to the application.
- As you add CE in the required certification core competency areas, the plan, within the maintenance application, will be populated with the entered hours (e.g. if you take a course in Continuing Competency for 2 hours, when you enter that activity, the 0 hours in Professional Practice will be updated to 2 hours.)
- You may use your maintenance application to see the required CE in your education plan and the CE entered either by taking a NCC module or putting in CE earned from other sources. The maintenance application can be found under the “Maintenance” tab when you click on “Add, track or submit your CE”. You can enter your maintenance application any time during your maintenance cycle.
- The 5 CE hours earned for completing the CCA is automatically entered into the application once all except the last 5 hours of required CE is earned.
- Completed NCC continuing education modules will be coded and entered into the application automatically.
- Once your Education Plan is completely populated within your maintenance application, you will see a note at the bottom of the CE page to continue to the payment section.

PLEASE NOTE: For those who maintain their maintenance early, the CCA is available three months prior to the start of your cycle. So if you are planning to take education and in the first weeks of your cycle, you can take the assessment “early” to determine if any the planned education is applicable.

REMEMBER: CE can only be earned during your current cycle, so even if take the assessment early – CE can only be earned once your new cycle starts.

Any CE hours you have earned from NCC CE modules are included in the list below. If you have earned other CE hours, you will need to add them to the list below by completing the requested information.

List the date, name, CE hours, and sponsoring/accrediting organization for CE activities you are using to maintain your certification according to your education plan. You do not need to submit copies of your CE certificates.

Maintenance application

Certification to maintain » Personal information » Contact hours » Payment » Review

Your education plan

Core Competency Area	Hours required	Hours entered
Fetal Assessment (Code 1)	10 hours	0 hours
Labor and Delivery (Code 2)	15 hours	10 hours
Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3)	10 hours	4 hours
Postpartum (Code 4)	5 hours	0 hours
Newborn (Code 5)	5 hours	5 hours
Professional Practice (Code 6)	5 hours	2 hours
5 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas	5 hours	
Credit for taking this assessment (may be applied to your total required hours)	-5 hours	
Total hours	45 hours	21 hours

CE hours

	Date	Activity	Core Competency Area
Edit Remove	1/15/2011	Labor Support and The Family in Childbirth 10 hour(s) Accreditor: NCC	Labor and Delivery (Code 2)
Edit Remove	4/3/2011	PP1101 The Late Preterm Infant 5 hour(s) Accreditor: NCC	Newborn (Code 5)
Edit Remove	9/17/2011	Course 207 Pregnancy and Diabetes 4 hour(s) Accreditor: University of Chicago	Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3)
Edit Remove	10/22/2011	WB1320 Continuing Competency Initiative (CCI) 2 hour(s) Accreditor: NCC	Professional Practice (Code 6)
Total hours: 21			

Additional activity

Program/Activity name (please be specific)

Date you received your CE hours (mm/dd/yyyy)

Number of hours awarded

Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization

[Add activity](#)

Core Competency Area Which one do I pick?

- Fetal Assessment (Code 1) [more info](#)
- Labor and Delivery (Code 2) [more info](#)
- Pregnancy & Obstetric Complications (Code 3) [more info](#)
- Postpartum (Code 4) [more info](#)
- Newborn (Code 5) [more info](#)
- Professional Practice (Code 6) [more info](#)
- Universal Hours (Code 9) [more info](#)
- NCC Pretest Participant (Code 21) [more info](#)
- NCC Item Writer (Code 22) [more info](#)
- NCC Self Assessment Reviewer or Author (Code 23) [more info](#)