NATIONAL CERTIFICATION CORPORATION
NCC Core Maintenance Program
Education Plan Examples

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

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.
INP Core Competency Area

Fetal Assessment (Code 1)  
*10 hours  
- Antepartum Assessment  
- Electronic Fetal Monitoring  
- Non-electronic Fetal Monitoring  
- Acid-base Assessment  
- Fetal and Placental Development

Labor and Delivery (Code 2)  
*15 hours  
- Physiology of Labor  
- Labor Management  
- Obstetrical Procedures  
- Pain Management

Pregnancy and Obstetric Complications (Code 3)  
*10 hours  
**Pregnancy Complications**  
- Maternal Diseases Affecting the Fetus and Newborn  
- Lifestyle and Environmental 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  
- Discharge Planning and Home Care

Newborn (Code 5)  
*5 hours  
- Adaptation to Extrauterine Life  
- Physical Assessment  
- Pathophysiologic conditions  
- Infant Nutrition  
- Resuscitation and Stabilization

Professional Practice (Code 6)  
*5 hours  
**Research**  
- Definitions  
- Application to Practice

**Legal/Ethical Issues**  
- Definitions  
- Application to Practice  
- Informed Consent  
- Legal Issues Affecting Inpatient Obstetric Nursing Practice

**Patient Safety**

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**Your Education Plan**

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**Assessment Summary & Resources**

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

FOR CCA TESTS TAKEN ON/AFTER APRIL 1, 2020.

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LRN Core Competency Area

Mother/Fetus (Code 1) 0.00
*5 hours

Mother/Fetus
- Assess intrauterine environment
- Antepartal fetal testing
- Fetal and placental development

Maternal Complications Affecting the Newborn
- Preexisting maternal conditions
- Pregnancy related conditions
- Environmental and lifestyle factors

Physical Assessment, Thermoregulation and Normal Management (Code 2) 15.00 0.00
*15 hours

Physical Assessment
- Gestational age assessment
- Diagnostic laboratory studies
- Physical and behavioral assessment
- Basic physiology and anatomy

Thermoregulation
- Physiology
- Mechanisms of heat loss
- Temperature management

Oxygen and Acid-Base
- Non-invasive ventilation
- Blood gas

Neonatal Enteral Nutrition
- Breastfeeding
- Neonatal nutrition and feeding

Normal Management
- Neonatal transition
- General care
- Parent education

Developmental Care
- Motor organization
- Neurobehavioral development habituation
- Sensory/interaction capabilities

Family Integration
- Role adaption
- Discharge planning
- Screening
- Parent education

Neonatal Complications (Code 3)
*20 hours

Management of Complications
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Renal
- Genitourinary

Neonatal Complications (Code 3) 0.00 0.00
*20 hours

Pharmacology (Code 4) 0.00 0.00
*5 hours

Pharmacokinetics
- General principles
- Routes of administration
- Pharmacokinetics, drug therapies

Drug Therapies
- Vitamin K
- Eye prophylaxis
- Antibiotics
- Hepatitis vaccine
- Other vaccines

Pain Management
- Pharmacologic
- Nonpharmacologic

Professional Practice (Code 5) 0.00 0.00
*5 hours

Patient Safety
- Interprofessional communication
- Continuing competency
- Medication error prevention

Ethical Principles and Theories
- Patient advocacy

Legal Issues Affecting Newborn Nursing
- Impaired nurse
- Scope of practice
- Expert witness

Informed Consent

Professional Practice Standards

Research
- Common terms
- Application of research to practice
- Evidence based practice

FOR CCA TESTS TAKEN BEFORE APRIL 1, 2020.
Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing
EDUCATION PLAN

FOR CCA TESTS TAKEN ON/AFTER APRIL 1, 2020.

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Core Competency Area

Mother/Fetus (Code 1)

- Maternal Risk Factors and Birth History
- Assessment and Evaluation of the Intrauterine Environment
- Maternal Factors and Complications Affecting the Newborn

Physical Assessment and General Management (Code 2)

- Physical and Gestational Ages Assessment
- Laboratory and Diagnostic Data
- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Nutrition and Feeding
- Fluid, Electrolytes and Glucose Homeostasis
- Oxygen, Non-Invasive Ventilation and Acid-Base Balance
- Thermoregulation
- Neurodevelopmental Care
- Infection and Immunology
- Behavioral and Developmental Care
- Psychosocial Support, Grieving and Discharge Planning

Assessment and Management of Pathophysiological Conditions and Neonatal Complications (Code 3)

- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary
- Musculoskeletal and Integumentary
- Neurological
- Hematology
- Immunology
- Genetics, Metabolic and Endocrine
- Renal

Pharmacology, Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics (Code 4)

- Drug Therapies
- Pain Management

Professional Practice (Code 5)

- Patient Safety
- Ethical Principles and Theories
- Legal Issues
- Professional Practice Standards
- Quality Improvement

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

**Maternal/Neonatal Factors Affecting Outcomes (Code 1)**
*5 hours

Factors Affecting Maternal/Neonatal Outcomes
- Antepartum risk factors and complications
- Intrapartal factors
- Medications used in labor
- Methods of delivery

**Postpartum Assessment and Management (Code 2)**
*20 hours

Maternal Assessment and Management in the Postpartum Delivery Period (Delivery through Six Weeks)
- Physiological changes and laboratory values
- Nursing care and education
- Common postpartum medications
- Postoperative care
- Management of common problems
- Patient education for new mother
- Lactation and newborn feeding
- Postpartum complications
- Family dynamics after childbirth

**Newborn Assessment and Management (Code 3)**
*20 hours

Transition to Extraterine Life
- Thermoregulation
- Laboratory findings
- Physiologic changes

Physical Assessment of the Newborn
- Gestational age assessment
- Neurobehavioral assessment
- Systems review

Nursing Care and Family Education of the Newborn

Commonly Used Medications in Neonates

Neonatal Complications by Body System

**Professional Practice (Code 4)**
*5 hours

Professional Practice
- Patient safety
- Ethical principles and theories
- Legal Issues affecting maternal newborn nursing
- Professional practice standards
- Research

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Maternal Newborn Nursing EDUCATION PLAN

MNN Core Competency Area
Pregnancy, Birth Risk Factors and Complications (Code 1)
*5 hours
- Antenatal Factors
- Intrapartal Factors
- Antepartum Risk Factors and Complications

Postpartum Assessment, Management and Complications (Code 2)
*20 hours
- Physiological Changes and Physical Assessment (including lab values)
- Nursing Care
- Lactation
- Psychosocial and Ethical Issues
- Newborn Feeding and Nutrition
- Hematologic
- Cardiovascular
- Infection
- Diabetes Postpartum/Post-Op Care
- Mood and Substance Use Disorders

Newborn Assessment, Management and Complications (Code 3)
*20 hours
- Transition to Extrauterine Life
- Physical and Gestational Age Assessment (including lab values)
- Newborn Care and Family Education
- Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Cardiovascular and Respiratory
- Neurological and Gastrointestinal
- Hematologic
- Infectious Disease
- Genetic, Metabolic and Endocrine
- Thermoregulation
- Neurobehavioral Assessment

Professional Practice (Code 4)
*5 hours
- Patient Safety
- Ethical Principles and Theories
- Legal Issues Affecting Maternal Newborn Nursing
- Professional Practice Standards
- Research

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NIC Core Competency Area

General Assessment (Code 1)
*15 hours

General Assessment
- Physical and gestational age assessment
- Maternal factors affecting neonatal outcomes
- Risk assessment
- Thermoregulation
- Fluids and electrolytes
- Nutrition and feeding
- Oxygenation and acid homeostasis
- Developmental care

Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)
*20 hours

Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal (GI)
- Genitourinary (GU)
- Hematopoietic
- Neurologic
- Infectious Diseases
- Metabolic
- Genetics
- Head, ears, eyes, nose and throat
- Discharge planning and follow up
- Grieving process and family integration

Pharmacology (Code 3)
*10 hours

Pharmacology
- Drug therapies
- Pharmacokinetic principles

Professional Practice (Code 4)
*5 hours

Patient Safety
- Interprofessional communication
- Medication error prevention
- System error prevention

Ethical Principles and Theories

Legal Issues Affecting Neonatal Care Nursing
- Scope of practice
- Impaired nurse
- Legal terms
- Informed consent

Professional Practice Standards
- Evidence based practice

Research
- Terminology
- Incorporation into practice

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*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.
Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing
EDUCATION PLAN

FOR CCA TESTS TAKEN ON/AFTER APRIL 1, 2020.

NIC Core Competency Area
General Assessment (Code 1)
*15 hours
- Physical and Gestational Age Assessment
- Maternal Factors Affecting Neonatal Outcomes
- Risk Assessment
- Thermoregulation
- Fluids and Electrolytes
- Resuscitation
- Oxygenation and Acid Homeostasis
- Developmental Care
- Discharge Plan
- Grieving
- X-ray Review
- Behavior Assessment

Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)
*20 hours

Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal (GI) and Genitourinary (GU)
- Hematopoietic
- Neurologic/Neuromuscular
- Infectious Diseases
- Genetics, Metabolic, Endocrine
- Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat

Assess & Manage Psychosocial Behavioral States
- Discharge Planning
- Grieving Process
- Family-centered Care
- Palliative Care
- Mental Health

Pharmacology, Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics (Code 3)
*10 hours
- Pharmacology, Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics

Your Education Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COMPETENCY AREA</th>
<th>HOURS REQUIRED*</th>
<th>HOURS ENTERED</th>
<th>REQUIREMENTS MET</th>
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Total Hours 35.00 hours 0.00 hours

Assessment Summary & Resources

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<th>SPECIALITY INDEX</th>
<th>MISSED KEYWORDS</th>
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<td>view available modules</td>
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</table>

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

Professional Practice (Code 4)
*5 hours

Patient Safety
- Interprofessional Communication
- Medication Error Prevention
- System Error Prevention

Ethical Principles and Theories

Legal Issues Affecting Neonatal Care Nursing
- Scope of Practice
- Impaired Nurse
- Legal Terms
- Informed Consent

Professional Practice Standards
- Evidence based practice
NNP Core Competency Area

Physical Assessment (Code 1)
*5 hours

General Assessment
- Maternal factors affecting the newborn
- Physical examination
- Diagnostic procedures & laboratory evaluation
- Gestational age assessment

Physiology and Pathophysiology (Code 2)
*20 hours

Disease Management
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal (GI)
- Renal
- Hematopoietic
- Neurological
- Infectious diseases
- Endocrine
- Musculoskeletal
- Skin
- Genetics
- Head, ears, eyes, nose and throat
- Intrauterine drug exposure

General Management (Code 3)
*10 hours
- Developmental care
- Fluids and electrolytes
- Nutrition
- Thermoregulation
- Resuscitation and stabilization
- Family integration
- Discharge planning and follow up

Pharmacology (Code 4)
*10 hours

Pharmacology
- Drug therapies
- Pharmacokinetic principles

Professional Practice (Code 5)
*5 hours

Professional Practice
- Patient safety
- Ethical principles and theories
- Legal issues affecting neonatal intensive care nursing
- Professional practice standards
- Research

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

Your Education Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COMPETENCY AREA</th>
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Assessment Summary & Resources

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<tr>
<th>CORE COMPETENCY AREA</th>
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<th>MISSED KEYWORDS</th>
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*Number of CE hours required if you do not achieve a specialty index of 7.5 or more in the content area.
Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner
EDUCATION PLAN

Your Education Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CORE COMPETENCY AREA</th>
<th>HOURS REQUIRED*</th>
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Assessment Summary & Resources

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Physical Assessment and Examination
- General body system review
- Physiology and anatomy of reproductive organs
- Pelvic exam
- Obstetric exam

Diagnostic Tests and Studies
- Hematologic studies
- Serologic studies
- Kidney function studies
- Renal and liver function studies
- Lipid profile
- Body fluids and excretion analyses
- Endoscopic procedures
- Imaging studies
- Biopsies
- Genetic screening and testing
- Fetal Assessment

Pharmacology (Code 4) *10 hours

Professional Practice (Code 5) *5 hours

Evidence Based Practice
- Quality improvement
- Application of research findings to clinical practice
- Statistical evaluation of research studies
- Ethical considerations in research

Legal/Ethical Issues
- Informed consent
- Patient confidentiality
- Risk management
- Scope of practice
- Ethical principles

Patient Safety
- Interprofessional communication
- Medication errors
- Preventive strategies to reduce medical errors
- Documentation

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

Normal Physiology and Wellness Management (Code 1)  
*10 hours
- Health Promotion and Patient Counseling, Health Screening and Education
- Gynecologic - Normal
- Fertility Control
- Anatomy and Physiology of Pregnancy
- Prenatal Care
- Assessment of Fetal Wellbeing
- Postpartum
- Menopause

Gynecology Disorders, Obstetric Complications and Primary Care Management (Code 2)  
*20 hours
Feedback in the specific pathophysiologic areas of gynecology, reproductive health care and obstetrics will be provided in your Education Plan.

Gynecologic Disorders/Deviations
- Menstrual Disorders
- STDs and Vaginal Infections (female/male)
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Pelvic Pain and Related Disorders
- Infertility (female/male)
- Benign Reproductive Disorders
- Malignant Reproductive Disorders
- Breast Disorders
- Pelvic Organ Relaxation and Prolapse
- Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
- Vulvar Dystrophies and Dermatoses
- Male Sexual Reproductive Health

Complications of Pregnancy
- Medical and Placental Complications of Pregnancy
- Placental Abnormalities
- Pregnancy Specific Conditions

Pathophysiology Primary Care
- Recognition, Basic Management and/or Referral of Common Health Problems
- Disorders by Physiologic System of Common Health Problems

Assessment, Diagnostic Testing and Interpretation (Code 3)  
*5 hours

Health History
- Risk Assessment
- Medical History
- Social History
- Family History

Physical Assessment and Examination
- General Body System Review
- Physiology and Anatomy of Reproductive Organs
- Pelvic Exam
- Breast Exam
- Obstetric Exam

Diagnostic Tests and Studies
- Hematologic Studies
- Serologic Studies
- Kidney Function Studies
- Lipid Profile
- Body Fluids and Excretion Analyses
- Endoscopic Procedures
- Imaging Studies
- Biopsies
- Genetic Screening and Testing
- Fetal Assessment

Pharmacology (Code 4)  
*10 hours
- Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
- Pharmacotherapeutics

Professional Practice (Code 5)  
*5 hours

Quality Improvement

Legal/Ethical Issues
- Informed Consent
- Patient Confidentiality
- Risk Management
- Scope of Practice
- Ethical Principles

Patient Safety
- Interprofessional Communication
- Medication Errors
- Preventive Strategies to Reduce Medical Errors
- Documentation

*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.
### Maintenance application

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

#### Your education plan

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<th>Core Competency Area</th>
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<td>Newborn (Code 5)</td>
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<td>Professional Practice (Code 6)</td>
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<td>5 Continuing Education hours in any of your content specific specialty areas</td>
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#### CE hours

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<td>Labor Support and The Family in Childbirth 10 hour(s)</td>
<td>Labor and Delivery (Code 2)</td>
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<td>4/3/2011</td>
<td>PP1101 The Late Preterm Infant 5 hour(s)</td>
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<td>9/17/2011</td>
<td>Course 207 Pregnancy and Diabetes 4 hour(s)</td>
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<td>WB1320 Continuing Competency Initiative (CCI) 2 hour(s)</td>
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**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

---

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. However, it is important to save the CE certificate and a description of the CE offering in case of audit.