NEW! Inpatient Antepartum Nursing (RNC-IAP)

Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®)

Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-LRN®)

Maternal Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN®)

Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-NIC®)

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP-BC®)

Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner (WHNP-BC®)
Recognition, Value, Expertise…
It is what certification is all about!

ABOUT CERTIFICATION

What makes a certified nurse or nurse practitioner different?
Essentially, it is the willingness of the nurse or nurse practitioner to be accountable for his/her knowledge and the willingness to take the risk of undergoing a third party review of their knowledge. Certified nurses and nurse practitioners make a difference to their patients and to their institutions. They are unique professionals who have made the commitment to life-long learning, patient advocacy and professional practice.

Certification is more than an initial after your name…
The NCC Maintenance Program provides an opportunity to continue with certified status. The RNC or NP-BC credential validates expertise and gives tangible recognition of an ongoing commitment to the profession of nursing.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORE Maintenance</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Submit Your Maintenance Application</td>
<td>5 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Continuing Education Credits</td>
<td>8 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Recognized Educational Activities</td>
<td>10 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Content and Coding</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCC Maintenance Pre-Approval</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Competency Initiative</td>
<td>13 - 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval of Your Maintenance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Policies</td>
<td>16 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Policies</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checklist for Maintenance</td>
<td>22 - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About NCC</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notices to RNCs and NP-BCs
NCC makes every effort to apprise individuals that their certification maintenance is coming due. NCC does this out of courtesy, not as a matter of obligation. It is up to the individual certified to know when it is time to maintain. During the course of the year prior to the maintenance due date and based on information submitted by the certified individual, NCC makes an effort to alert those affected of their maintenance due date via email. It is your responsibility to insure your email is up-to-date at all times.

© 2022 The National Certification Corporation (NCC) All Rights Reserved.
NCC certification programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCC nurse practitioner certification programs are accredited by both the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and the NCCA.
National Certification Corporation
676 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60611-2832

CORE MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

NCC WEBSITE ACCOUNT
Your NCC account must be set up at NCCwebsite.org with your personal information. This includes your address, phone, email and NCC ID number. It is important to keep your account updated whenever there have been any changes in your information.

LICENSURE
The current license number, licensing state or province and expiration date for your current/active/unencumbered RN or advanced nursing practice licensure as applicable in the U.S. or Canada will need to be provided.

CONTINUING COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT
Each nurse or nurse practitioner certified in one or more of the above listed specialties MUST complete a continuing competency assessment (CCA) developed for their specialty area of certification at the beginning of each maintenance cycle. The CCA evaluates knowledge in the core competency content areas and provides a new individualized education plan outlining what CE needs to be earned during the new maintenance cycle.

To complete your CCA and obtain your education plan at the beginning of each maintenance cycle, log into NCCwebsite.org, go to “Your account” and click “Take assessment now” in the maintenance section. The CCA is FREE and provides 5 CE upon completion.

EDUCATION PLAN
The individualized education plan will identify those specialty “core” competency areas on which the individual will need to focus their continuing education.

Individuals may also have a baseline requirement for CE which can be done in any core competency area. Each education plan outlines the CE (per specialty code) needed to maintain NCC certification.

From the home page you can click on “Add/track or submit your CE” on the purple maintenance tab. When logged in on the account page under Certification Maintenance you can “add/track CE” or view available NCC modules specific to your certification. The application can be updated throughout the maintenance cycle.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
You must earn CE as specified by your education plan. Both the amount and the content of the CE hours needed to maintain your NCC certification will be reflected in your education plan and in your maintenance application. All CE must be earned after you take your continued competency assessment and within your current maintenance cycle.

Coding books to code any non-NCC CE you take can be found by clicking “learn more” in the purple “Maintain your Certification” section on the home page of the NCC website.

NEW!
Inpatient Antepartum Nursing (RNC-IAP)
Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®)
Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-LRN®)
Maternal Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN®)
Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-NIC®)
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP-BC®)
Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner (WHNP-BC®)

Access and update the online maintenance application in your NCC website account throughout the maintenance cycle. Enter CE as it is earned on an ongoing basis. CE can be entered into the maintenance application throughout the maintenance cycle. It is important to save the CE certificate and a description of the CE offering in case of audit. CE earned from successful completion of any NCC CE module will automatically be coded and entered into the maintenance application. Only CE earned after the CCA is completed can be used to maintain.
ABOUT CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE

The certification maintenance program of the National Certification Corporation (NCC) is designed to provide its core and subspecialty certificants with a mechanism to demonstrate their continued specialty competence and professional development during each 3-year maintenance cycle. Core and subspecialty maintenance processes are structured to ensure that certificants are exposed to evolving scientific developments and evidence-based practice in the clinical aspects of their respective specialties. A key element in NCC’s maintenance approach is a focus on the core competency knowledge content as it is represented in the certification examination for each specialty or subspecialty with established updating timelines based on content validation and task analysis study data.

Ongoing maintenance of certification demonstrates to the public and to the profession that the NCC-certified professional delivers a high standard of patient care within their chosen specialty area of neonatal, obstetric, gynecologic and/or women’s health. A certification maintenance approach of this nature not only validates knowledge, expertise and dedication to a specialty area of practice, but it also affords each certificant with a tangible recognition of their professional commitment. Maintenance is required for everyone certified by NCC, and the maintenance procedure is part of the certification program that certificants must meet to maintain their certification.

As an accredited certifying body, The National Certification Corporation (NCC) must meet the Standards for Accreditation of Certification Programs established by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). As certification accrediting bodies, ABSNC and NCCA have definitions for recertification and continuing competence. NCC’s definitions are in line with these for both continuing competence and maintenance of certification to include:

- **Continuing Competence**: “Demonstrating specified levels of knowledge, skills, or ability not only at the time of initial certification but throughout an individual’s professional career demonstrating the ongoing ability to practice safely, effectively and ethically in a designated specialty.” *(Adapted from the NCCA Standard 22, Nov. 2014)*

- **Maintenance of Certification**: “The requirements and procedures established as part of a certification program that certificants must meet to maintain current knowledge, skills and abilities, renew certification and provide safe, competent care.” *(Adapted from NCCA Standard 22, Nov. 2014)*

**Rationale for Maintenance of Certification**

To review, please visit:

[NCCwebsite.org/maintain-your-certification/maintenance-of-certification-and-rationale](NCCwebsite.org/maintain-your-certification/maintenance-of-certification-and-rationale)
How to Submit Your Maintenance Application

What are the maintenance requirements?
Determine if you meet the maintenance requirements to maintain. A current, unencumbered license is required for all maintenance applications. Both the number and nature of CE required for maintenance is determined by your individualized education plan. Please see page 3 for maintenance requirement details and page 12 for information on your education plan.

Submitting your application
Complete, submit and pay your maintenance application online at NCCwebsite.org. Applications can only be submitted online. You cannot submit an application by mail, telephone or fax. Payment can be made by credit card or check. You may access your online maintenance application any time and enter your CE into the application as it is earned on an ongoing basis. CE can be entered into the maintenance application throughout the maintenance cycle. It is important to save the CE certificate and a description of the CE offering in case of an audit.

When is your maintenance deadline?
The maintenance application must be submitted no later than 12 Midnight Central Standard Time on the maintenance due date. Specific maintenance due dates can be found in your NCC website account. Sign in with your email and password and go to your account.

Once you have met all CE requirements you may submit your application up to 12 months before your due date. Applications can be submitted early - up to (but not more than) one year prior to your due date. Early submission does not change your current or next maintenance cycle dates or when you can start earning CE for your next maintenance cycle.

What information does the application require?
To get prepared to complete the application - see the application check list on pages 21 & 22. It is a handy listing of all the information you will need to supply.

Email confirmation of your application
Before submitting your application, make sure that your email address is correct. After completing and submitting the application, you will receive confirmation via email. This will be the ONLY confirmation notice you will receive. If you do not receive, check your application to make sure you clicked the submit button.
Notification of successful maintenance
Notification of maintenance will be sent via email. The progress of the maintenance application can be tracked by checking your NCCwebsite.org account for a new maintenance due date. After your maintenance has been approved, official certification documentation will appear in your NCCwebsite.org account.

You can download the official documentation of your certification 24/7, free of charge from your account in both card and certificate format. NCC no longer issues maintenance cards. Notices are sent by email, it is important to make sure both email and mailing addresses are kept up to date in your profile.

Notification of audit
NCC randomly selects maintenance applications for audit. If selected you will need to submit your CE certificates along with the CE offering or Conference Agenda that includes the lecture description(s) for all non-NCC CE activities listed in the maintenance application. **You will be required to upload these documents.** Instructions for audit will be included in the audit notification email. If you are unable to upload the CE certificates and course/lecture descriptions required or if the CE does not meet the required core competency you would have to be able to submit additional CE earned in the maintenance due date time frame for the maintenance application to be considered. All CE audit materials are due within 2 weeks of the application submission and audit request.

Failure to submit the required audit documents by the deadline will result in denial of the maintenance application. Once the maintenance due date passes you are considered lapsed and your only option would be to reinstate.
FEES

The maintenance fee is $100.

MAINTENANCE FEES

Discounts are afforded to those who use NCC continuing education online modules and/or take NCC pretests that apply to their maintenance requirements. NCC CE is not audited since all documentation is in the individuals’ account.

NCC CE Discount Program:

- Use of 15 hours NCC CE to maintain .............. $80
- Use of 30 hours NCC CE to maintain .............. $70
- Use of 45 hours NCC CE to maintain .............. $60

Discounts do not apply to alternative maintenance or reinstatement.

All fees are non-refundable except where otherwise noted.

Maintenance Fees

- Payments can be made by credit card (Visa, American Express and MasterCard only)
- Payments can be made by check: bank routing number and account number required
- For payments made by third parties, any refund reimbursement will be issued to the third party and not to the applicant
- All payments must be in US funds
- NCC does not accept debit cards or split payments (part check and part credit card)
- Maintenance fees can be submitted only online at the NCC website. Applications will not be accepted by mail, phone or fax.

Other Payment Related Fees

Incomplete Application Fee

All incomplete applications are subject to a $10 reprocessing fee (not refundable)

Returned Checks and Credit Card Chargeback

A $30 fee will be assessed for any check or e-check returned or a credit card payment disputed for any reason. Remittance thereafter of all fees must be in the form requested by NCC.
ABOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Time Frames when CE Needs to be Earned
Only CE earned after taking the assessment can be used to maintain certification. It must meet the CE needed in the education plan and have been earned after taking the assessment and during your current three year period of certification.

The assessment is used to develop each individualized education plan. Once the education plan is developed CE can be earned to meet the educational needs. Only CE earned after the assessment and within the three year maintenance cycle can be used to maintain. Your specific dates are in your maintenance application. The total cycle is three years but it is amended when you take the assessment.

NCC Continuing Education Module User
You can use NCC continuing education module modules to earn CE in your specialty area. There are topics that relate to all specialty areas. Modules can earn 2 to 15 hours of CE. In addition, the use of NCC modules may also reduce the cost of the maintenance fee.

Other Continuing Education Options
NCC modules are just one option for earning CE. Other providers of accredited CE may be used. Earning CE at conferences, online or at work are just a few examples of other continuing education options. See the specific requirements at “Recognized Accrediting Organizations for CE”. Examples of other types of accredited CE providers include the Relias (GNOSIS) Fetal Assessment & Monitoring course and the AWHONN Fetal Monitoring course.

All CE must be accredited and earned during the maintenance cycle. See pages 9-11 for additional details.

NCC CE Coding Books
NCC coding books have been developed for each core certification. These coding books will assist you in coding all CE earned from sources outside of NCC. The coding books can be found under the “Learn More” link in the Maintenance section on the home page of the NCC website and are provided by certification specialty.
ABOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Accrediting Agencies for Continuing Education Credit

Academic and CME credit are accepted. For continuing education credit to be accepted for the purpose of maintenance, the continuing education activity must be accredited by one of the agencies below.

- NCC
- State boards of nursing and State nursing associations
- Nursing, medical or health care organizations (this would include, for example, such organizations as: ANCC, ANN, AWHONN, NPWH, NANN, NANNP, ACOG, AMA, AAP, etc.)
- Colleges or universities
- For-profit or not-for-profit continuing education organizations provided that programs sponsored by such organizations have been accredited for continuing education.

Most of the for-profit organizations have achieved accreditation for their offering through a state board of nursing or health care organization. Review accreditation details in the registration brochure received when registering for the particular continuing education activity.

All continuing education programs must be accredited and provide evidence of such in the form of a certificate of completion issued to participants.

NCC Continuing Education Reviewer or Author

10 hours of continuing education will be awarded to those RNCs or certified NPs who serve as reviewers or writers of a continuing education module or monograph. A maximum of 10 hours of continuing education can be used as a NCC Continuing Education reviewer or monograph author per certification maintenance cycle. CE is awarded in the same specialty code as the NCC CE module written or reviewed.

Conversion Formulas for Hours of Continuing Education

**Academic Credit**
(U.S. and Canadian institutions only)

- 1 quarter hour = 10 hours of continuing education
- 1 semester hour = 15 hours of continuing education

**Other**

- 1 CE = 1 hour of continuing education
- 1 CEU = 10 hours of continuing education
- 1 AMA Category = 1 hour of continuing education
- 1 CME = 1 hour of continuing education
- CEARP = 1 hour of continuing education
- ACOG cognate = 1 hour of continuing education

For other designations, contact the CE provider for conversion translation.

Listing Example

**ACADEMIC CREDIT**

**Program /Activity name:** Course 301 Pathophysiology of the Newborn

**Date of program:** 9/14/21 (list the date you finished the program, must be after your took your CCA)

**Number of hours:** List in CE hours, see conversion formula

**Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization:** University of Chicago

Select the code that matches content of the course or lecture from the specialty list. Remember all content must be as specified by your Education Plan.
OTHER RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Some activities can also qualify for meeting maintenance requirements. These activities can only be used as baseline hours and not hours designated in the education plan assigned to a specific competency area (code). Baseline hours are those hours that can be assigned to any core competency area (code) and appear at the bottom of your educational plan.

Presenter of Continuing Education Course
RNCs or certified NPs who present continuing education programs can use the same amount of credit awarded to the participants attending the presentation to maintain their certification. This activity must be outside the individual RNC’s or certified NP’s current job responsibilities and cannot be an expectation of their current position. Programs presented must earn credit within NCC guidelines. Any given presentation of the same program can be used only once during an individual certification period, even if it is presented multiple times.

Preceptor
Those RNCs or certified NPs who precept nursing or nurse practitioners in their certification specialty area can earn 10 hours of continuing education for this activity. You must precept students for at least one academic quarter, semester or entire clinical rotation. To earn the 10 hours, you must have a letter from the sponsoring institution (on official letterhead and signed by the appropriate authorizing person) indicating your responsibilities as preceptor and dates and hours of your preceptor time, and this letter must be submitted if you are selected for audit. If this time is less than 10 hours, this preceptorship time cannot be used for maintenance. 10 hours is the maximum that can be earned for this activity. This option does not apply to orienting new staff to your workplace.

Listing Example

**PRECEPTORSHIP**

**Program/Activity name:** Preceptor of students for University of Massachusetts clinical rotation in obstetrics

**Date of program:** 12/12/21
(list the date when you finished precepting, must be after you took your CCA)

**Number of hours:** maximum that can be used is 10 hours

**Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization:** University of Massachusetts

**PRESENTER OF CE**

**Program/Activity name:** Managing Shoulder Dystocia

**Date of program:** 5/10/21
(must be after you took your CCA)

**Number of hours:** Same numbers as awarded to participants

**Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization:** AWHONN

Select preceptorship from the specialty code list

Select presenter of CE program from the specialty code list
OTHER RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Some activities can also qualify for meeting maintenance requirements. These activities can only be used as baseline hours and not hours designated in the education plan assigned to a specific competency area (code). Baseline hours are those hours that can be assigned to any core competency area (code) and appear at the bottom of your educational plan.

Author or Editor of Book, Book Chapter or Journal Article

10 hours of continuing education will be awarded to those RNCs or certified NPs who:
• are primary or secondary author of a book
• are editor of a book
• have authored a book chapter
• have authored a journal article

Following are the rules to use publications for maintenance:
• The publication date of the article/book/module will determine its applicability for your current certification maintenance.
• Only one article or book authorship can be used per certification maintenance cycle.
• Articles/books must be related to the certification specialty area.
• Proof of authorship can be established by including a copy of the title page of the article with the title of the article, your name as author and the publication date. This information must be supplied if your application is selected for audit.
• For primary or secondary book authorship, pages from the book that identify the title, author and publication date must be submitted.

Listing Example
FOR AN AUTHOR

Select author option from the specialty list

Program/Activity name:
Chapter 12 on Oral Contraceptives in Comprehensive Gyn

Date of program: 3/8/21
(list the date the work was published, must be after you took your CCA)

Number of hours:
Refer to maximum depending on the type of work

Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization:
Lippincott Williams and Wilkins
SPECIALTY CONTENT AND CODING
CE and NCC Coding Requirements

What is Specialty Content?
Maintenance is designed to insure that each certified nurse or NP maintains the core certification knowledge competencies of the specialty over time. Specialty content is the information in core competency areas for each specific specialty. The core certification knowledge competencies reflect the knowledge tested on each certification exam.

Each core competency for a specialty has an assigned specialty code. The individual certified nurse decides what specialty code should be used for their certification based on their knowledge of the content covered in the specific continuing education activity.

Maintenance is tied to the core competencies for the specialty and not to individualized practice settings. The core competencies and body of knowledge for the specialty are reassessed early in each maintenance cycle.

Where is the information I need for the coding system?
NCC has created coding booklets specific to each core certification and has a specialty code keyword search feature for browsing content categories and assigning the proper maintenance code.

To access content coding tools:
- visit NCCwebsite.org
- choose Maintain Your Certification/Learn More
- click Core Certification
- select the Coding Brochure specific to your specialty
  OR
- scroll down to Documenting CE/Acetable CE - browse keywords

NCC Maintenance Pre-Approval

Pre-approval is optional and should ONLY be used if you want NCC to approve the specialty codes you have chosen for your CE activities.

Individuals should choose the code that best represents the content of the CE activity. When unsure if your continuing education activities will meet NCC maintenance requirements, you can ask NCC to pre-approve the CE activities. The educational activities can be submitted online along with a non-refundable $30 fee. NCC will review them, indicate if they are applicable to maintenance and will assign the appropriate specialty code to each activity you submit. NCC cannot code the content unless you provide the titles of the lectures or CE activity you attended. If the titles do not represent the content you must provide more specific information to assist with the coding. Any approved CE activity will be automatically posted to your online maintenance application on NCCwebsite.org with the appropriate specialty code so you won’t have to re-enter them at the time you maintain. The NCC Maintenance Pre-Approval form is found in the maintenance section of NCCwebsite.org.
CONTINUING COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT (CCA)

The Certification Maintenance Program is required for nurses and nurse practitioners holding the following credentials:

- **NEW! Inpatient Antepartum Nursing (RNC-IAP)**
- **Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-NIC®)**
- **Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®)**
- **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP-BC®)**
- **Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-LRN®)**
- **Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner (WHNP-BC®)**
- **Maternal Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN®)**

All NCC certified nurses and nurse practitioners holding a NCC RNC or NP credential are required to take the Continuing Competency Assessment (CCA) as part of the certification maintenance program.

The CCA provides an education plan that identifies individual content strengths and knowledge gaps - through a non-pass/fail assessment. Completion of the assessment generates an individualized Education Plan. It also provides 5 CE that can be used to maintain. You may choose the code for this additional 5 CE in your maintenance application of the CE page. The CCA should be completed as early in the new maintenance window as possible.

**KEY POINTS**

- CCA results will provide an individualized education plan that will identify the amount and nature of CE required to maintain certification.
- CE must be earned in the core competency areas designated by the Education Plan. A code is assigned to each core competency area.
- Only CE earned AFTER you take the assessment (CCA) can be used to maintain certification.
- All CE must be accredited. ANCC, state boards of nursing, CME, academic credit and NCC CE are acceptable. See accrediting agency list on page 9.
- Earn 5 hours of continuing education for taking the assessment. These 5 hours must be coded in the maintenance application on the CE page and can be used for any code you choose or for baseline hours.

When should the Continuing Competency Assessment be taken?

The CCA should be taken as soon as possible at the beginning of each maintenance cycle and BEFORE earning any CE towards maintenance.

Completing the assessment provides you with your individualized educational plan which identifies the amount and nature of CE required to maintain your certification.

*Only CE earned AFTER you have taken the CCA and as specified by the Education Plan can be used towards NCC maintenance.*
ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

For those who do not wish to take the Continuing Competency Assessment, an alternate maintenance option is available.

No alternate maintenance applications will be accepted any earlier than 6 months prior to the maintenance due date.

The process will entail the following (subject to change)

- The alternate maintenance process must be selected by signing a statement of declaration that you have voluntarily opted out of the continuing competency initiative.
- To choose alternative maintenance, go to the online maintenance application and opt out.

REQUIREMENTS

- 50 hours of CE is required which is assigned to each of the designated competency areas for the specific specialty. An alternate education plan will be generated and must be followed.
- The fee is $175, and **no discounts will be afforded for taking any NCC CE modules**.
- All CE activities must be documented by uploading a copy of each educational activity’s curriculum/description in PDF format.
- A copy of each CE certificate of completion must also be provided in PDF format which will show title, date, accreditor and amount of CE.
- When choosing alternative maintenance - NCC CE is automatically posted into the maintenance application, and CE earned through NCC CE modules do not require uploaded descriptions or certificates of completions.
- Each activity must be listed. Title, accreditor and number of hours awarded must be entered in the online alternate maintenance application. You are required to upload the CE certificates and a description/objective for the CE offering.
- Each activity must match the uploaded documentation otherwise it will not be accepted.
- Activities such as preceptorship, presentation of education sessions, etc., will not be accepted for meeting maintenance requirements.
- All CE must be accredited by agencies recognized by NCC.
- If individuals fail to maintain under this alternate option and qualify for reinstatement, the filing requirements for reinstatement will mimic those of alternate maintenance.
- It will take four weeks for these applications to be processed.

*Please note components of the program are subject to change.*
APPROVAL OF YOUR MAINTENANCE

Once the maintenance application has been approved, notification will be sent by email. Those who want to monitor when their application is approved can go to their account and see if the certificate is updated. Once either of these actions occur the maintained individual can:

- download a current maintenance card directly from the website in the “Certification(s) and/or Lifetime Emeritus” section
- take the next assessment for the new maintenance cycle
- request a verification from the website

Official Documentation

Maintenance Cards and Certificates
To download official documentation of current certification, login to NCCwebsite.org. The maintenance card and certificate can be downloaded and printed from links under the specific certifications on your profile page. If an official printed maintenance card is desired, it can be purchased for $35 (includes shipping) when you submit your maintenance application.

Receipts
A receipt for your payment of the maintenance fee will automatically be provided with your notice that your maintenance has been successfully completed. A receipt can be downloaded at any time from “Your account”.

Press Release
After your maintenance has been approved, consider sending a press release to colleagues, leaders and faculty to inform them that your certification has been successfully maintained. This is an excellent way to let your colleagues, supervisor, mentors or other leadership in your institution know of your accomplishment.

A press release can be initiated at any time but should only be done after receiving official notification of successfully completing the certification maintenance process.

This is not a substitute for primary source verifications. The official documentation of your certification can be downloaded from your account. Access the press release by clicking the link Issue press release, under “Your certification”.

Verification of Your Certifications
If a third party/primary source (from NCC directly) verification of certification is required, click on Request a Verification on the home page. Do not request a verification until your new maintenance date is indicated in your account.

Verifications are emailed to your designated party. State board emails are made available during the order process. There is a $30 charge for each verification request. There are no refunds for verifications for any reason. If the verification is undeliverable or doesn’t reach the party, the fee is not refundable.

Verifications include original date of certification, maintenance due date, certification specialty, NCC President’s signature and the NCC corporate seal. You can download a personal copy of official documentation of your NCC credential from your NCC profile.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Your Contact Information

Please keep the contact information saved in your account up-to-date. NCC uses your email to keep you informed of news and events specific to your certification, including Courtesy Maintenance Reminders.

The following are a few examples of NCC notifications:

• Courtesy Maintenance Reminders
• Continuing Education Offerings
• New Certification Opportunities
• News from NCC

Please login into your NCCwebsite.org account, click “Update your profile” and check/update your contact information. It is your responsibility to insure your email is up-to-date at all times.

Multiple Certifications

To maintain more than one NCC certification and/or a subspecialty certification, a separate maintenance application and fee for each certification must be submitted. There is a separate application for maintaining subspecialty certifications. If applicable, the same continuing education can be used across multiple certifications as long as it meets requirements for the other certifications.

Extending your Maintenance Due Date

A one time, three month extension can be requested when maintenance cannot be completed by the due date or when enough continuing education credits have not been earned. This extends the time to file. It does NOT change the next maintenance due date. During this extension period, any request for verification of certification status will be reported as lapsed. The certification remains lapsed if the extension deadline is not met! Continuing education earned in the extension period can be used to maintain the extended certification. The cost to extend the certification is $30. The CE earned and used during the extension period to maintain this cycle, cannot be used to maintain the next cycle. The extension request must be submitted online at the NCC website no later than midnight Central Standard time of your maintenance due date. An acknowledgement of the granting of the extension will be sent. Extension requests received after the maintenance due date will not be honored. Such individuals will need to reinstate in order to maintain certification.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Don’t have enough CE to Maintain?
If you don’t have enough CE to maintain your NCC certification, NCC offers online continuing education modules. Using NCC CE modules is NOT a requirement for maintenance. NCC developed this optional program as a response to individuals requesting relevant, convenient and cost-effective CE. Modules can earn 3 to 15 hours of continuing education. There are topics that relate to all specialty areas. Discounts can be earned on maintenance fees by using the NCC CE modules. NCC recognizes there are many ways to obtain CE. This is just one option that we provide.

For more information about CE modules:
• Sign into NCCwebsite.org with your email and password.
• Click “Continuing Education” in the yellow tab.
• Choose your specialty from certification specialty “browse modules” icons at the top of the page.
• A list of modules for your certification specialty will appear sorted by specialty code.
You can also access specialty specific CE from your account page. Look in your Certification Maintenance and under each certification you will be able to view your education plan and view available modules directly from your account or from your education plan.

Lapsed or Expired Certifications
Certification will lapse (expire) if:
• the required application or extension request and/or fees are not filed by the designated maintenance due date.
• the required application is not submitted within the three month extension period.
• the required hours of continuing education are not earned or participation in continuing education activities are not accredited by agencies recognized by NCC.
• an incomplete application is not remediated within the requested deadline date.
• your RN license or advanced practice license is not active.
• you do not submit all required materials within the timeline if you are chosen for audit.

Certification can be revoked if NCC determines any information on your maintenance application has been intentionally or unintentionally misrepresented.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

The Reinstatement Program

A reinstatement program is available for individuals who failed to maintain their certification by their maintenance due date. The reinstatement program allows professionals formerly credentialed by NCC to come back into the system without re-examination. This program is time sensitive and must be completed within the 12 month period following the missed maintenance date and by that quarter’s due date (see your specific date by going to your account). You must submit the application by midnight central standard time. Reinstatement application requires submission of CE certificates for all non-NCC CE activities listed in the reinstatement application along with the Conference/Program Agenda with the lecture descriptions.

Individuals who take advantage of this program will need to enter their earned CE into the online reinstatement application and pay the $215 reinstatement fee. Core certifications require completion of a 50 hour CE education plan that earns CE in all core competency areas. Previous education plans generated from an assessment while the certification was active will no longer apply. If successfully reinstated, the next maintenance date remains unchanged from the missed maintenance 3-year cycle.

NCC randomly selects reinstatement applications for audit. If selected, you will be required to upload these documents in a digital format and directions will be emailed to you. If the CE does not meet the required core competencies, or if the documents uploaded are not correct, you will need to submit additional CE earned in the time frame of the original maintenance cycle and reinstatement period for the reinstatement application to be considered. All CE audit materials requested are due within 2 weeks of the application submission and audit request. Failure to complete or meet the audit will result in a permanent lapse of the certification.

For those beyond the reinstatement period – permanently lapsed – testing is required to regain certification. Current eligibility criteria must be met to qualify to retest, which may be different from when the individual was originally certified.

For NPs, please note: it is a qualification that you must be within 8 years of graduation from your NP program to retest. For those beyond that 8 year period, you must go back to school and earn a post graduate degree or certificate in the NP specialty to qualify to retest. Or complete the NCC Alternate Certification Program (ACP), if you meet eligibility. Details are available at NCCwebsite.org. There are no exceptions to this rule.

To submit a reinstatement:
• visit NCCwebsite.org
• choose Maintain Your Certification/Learn More
• scroll to Common Links
• select Reinstall your Certification
• complete the Reinstatement Form and pay the fee
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Incomplete Application Processing
Incomplete applications are defined as:
• missing required information
• incorrect information
• inadequate fees (Returned Checks, Credit Card Declines or Credit Card Chargebacks)
• utilizing/listing CE outside of your Education Plan requirements
• demonstrating inadequate or non-applicable continuing education
• listing inadequate continuing education hours to meet maintenance requirements
• any reason resulting in an inability to determine the RNC or certified nurse practitioner’s eligibility

All incomplete applications are subject to a nonrefundable $10 reprocessing fee.

Audits
NCC randomly selects for audit a percentage of certified professionals who are due to maintain their certification. All incomplete applications are automatically selected for audit. An audit requires the certificant to submit copies of the certificates of continuing education (CE Certificates) to document the CE listed in the maintenance application along with the Conference/Program Agenda with the lecture descriptions. After the maintenance application is submitted, a notice of approval or a notice of audit is sent by email. The notice of audit outlines the audit process and provides a deadline for completion. Failure to meet the deadline results in lapse of certification. If selected for audit, and the required continuing education certificates along with the Conference/Program Agenda with the lecture descriptions are not provided or the deadline to submit additional documentation that would complete your application is not met, your certification will lapse. If additional CE documentation is submitted, it must have been earned within the current maintenance cycle. New CE cannot be earned and submitted unless your current maintenance window is still open. 

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

NCC-E

The NCC-E credential provides special recognition for the accomplishments of PERMANENTLY RETIRED Certified Professionals, made during the active part of their careers. This is not a certification, but a lifetime emeritus status demonstrating on-going recognition of previous certification. Please note: if you elect to become an NCC-E you cannot revert back to certification status without retesting which will require you to meet current eligibility criteria which may be different than when you were originally certified.

The NCC-E fee is $90 for lifetime status. Fees are subject to change without notice.

To request NCC-E status:
- visit NCCwebsite.org
- choose Maintain Your Certification/Learn More
- scroll to NCC-E Emeritus Credential
- select Access the NCC-E Application
- review the terms and eligibility
- complete the NCC-E Form and pay the fee

Designation Authorization

Certification is a non-transferable, revocable, limited, non-exclusive license to use the certification designation(s)“RNC-IAP, RNC-OB®, RNC-LRN®, RNC-MNN®, RNC-NIC®, RNC-BC®, or WHNP-BC®”, subject to compliance with the policies and procedures, as may be revised from time to time.

Any use or display of NCC certification marks and/or logos without the prior written permission of the NCC is prohibited. Any candidate or certificant who manufactures, modifies, reproduces, distributes or uses a fraudulent or otherwise unauthorized NCC certificate, NCC designation or other credential may be subject to disciplinary action, including denial or revocation of eligibility or certification. Any individual who engages in such behavior also may be subject to legal action.
GENERAL POLICIES

Nondiscrimination Policy
It is the policy of NCC that no individual will be excluded from the examinations as a result of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or gender identity.

Other Policies
- Any policy, requirement or fee is subject to change without notice.
- All fees submitted must be in US dollars and are non-refundable.
- Only American Express, Visa and MasterCard are accepted for credit card payment.
- NCC does not accept debit cards.
- NCC will not accept split payments (part credit card/part check payment)
- NCC is not responsible for lost, misdirected or damaged mail or failed online submission attempts
- It is the RNC’s or certified NP’s responsibility to maintain a current email and mailing address in their profile.
- Address or other contact information changes should be submitted to NCC via the NCC website. Name changes must be submitted with corroborating legal documentation via the user’s profile.

Appeals Procedure
Any request to waive any policy of the NCC Board of Directors regarding certification maintenance must be received in writing within 60 days of the dispute. This request should be emailed to nccpresident@nccnet.org. The correspondence should contain a detailed account as to why the NCC policy should be waived or the candidate’s status changed. Such requests are referred to the NCC Board of Directors via the Policy Review Committee. All decisions will be provided in writing. Cases in which consensus cannot be reached by the Policy Review Committee are referred to the full Board of Directors.

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice
CHECKLIST FOR MAINTENANCE

Before filing the online maintenance application, look over the below check list and make sure that the necessary steps have been completed.

NCC WEBSITE ACCOUNT
Your account on the NCC website with your personal information has been set up. This includes your current address, phone, email and NCC ID number.

Licensure
Your current license number, licensing state or province and expiration date for your current/active RN or advance nursing practice licensure as applicable in the U.S. or Canada.

ASSESSMENT & EDUCATION PLAN
The Assessment has been taken and Education Plan has been generated.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
The appropriate number of CE has been earned in the content areas specified by the personalized Education Plan. REMEMBER: Only CE earned AFTER completion of the continuing competency assessment can be used for NCC certification maintenance and all CE earned must address the requirements of the Education Plan.

APPLICATION AGREEMENT:
Demonstrate your agreement to abide by NCC policies through a check off box procedure. By checking the designated box, this is deemed as equivalent to providing your signature. Applications cannot be submitted without the below agreement being stipulated.

I have read the policies on this website and in the maintenance catalog and understand that I will be subject to them. To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all information contained in this application is complete and correct. I understand and agree that any false information knowingly provided by me or others may result in denial or revocation of my certification. I understand that my application may be subject to audit for verification of the information provided and I authorize NCC to make contact with individuals listed for this purpose.
CHECKLIST FOR MAINTENANCE

The maintenance application provides you with an online tool to document and track all of your CE and activities. This can be done on an ongoing basis during your maintenance cycle. When CE is added or submitted to the online maintenance application on an ongoing basis, it will update the education plan based on the codes provided. The new education plan can be reviewed in the application showing you what CE is required and what has been met.

This shows step-by-step what CE has been applied to the required hours in core competency areas and what CE still needs to be earned. The application will provide a notice at the bottom of the CE page once all CE requirements are met allowing you to continue on and submit your application. CE earned from successful completion of any NCC CE module will automatically be entered and coded with the maintenance application.
ABOUT NCC

The National Certification Corporation (NCC) is a not for profit organization that provides a national certification program for nurses, physicians, and other licensed health care professionals. Certification is awarded to nurses and advanced practice nurses in the obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal specialties. Multidisciplinary subspecialty certifications are awarded for Electronic Fetal Monitoring, Neonatal Pediatric Transport, Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety, Care of the Extremely Low Birth Weight Neonate, and Neonatal Neuro-Intensive Care.

Since its inception in 1975, NCC has awarded certifications to more than 195,000 licensed health care professionals.

NCC’S PHILOSOPHY OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is an evaluative process that provides health care professionals in women’s health, obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal specialties the opportunity to demonstrate publicly what they know and to be recognized for the knowledge they possess. As a voluntary process, the NCC certification and subspecialty examinations are designed to test for special knowledge.

The NCC credential carries no licensing authority. The ability to practice is regulated by the relevant state boards of licensure and while certification may be required in some states, NCC has no regulatory power to require states to recognize certification for this purpose. Practice and educational standards are reflected in the certification process but the responsibility for development of such standards rests with the professional specialty organizations and the education community.

NCC encourages individuals to seek out information about how certification relates to state licensure requirements, program accreditation of the educational institutions attended, the educational and practice standards of the relevant national specialty organizations and employment expectations in their community. Contact with state boards of licensure, universities and colleges, professional specialty organizations and individual employers for specific requirements is highly recommended.

NCCA & ABSNC Accreditation

NCC nurse and subspecialty certification programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

NCC nurse practitioner certification programs are accredited by both the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).