

Become a Certified Cardiac-Vascular Nurse...

What is the Cardiac-Vascular Nursing Certification?

- **A specialty certification offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**
- **When the exam is passed, the credential received is Registered Nurse-Board Certified (RN-BC)**

What are the requirements to take the certification test?

- **RN**
- **Have practiced the equivalent of 2 years**
- **Have a minimum of 2000 hours (or roughly one year) of Cardiac-Vascular clinical experience within last 3 years**
- **Completed 30 hours of continuing education in Cardiac-Vascular in last 3 years**

How do I obtain an application?

- **Go to American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) website: www.nursecredentialing.org**
- **You can apply online or by mail**
- **The fee for initial certification is \$395; a discount is applied for membership to a variety of Cardiac-Vascular associations**

Where do I take the test?

- **Test during a 90-day window at a time and location convenient to you: there are four testing sites within 30 miles of Loyola including Chicago, Lombard, Deerfield and Joliet**

What do I need to know about the exam?

- **Allowed 3.5 hours to complete the computer based exam**
- **175 questions on assessment and diagnosis of cardiovascular disease, and planning, implementation and evaluation of patient care; education of the individual, family, and community**

How should I prepare for the test?

- **Test outline, practice questions, and a reference list are available on the ANCC website free of charge**
- **A Cardiac-Vascular Review and Resource Manual is strongly recommended and is available online at the ANCC website for purchase**
- **A webinar is also available for purchase online which provides continuing education contact hours, valuable study tips, and information to be utilized in preparing for certification exams**
- **The ANCC recommends a six month study period prior to taking the exam if reparation is done on a self-study basis**

Once certified, how do I maintain my certification?

- **Certification spans a period of five years prior to renewal**
- **ANCC has an online continuing education tracker simplifying the recertification process**

How does Loyola support certification?

- **Salary increases linked to certification, including eligibility for Level 4 Clinical Ladder**
- **Educational Stipend availability of \$300 available to contribute to the cost of review course/materials, exams and renewals**

Why should I become certified?

- **Serves as a way to expand and validate your knowledge within the cardiovascular field**
- **Leads to a sense of pride and accomplishment**
- **Valued by the organization**
- **Clinical Ladder points can be earned**

Cardiac-Vascular Certification Liaison:

Judy Rey, APN, RN-BC