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 preparation 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:
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