

# Become a Progressive Care Certified Nurse (PCCN)

---

## What are the requirements to take the Progressive Care Nurse certification test?

- RN with current, unencumbered licensure.
- 1750 hours of direct bedside care of acutely ill patients during the previous two years, with 875 of those hours in the last year.
- Verification of eligibility by a professional associate (RN or MD).

## Who is the credentialing organization, or certifying body, that administers the test?

- [Association of Critical-Care Nurses \(AACN\)](#)

## How do I obtain an application?

- Go to [AACN- Certification](#)
- Refer to Certification Exam Handbook
- You can apply online or mail in the application
- You may request a copy of the application via email at [certcorp@aacn.org](mailto:certcorp@aacn.org)

## What do I need to know about the test?

- This is a computer-based test. Testing sites are available year-round, Monday through Saturday at more than 175 locations across the United States
- A paper and pencil version of the test is offered each year at the AACN National Teaching and Critical Care Exposition (NTI) and TRENDS educational conferences.
- The 2.5 hours PCCN Exam contains 125 items; 100 are counted towards your score and 25 are used to gather statistical data on the item performance for future exams.

## What should I review for the test?

- Loyola's [Department of Nursing Education](#) offers a *free* review course
- Certification Exam Blue Print
  -

- The PCCN blueprint can be found in the Certification Exam Handbook
- The test plan is broken down by content area with each assigned a percentage indicating how the topic area is weighted on the exam
- Items are based on the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care, with 80% focusing on Clinical Judgment and 20% focusing on Professional Care and Ethical Practice

- Self-Assessment Exams are available on-line to purchase
- Exam Review courses are offered at the AACN's NTO Conference held each year in May or at TRENDS Conferences, and also on line.
- The AACN Online Bookstore features a variety of educational and clinical products including video and audio review courses that you may find helpful.

## Once I am certified, how do I maintain my certification?

- The certification is valid for 3 years
- You may re-take the test in 3 years or collect 100 Synergy CERPs.
- Go [AACN- Renewal](#) for details

## What professional organizations are available to join?

- The cost of the certification exam varies based on [Association of Critical-Care Nurses \(AACN\)](#) membership status. If you join you would receive AACN membership benefits in addition to saving \$80 on the exam.
- The cost to join AACN is \$78: you will receive 3 journals with free CE opportunities in each issue, unlimited free online CE, a newsletter, and discounts on publications/conferences.

## Have more questions? We can help!

Contact the Nursing Education and Professional Development Council: Send an email via Trinity Outlook to one of the members listed at the following link [Nursing Education and Professional Development Council](#)