

# What is the CPC Assessment?

The CPC Assessment (CPCA) is a performance-standard assessment – it is **NOT** pass/fail. It includes 150 multiple-choice questions and you'll have three hours to complete it.

## What is covered on the CPC Assessment

The CPCA focuses on clinical knowledge, rather than the fine detail you needed to learn for your initial certification examination to become a CRNA (the NCE). It is instead geared toward the knowledge of the practicing CRNA.

The CPCA will assess your knowledge in the four core knowledge areas (domains) of nurse anesthesia practice:

- Airway Management
- Applied Clinical Pharmacology
- Human Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Anesthesia Equipment, Technology, and Safety

## What happens if I don't meet the performance standard?

If the performance standard on the CPCA is met, nothing additional needs to be done above the regular requirements of the CPC Program.

If the overall performance standard is not met, NBCRNA will identify domain areas where remediation is needed. **A minimum of one additional Class A credit in each of those identified domains will need to be taken.** You can always choose to do more, but you only need a minimum of one Class A credit in any identified domain to meet this requirement.

## CPCA RESOURCES – CPCA TOOLKIT

To help you prepare for the CPCA, NBCRNA offers a variety of resources that can be found on the CPCA Toolkit page. These include practice assessments that can give you access to up to 160 practice questions, as well as short overview videos, podcasts, infographics, and more.

Access the Toolkit: [CONNECT.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA-TOOLKIT](https://connect.nbcna.com/cPCA-toolkit)

## When can I take the CPCA?

You can take it during any open testing window in your second 4-year cycle--up until 6 months before the end of that cycle. **Applications for the first CPCA testing windows are now open for August and November 2021.** Ready to schedule your CPCA for August or November 2021? Log in at [www.nbcna.com](http://www.nbcna.com) to apply.

## Where can I take the CPCA?

You have two flexible options. You can either take the CPCA in the privacy of your own home or any other private, quiet, distraction-free location with good internet access, or take the CPCA at a traditional testing center—it's your choice.

## How much does it cost?

The cost of the CPCA is \$295 every eight years – that's an annualized average of \$37 a year.



# CPC ASSESSMENT (CPCA) FAQs

## Since the CPCA is not pass/fail, what does it mean to be a performance standard exam?

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Because the CPCA is not pass/fail, it does not impact your certification. It is designed to provide feedback on your strengths and weaknesses in different knowledge areas. Scores are measured against a defined performance standard to identify any areas where additional study is needed.

CRNAs will not lose certification regardless of CPCA performance, but will need to successfully complete additional Class A credit in the area(s) where the established performance standard was not met.

## Will the CPCA affect my certification?

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No. The score for the CPC Assessment is measured against a performance standard for all currently certified nurse anesthetists as of 2020. It is not pass/fail (passing standard), so it can instead be used as a self-evaluation tool to target future continuing education. This is intended to provide feedback on the nurse anesthetist's relative strengths in different knowledge areas.

## How many times can I take the CPCA?

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The CPC Assessment is more like a self-assessment and is **only taken once** in every 8-year CPC period. It is intended to provide feedback and identify any areas where brush-up may be needed. The CPC Assessment should be completed at least six months before the end of your second CPC cycle to allow time to complete any additional Class A credit that may be needed.

## What if I decide not to practice or if I retire within a given CPC cycle?

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The requirements completed in one 4-year CPC cycle allow you to remain certified into the following cycle. If you do not intend to practice beyond the current period you are certified in, it would not be necessary to meet any of the requirements for the next CPC cycle.

## Can I take the CPCA any time during my second 4-year cycle?

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Yes, you can take the CPCA in any open testing window during your second 4-year CPC cycle. The first windows will open/opened in August and November of 2021, and there will be multiple windows offered in each subsequent year, giving you plenty of time to take the CPCA.

## Will there be review sessions for the CPCA? Will review courses be awarded CEs?

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There are several resources to help you create a study plan for the CPCA available on the CPCA Toolkit on the NBCRNA website at [CONNECT.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA-TOOLKIT](https://CONNECT.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA-TOOLKIT). These include the CPCA content outline—or “blueprint”—of the exam, the CPCA bibliography, practice assessments (CPCA Practice I and II) that also provide CE/Class A credit, and more. Some vendors may also offer study courses, but the NBCRNA does not produce review sessions.

## Is my certification time-limited?

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NBCRNA's national accreditors, including the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC), no longer accept the concept of “once certified, always certified.” The NBCRNA must comply with the requirements set forth by these organizations. To align with that, NBCRNA certification became time-limited as of 1/1/2020. For certification renewal, CRNAs will need to meet the requirements of the CPC Program. The NBCRNA is dedicated to protecting the CRNA credential and failing to comply with these regulatory authorities would threaten the value, validity and recognition of the credential in all 50 states and by all 52 boards of nursing.

## Do I need to have completed my Class A/Class B/Core Modules to take the CPCA?

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No, you do not have to have completed your requirements to take the CPCA. You can take it in any open testing window of your second 4-year CPC cycle.