



EVOLUTION OF THE CPC PROGRAM

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification
& Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

CPC PROGRAM
CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

1 FIRST MAJOR REVISION OF THE CPC CRITERIA, JANUARY 2012

In January 2012, the CPC Committee presented the information collected and refined recommendations for changes to the CPC Program, based on results from the public comment period. Revisions included:

- The professional work requirement for a specified number of hours of practice was removed.
- The continuing education requirement was reduced to 15 assessed CE units per year.
- Professional development education credits were first introduced to the CPC program.
- Credit earned from the Core Modules could be applied to meet assessed CE credits.
- The CPC Examination would be phased into the CPC Program, with the requirement date for meeting the passing standard moved to 2032.

The CPC Program start date was moved back 1 year, to January 1, 2016.

2 SECOND MAJOR REVISIONS OF CPC CRITERIA, JANUARY 2014 THROUGH AUGUST 2014

In the fall of 2013, a second CPC survey was conducted of the CRNA community. As a result of direct discussions with the AANA and with members of the CRNA community and a review of survey feedback, additional revisions to the CPC criteria were made.

- Life support courses will be able to be reported as Class A credits or Class B credits, at the nurse anesthetist's discretion.
- For each domain area in which a nurse anesthetist does not meet a performance standard on the CPC Examination administered during the second 4 year cycle (beginning January 2020), the nurse anesthetist will take an additional Core Module (NOTE: This has since been updated beyond just Core Modules to include Class
- A credits to allow for choice in continuing education type if performance standard is not met; type and amount (minimum one credit) is up to the CRNA).
- The NBCRNA and the AANA agreed that the AANA Continuing Education Committee will develop the criteria for assessed CE.
- Core Module delivery mode was expanded beyond web-only and the cap on CE credits was removed. Further, vendors will determine which module performance objectives will be covered in a module based on the latest evidence.

3 THIRD MAJOR REVISION OF CPC CRITERIA, AUGUST 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 2014

In the fall of 2014, the NBCRNA Board of Directors approved additional revisions to the CPC program components:

- At the request of the AANA, on behalf of the membership, NBCRNA Board of Directors approved changes to the terminology of CPC Program components:
- The term assessed continuing education requirement was changed to Class A credits.
- The term Professional Activity Unit (PAU) was changed to Class B credits.
- The term Diagnostic was removed from the CPC Examination description. Both the performance standard and passing standard CPC Examinations will be called CPC Examination.
- The CPC Program start date was moved back to August 1, 2016.
- CPC Core Modules will be voluntary for the first 4-year cycle.
- Additional options will be explored beyond retaking a CPC module for CRNAs who do not meet the performance standards of the "low stakes" CPC Examination during the 2020-2024 recertification cycle.

4 FOURTH MAJOR REVISION OF CPC CRITERIA, DECEMBER 2014

Since the initial proposed criteria for the CPC Program, the CPC Committee and NBCRNA Board have continued to refine the components, based on input from the AANA, certificants, and other stakeholders. Every component of the CPC Program has been analyzed and revised to ensure that the CPC Program will have practice-related validity and that the requirements of the CPC Program are essential, regardless of practice setting, patients, and conditions.

5 CORE MODULES BECOME REQUIRED COMPONENT, SEPTEMBER 2017

The Core Modules were included as an optional component in the first 4-year CPC cycle as feedback and data were gathered by Core Module providers and reported to the NBCRNA. After extensive analysis by the NBCRNA, it was determined that the Core Modules provide not only a successful means to bring evidence-based information to the CRNA, but that it supported the goal of lifelong learning and provided a form of longitudinal assessment. Including the Core Module requirement was also recommended by the AANA Continuing Education Committee to the NBCRNA as a valuable educational component. In September 2017, the Board of Directors voted to include the Core Modules as a required component of the CPC Program beginning in 2020.

6 REMOVAL OF PASS/FAIL REQUIREMENT FOR THE CPC ASSESSMENT, TESTING OPTIONS ADDED, FEB. 2019

In February 2019, the NBCRNA announced the removal of the pass/fail requirement for the CPC Assessment following an extensive Beta Research Study and a national benchmarking study. The CPC Assessment will still be required every eight years, but will remain a performance standard assessment only—no pass/fail, allowing the assessment to be a self-evaluation tool to target future continuing education.

Read the full release [here](#).

Also in February 2019, the NBCRNA announced that when the CPC Assessment rolls out beginning in 2020, CRNAs will have the option of taking the assessment either remotely in the comfort of their home or place of their choosing, or at a testing center. Providing two assessment options gives CRNAs the flexibility to select the setting that works best for them to minimize travel time and time away from practice, while reducing related costs

Read the full release [here](#).