



# Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program



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- *Encouraging lifelong learning*
- *Strengthening the profession*

PROMOTING PATIENT SAFETY BY ENHANCING PROVIDER QUALITY

## Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program was designed to allow for a variety of approaches to learning and assessment, to keep pace with current credentialing best practices, and to support lifelong learning. Formerly “recertification,” the CPC Program was developed in response to changing accreditation requirements, changing needs within the health care environment, the increasing role of CRNAs in the health care scene, and advances in technology.



## Components

The CPC Program is based on an 8-year program comprised of two 4-year cycles. Each 4-year cycle has the following components:

◆ **60 Class A credits**  
(assessed CE)

◆ **40 Class B credits**  
(professional development)

◆ **4 Core Modules:**

One in each of four core areas of anesthesia. (Optional in the first 4-year cycle.)

◆ **A 2-year Check-in**



## CPC Exam

The CPC Exam is taken every eight years. The first exam (offered between 2020 and 2025) will have no impact on certification status.

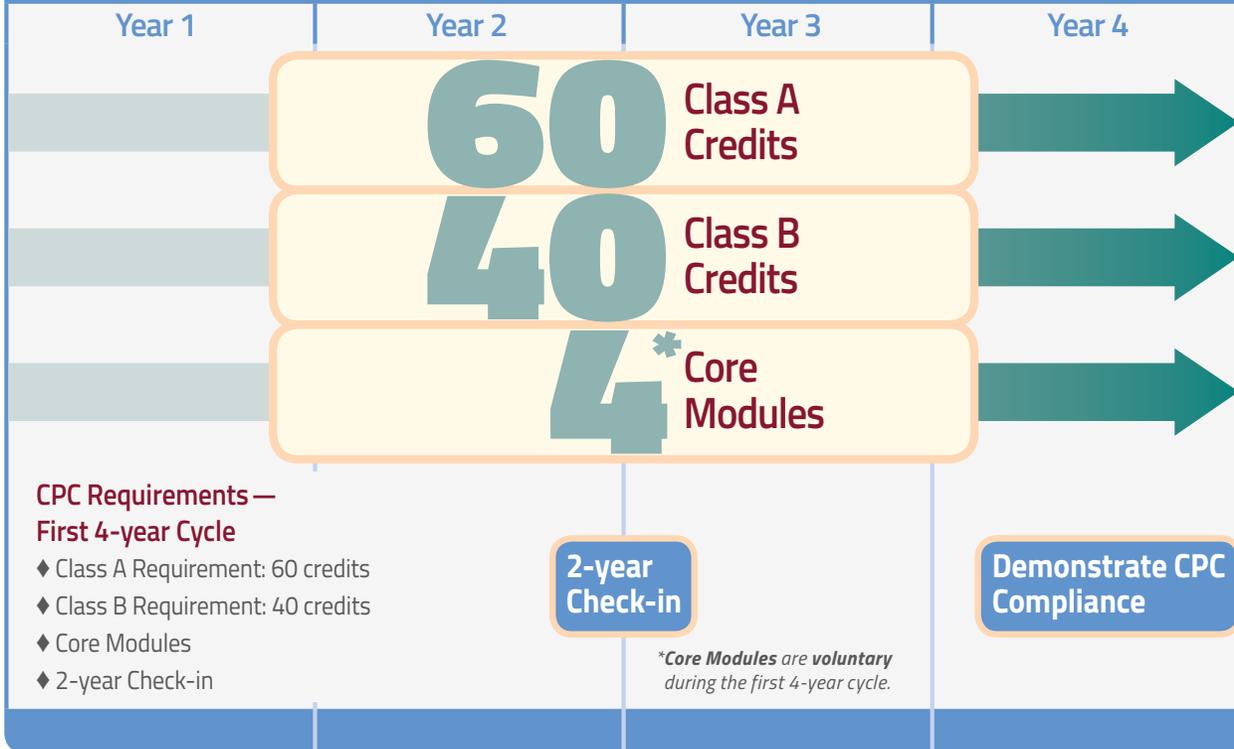


Find videos, resources, and more about the CPC Program at [www.NBCRNA.com/CPC](http://www.NBCRNA.com/CPC)

# Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program

8-Year Period Consisting of Two 4-Year Cycles

## 1<sup>ST</sup> 8-Year CPC Program Period (Beginning 2016/2017)





Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

60

Class A  
Credits

40

Class B  
Credits

4

Core  
Modules

### CPC Requirements — Second 4-year Cycle

- ◆ Class A Requirement: 60 credits
- ◆ Class B Requirement: 40 credits
- ◆ Core Modules
- ◆ 2-year Check-in
- ◆ CPC Examination (Performance Standard)\*\*

2-year  
Check-in

Demonstrate CPC  
Compliance  
Exam\*\*

**\*\*Performance Standard only** — taken by 2024/2025. Will **not** affect credential. The Passing Standard exam will be taken by 2032/2033 with four attempts allowed.

# CPC Program FAQs

## Class A

### Where will I report information about the Class A credits that I have earned?

For AANA members, completed Class A credits will automatically be reported to the NBCRNA. For non-members, the NBCRNA will offer a way for Class A credits to be reported, similar to the way CE was self-reported under the prior recertification process.

### Will life support courses qualify for the CPC program?

Yes, credits from life support courses that are prior approved and have an assessment can be applied to the Class A requirement; if not assessed, then Class B. Maximum of 20 credits per 4-year cycle. Examples of life support courses include BLS, ACLS, PALS, NALS/NRP, ATLS.

## Class B

### How will I document/track Class B credits?

Review the Class B Activities Table ([www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable](http://www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable)) that details the information needed to document Class B credits. CRNAs can maintain their own records, or use the optional templates provided in the Class B Table ([www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable](http://www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable)), then report credits to the NBCRNA every four years. AANA members can access an online

portal on the AANA website to record Class B credits and upload supporting documentation.

### How does the Class B requirement relate to clinical practice?

Class B activities strengthen the nurse anesthetist's understanding of the healthcare environment. CRNAs may already be engaged in many Class B activities for their licensure or hospital requirement, mission trips, attending a conference, precepting students, being a committee or board member, taking ACLS and PALS that aren't assessed, or hospital in-service.

### Can Class A activities be used to fulfill the Class B requirement?

Yes, any Class A credits that are not applied toward the Class A requirement can be applied to the Class B requirement. So, all Class A credits above the required 60 per 4-year CPC Program cycle can be applied towards the Class B requirement (of 40).

## Core Modules

### Will credits earned through the Core Modules also count toward the Class A requirement?

Yes. Core Modules will be voluntary during the first 4-year CPC Program cycle, and required thereafter. However, Core Modules

also provide Class A credits, so they count as a Core Module requirement and a Class A requirement — a “double dip.”

### How will I report that I have completed a Core Module?

For AANA members, the AANA will automatically report completed Class A credits earned through Core Modules to the NBCRNA. For non-members, Core Module information and the Class A credits earned will be self-reported to the NBCRNA.

### Will the Core Module be a good tool to prepare for the CPC Exam?

One of the strengths of the CPC Program is that the four Core Modules are linked to the content outline of the CPC Exam, so they serve as learning tools for content on the CPC Exam. However, performance on the Core Modules may not necessarily correlate to performance on the CPC Exam.

### Where can I find Core Modules that qualify for the CPC Program?

Reference the Core Module Providers page on the NBCRNA website to see a list of CE providers who offer Core Modules recognized by the NBCRNA.

## 2-year Check-in

### What is the 2-year Check-in?

Though the continuing education periods

in the CPC Program are divided into two 4-year cycles, CRNAs will check in every two years like the previous recertification cycle to validate state licensure, confirm continuing practice, pay the fee, update contact information, and review progress towards CPC Program compliance.

## CPC Exam

### Is the CPC Exam another NCE?

The CPC Exam is not the National Certification Exam (NCE). We know that the knowledge required of an experienced practitioner is different from that of a new practitioner. A professional practice analysis of hundreds of practicing nurse anesthetists was conducted to inform the CPC exam content outline. The goal is to make sure that the knowledge tested is common to all CRNAs, regardless of practice focus. The CPC Examination content outline is available for review, and the NBCRNA offers practice questions through the *CPCE Practice*. The exam will assess knowledge in the four core domains of nurse anesthesia practice. The first exam only needs to be taken once — by 2024/2025, and has no impact on certification, regardless of performance. The second exam, taken by 2032/2033, can be taken up to four times.

# CPC Program Glossary

## Class A Requirement = Assessed CE

Class A credits are continuing education credits that are prior-approved and include an assessment. They must be directly related to anesthesia and can be earned at any point during the 4-year cycle. There are 60 Class A credits required for each 4-year CPC Program cycle.

## Class B Requirement = Professional Development

Class B requirements are those activities that enhance a nurse anesthetist's foundational knowledge of nurse anesthesia practice, support patient safety, or foster the nurse anesthetist's understanding of the broader healthcare environment. Class B activities do not require prior approval or an assessment. There are 40 Class B credits required, but Class A credits earned above the initial 60 required in a 4-year cycle may be applied to the Class B requirement. See examples



on the Class B Activities Reference Table: [www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable](http://www.NBCRNA.com/ClassBTable).

## Core Modules

Core Modules provide a way for nurse anesthetists to stay informed about current literature. Using a common set of objectives, continuing education (CE) providers will develop CE programs that address the areas of anesthesia practice that apply to all CRNAs, regardless of practice focus. The CE provider will determine the length and cost of the modules they produce, and the AANA, or another prior-approval entity, will determine the Class A credit value of each module.

## Core Modules are optional during the first 4-year CPC Program cycle.

However, they are prior-approved, assessed CE so can count as Class A credit. They are directly related to one of the four core areas in anesthesia: Airway management technique; Applied clinical pharmacology; Human physiology and pathophysiology; and Anesthesia equipment and technology.

## 2-year Check-in

Every four years, certificants will go through the full application process, but will continue to check in every two years like in the prior recertification cycle. At that check-in, CRNAs will verify licensure and practice, pay the fee, update contact information, and review progress towards CPC Compliance.

## CPC Exam

There will be a CPC Exam every eight years. The first exam, taken by 2024/2025, is a performance standard exam. CRNAs will maintain their certification, even if they do not meet the performance standard. However, additional continuing education, such as taking an additional Core Module, will be required in any area of weakness. For the second CPC exam, taken by 2032/2033, nurse anesthetists will be allowed four attempts to achieve the passing standard.



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PROFESSIONAL CLASS A CREDENTIAL  
CPC TRAINING PROVIDER QUALITY  
CARE IMPORTANT  
ENHANCING LIFELONG LEARNING  
PRACTICE RESEARCH  
CLASS B VALUE  
PATIENTS CONTINUING  
KNOWLEDGE  
NBCRNA HEALTH CARE  
CORE MODULES  
KNOWLEDGE NURSE CERTIFICATION

**NBCRNA**  
National Board of Certification  
Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

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