



ANCB Rationale for Certification Requirements

ANCB believes that continuing competence is vital to the safe and effective care of individuals with substance use disorders. Continuing competence is the integration and application of updated and expanding knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors to perform safely and effectively treat individuals with the disease of addiction with high quality care for better outcomes. The ultimate goal of continued competence is to contribute to public protection.

| Requirement | Rationale |
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| RN or AP nurse license for CARN and CARN-AP | Licensure is required to practice, and this requirement ensures that only those who are licensed to practice hold a credential of CARN or CARN-AP certification. |
| Non-US and Canadian registered nurses who meet the eligibility for license as an RN in the US criteria are also invited to apply for the CARN examination but must supply evaluations from either the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) or World Education Service (WES) which provide evidence of equivalent licensure as RN. | Evidence of equivalent licensure as an RN is required to ensure the nurse can meet the requirements for taking the exam. |
| Unrestricted License | An unrestricted nursing license means the nurse must have a license that is not revoked, suspended, or made probationary or conditional by the licensing or registering authority in the practice jurisdiction because of disciplinary action. (See Alternative to Discipline Program below) |

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The ANCB certification is accredited by the American Board for Specialty Nursing Certification

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| <p>Alternative to Discipline Program (ATD) ANCB recognizes the positive impact nurses in recovery bring to the specialty of addictions nursing.</p> | <p>The purpose of the ADT is to ensure safety for the nurse and the public protection by promoting earlier identification and requiring evidence-based intervention for nurses with substance use disorder or in combination with co-occurring disorders. The nurse who adheres to the requirements will be granted return to work under strict requirements including supervision and guidance that helps to assure public safety and hold the health care professional accountable.</p> |
| <p>CARN: Have a minimum of 2000 hours (one year) of nursing experience related to addictions as an RN in a staff, administrative, teaching, private practice, consultation, counseling, or research capacity within the last three years.</p> | <p>The Board reviewed the Practice Analysis/Role Delineation Study in 2019 and agreed that the nurses working in addiction, needed approximately one year of practice to function at the minimally competent level of addictions nursing. The timeframe of three years was thought to be ensure the nurse was updated on evidence-based practices.</p> |
| <p>CARN: 30 hours of approved continuing education related to addictions nursing within the last three years</p> | <p>Continuing education is a means of demonstrating that the nurse is keeping abreast of the literature on addictions, furthering knowledge in the specialty which helps to maintain competence. An analysis of the Role Delineation Study/Practice Analysis (RDS/PA) from 2019 confirmed that current knowledge about substance use disorders would be needed to work with the specialty. Continuing education is one way of accomplishing this.</p> |
| <p>Academic Credit</p> | <p>Academic credit applicable to the certification serve to promote and expand the clinician's knowledge in addictions nursing.</p> |
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| CARN-AP | |
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| Alternative to Discipline Program (ATD) ANCB recognizes the positive impact nurses in recovery bring to the specialty of addictions nursing. | The purpose of the ADT is to ensure safety for the nurse and the public protection by promoting earlier identification and requiring evidence-based intervention for nurses with substance use disorder or in combination with co-occurring disorders. The nurse who adheres to the requirements will be granted return to work under strict requirements including supervision and guidance that helps to assure public safety and hold the health care professional accountable. |

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| <p>CARN-AP: Hold a master's degree or higher in nursing.</p> | <p>Rationale for the master's degree in nursing: This is a basic requirement for an advanced practice nurse. ABSNC Standard 1 gives the following operational definition: "Advanced practice nursing certification – offered to a registered nurse candidate prepared at the graduate degree level. Practice and certification are within a specialty nursing area and may or may not have a direct care component (e.g., education, administration)."</p> |
| <p>500 hours of supervised, direct client contact in advanced clinical practice working with individuals and families impacted by addictions/dual diagnoses. All 500 hours may be earned while in the master's program (but may only be used if within four years of applying for initial certification).</p> | <p>Schools of nursing for MSN usually require 500 advanced clinical practice working in the specialty. This requirement is carried over for the advanced practice nurse working in addictions. The four-year restriction for obtaining supervised hours is to ensure the nurse is current in the knowledge, skills and abilities required for addictions nursing.</p> |
| <p>45 contact hours of approved continuing education in addictions within the three years prior to submitting the exam application.</p> | <p>The field of addiction nursing is rapidly evolving because of the different substances used and newer methods of evidence-based practice. Exposure and updating knowledge in the certification role and specialty is needed to maintain competence. Limiting the number of years for the information to be obtained helps to keep current on the trends in addictions nursing.</p> |
| <p>1200 hours of nursing experience in addiction as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) within the last three years prior to submitting the examination application.</p> | <p>The practice hours demonstrate current engagement within the RN or APN certification role and population and require acquisition of new knowledge and development in addictions nursing for competence.</p> |
| <p>Academic Credit</p> | <p>Academic credit applicable to the certification serve to promote and expand the clinician's knowledge and competence in addictions nursing.</p> |