



Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Brochure

GENERAL INFORMATION

Certification provides an added credential beyond licensure and demonstrates by examination that the Nurse Practitioner has acquired specialized knowledge in dermatology and adheres to practice standards. It assures consumer protection and confers peer and public recognition to those individuals who prove proficient in their practice.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To become a certified dermatology nurse practitioner (DCNP), the DNCB requires that candidates meet all eligibility criteria at the time of application, complete the enclosed application form, submit all fees, and successfully pass the certification examination. No individual shall be excluded from the opportunity to participate in the DNCB certification program on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. To be eligible to participate in the examination, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- § Current RN license in the US or its territories, Canada, or other country approved by C-NET.
- § Current NP license or state recognition of NP status. If outside the U.S., approved license by local state/province or country.
- § Have a minimum of 3000 hours of work experience in dermatology as a nurse practitioner within the past 3 years in a clinical, administrative, teaching, or research capacity.
- § Collaborative and/or supervised practice with a Board-certified dermatologist.
- § Master's degree in nursing. (Applications of nurse practitioners who do not hold a master's degree in nursing but who are recognized as nurse practitioners by a state board of nursing will be handled on an individual basis.)
- § National certification as a nurse practitioner. (Applications of nurse practitioners who do not hold national certification as a nurse practitioner but who are recognized as nurse practitioners by a state board of nursing will be handled on an individual basis.)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete all sections of the application. Be sure to include the last four digits of your Social Security number since it will serve as your identification number for the certification files.
2. Print or type all information except for your signature.
3. Attach to the application a photocopy of your current NP license and, if applicable, a photocopy of your current DNA membership card.
4. Include fee for certification examination, plus late fee if applicable. Make all checks payable to C-NET.
5. Mail the application form with attachments and your check/money order to:

DCNP Certification Program
c/o C-NET
601 Pavonia Avenue, Suite 201
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 800-463-0786

The application will be considered incomplete if any of the requested information or the appropriate fees are not provided. Candidates will be informed of the measures to take to complete their applications. Exam permits are issued only to candidates with complete applications.

Substitution of candidates cannot be made and no such request will be honored. The Dermatology Nursing Certification Board reserves the right to verify the employment and licensure of any applicant.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DNCB

The Dermatology Nursing Certification Board (DNCB) promotes the highest standards of dermatology advanced nursing practice and establishes credentialing mechanisms for validating proficiency as a nurse practitioner working in dermatology.

FEE STRUCTURE

The fees for the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination are as follows:

\$ Application Fee

NP Society Member	\$275
Current DNC status	\$275
NP Society Non-member	\$375

This includes a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00.

Membership in the DNA must be current through the examination date to be eligible for the reduced fee.

\$ Recertification Fee

NP Society Member	\$225
NP Society Non-member	\$325

--or-- payment of the examination fee if re-examination is selected as the method of certification.

\$ Late Application Fee \$25.00

For applications postmarked after the deadline. (Late applications are accepted for two weeks after the deadline.)

\$ Returned Check Fee \$20.00

Any applicant whose personal check is returned for insufficient funds is required to pay this fee. Remittance of fees thereafter must be by money order or certified check.

\$ Re-examination Fee

A candidate who does not pass the examination has one year to re-take the examination at a reduced fee. The fee is \$225 for NP Society members and \$325 for nonmembers.

A candidate who does not pass the second examination is considered failed. Any repeat examination will require completion of a new application and payment of the full fee.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations will be accepted until two (2) weeks prior to the examination. Cancellations after that time will not be refunded, but application and fee may be applied to a certification examination scheduled during the next twelve (12) months only.

EXAMINATION PERMIT

Pending the completeness of your application, you will receive an examination permit approximately two (2) weeks before the test date. The permit will include the test date, test center address, and the time you should report to the test center. You will not be admitted to the examination without the permit.

If you do not receive your examination permit ten (10) days prior to the examination date, please notify C-NET at the toll-free number: 800-463-0786. If you lose your permit, notify C-NET immediately and request a duplicate authorization. Exam managers are instructed to admit only those candidates who are listed on the attendance roster for the test center and who have examination permits or special authorization.

SPECIAL DISABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

The DNCB and C-NET will make special test taking arrangements to accommodate candidates with disabilities which interfere with test taking. If you wish to make such arrangements, you must notify C-NET in writing no later than six (6) weeks prior to test date with documentation of the disability in order for special arrangements to be made.

NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION SCORES

A total score of approximately 72% is required to pass the certification examination. Candidates will be notified of their scores approximately four (4) weeks after test administration. C-NET will forward all examination scores to the candidate as follows:

1. A total score will be provided for candidates who successfully pass the examination.
2. A total score and sub scores in all the major test areas of concentration will be provided for candidates who do not pass the examination.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION

To insure the security of the examination, the test materials are confidential and will not be released to any person or agency. Also, information about a candidate's individual test results will be released only to the candidate, upon written request.

EXAMINATION DESCRIPTION

The Dermatology Nurse Practitioner's certification exam is based on a practice analysis of dermatology nurse practitioner practice. The practice analysis and the exam were developed with the assistance of the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET). The test consists of approximately 175 multiple choice items, written within the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice. The examination is approximately 4 hours in length. The content areas, their corresponding percentages and objectives are as follows:

Objectives of the Examination

The Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination is designed to measure the nurse practitioner's ability to:

1. Assess and diagnose acute and chronic dermatology conditions that occur across the life span. (40%)
2. Prescribe interventions, including evidence-based treatments, therapies and procedures. (30%)
3. Teach patients, significant others, community, and colleagues about prevention and management of dermatological conditions. (19%)
4. Consult for and with peers and other health care professionals regarding specific cases. (5%)
5. Perform within the scope of practice, including proper coding for appropriate reimbursement. (3%)
6. Analyze research data in order to implement effective evidence-based practice. (3%)

Content Areas of the Examination

by Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Activity:

Assessment & Diagnosis – 40%
Interventions – 30%
Education – 19%
Consultation – 5%
Professional Practice – 3%
Research – 3%

by Patient Problem Area:

Neoplasms – 20%
Papulosquamous & Eczematous dermatoses – 18%
Urticarias, Erythemas, Purpuras - 15%
Infections, Infestations, Bites & Stings – 10%
Adnexal disease – 10%
Vesiculobullous, Autoimmune, & Connective tissue diseases – 7%
Pigmentary vascular disorders - 6%
Cosmetic dermatology & Photodamage - 6%
Genodermatoses & Systemic diseases – 5%
Hair, Nails, & Mucous membranes – 3%

DESIGNATION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is awarded to those who successfully complete the certification process by meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a written multiple choice examination.

The designated credential is Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner (DCNP). This credential (DCNP) may be used in all correspondence or professional relations.

Certification as a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner is valid for a period of three (3) years. Recertification is available by examination or by continuing education. Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioners will be sent application forms for recertification approximately six (6) months in advance of the expiration of their certification.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the DNCB of any change in address. Questions related to the certification program should be directed to the DNCB President at the following address:

DNCB National Office
15000 Commerce Pkwy Suite C
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
P: 856-439-0500
F: 856-439-0525
Email: dgentile@ahint.com

RIGHT OF APPEAL

A candidate who has been deferred, failed, or had their certification revoked has the right of appeal. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the President of the Dermatology Nursing Certification Board within three (3) months of notification. The appeal shall state specific reasons why the candidate feels entitled to certification.

At the candidate's request and expense, the DNCB shall appoint an Appeals Committee of three (3) certified dermatology nurse practitioners who will meet with the candidate and make recommendations to the DNCB. The Appeals Committee will meet in conjunction with a regularly scheduled DNCB meeting. The final decision of the DNCB will be communicated in writing to the candidate within one month of the DNCB meeting. Failure of the candidate to request an appeal or appear before the Appeals Committee shall constitute a waiver of the candidate's right of appeal.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

Books

Arndt, K.A. (2002). *Manual of Dermatologic Therapeutics* (6th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkens.

Bolognia, J.L., et al. (2003). *Dermatology*. St. Louis: Elsevier/Mosby.

Frieburg, I.M., et al. (2003). *Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine, Vols I & II* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Habif, T.P. (2004). *Clinical Dermatology* (4th ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier/Mosby.

James, W., & Berger, T., & Elston, D.M. (2006). *Andrews' Diseases of the Skin: Clinical Dermatology*. (10th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier.

Paller, A.S. & Mancini, A.J. (2006). *Hurwitz Clinical Pediatric Dermatology*. (3rd ed.) Philadelphia: Elsevier/Saunders.

Wolff, K., Johnson, R.A., & Suurmond, D. (2005). *Fitzpatrick's Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Dermatology* (5th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Wolverton, S.E. (2007). *Comprehensive Dermatologic Drug Therapy*. (2nd ed.) Philadelphia: Elsevier/Saunders.

Certification granted by the DNBCB is pursuant to a voluntary procedure intended solely to test for special knowledge. The DNBCB does not purport to license, to confer a right to privilege upon, nor otherwise to define the qualifications of any person for nursing practice. The significance of certification in any jurisdiction or institution is the responsibility of the candidate to determine. The candidate should contact the appropriate state board of nursing or institution in order to determine practice implications.