

Alabama Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

I.) Requirements for APRN state licenses:

- License:
 - Active Alabama RN License: An unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse in Alabama is required for initial approval as an advanced practice nurse.
 - Active Alabama certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) License
- Certifications:
 - Current certification as a CRNP granted by a national certifying agency recognized by the Board of Nursing in the clinical specialty consistent with educational preparation and appropriate to the area of practice.
- Applications:
 - CRNP License- \$175 application fee.
 - National Provider Identifier (NPI) Application form.
- Practice Documents and Physician Commencement:
 - Collaborating and Covering physician agreements with signed Standard protocol and Quality Management Plan. Commencement form and fee must also be filed with ABME.
- Education:
 - Master's or higher degree in nursing from an educational institution in a curriculum designed to prepare nurse practitioners.
 - You must request that your nursing program submit an official transcript to the ABN in a sealed envelope or through an electronic transcript service.

II.) CEUs Required for Practice State as an APRN:

- (How many, the time frame, what kinds, and how many pharmacy hours required):
 - RN License- renew every 2 years. The CE earning period runs from the day after the nurse renews his or her license until the end of the next license period. Requires 24 continuing education hours from a Board-approved or Board-recognized continuing education provider.
 - All APNs- required to document 6 additional hours of continuing education in pharmacology for each 2-year renewal.

III.) Scope of Practice:

- Practice requirements: The CRNP may work in any setting consistent with the collaborating physician's areas of practice and function within the CRNP's population focused scope of practice. The CRNP's scope of practice shall be

defined as those functions and procedures for which the CRNP is qualified by formal education, clinical training, area of certification, and experience to perform.

- Core Duties:
 - Arrange inpatient admissions, transfers, and discharges; perform rounds and record appropriate patient progress notes; compile detailed narrative and case summaries; complete forms pertinent to patients' medical records.
 - Perform complete, detailed, and accurate health histories, review patient records, develop comprehensive medical and nursing status reports, and order laboratory, radiological, and diagnostic studies appropriate for complaint, age, race, sex, and physical condition of the patient.
 - Perform comprehensive physical examinations and assessments.
 - Formulate medical and nursing diagnoses and institute therapy or referrals of patients to the appropriate health care facilities and/or agencies, and other resources of the community or physician.
 - Plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen which includes ordering legend drugs, medical devices, nutrition, and supportive services in accordance with established protocols and institutional policies.
 - Institute emergency measures and emergency treatment or appropriate stabilization measures in situations such as cardiac arrest, shock, hemorrhage, convulsions, poisoning, and allergic reactions. In emergencies, initiate mechanical ventilatory support and breathing, if indicated.
 - Interpret and analyze patient data and results of laboratory and diagnostic tests.
 - Provide instructions and guidance regarding health care and health care promotion to patients, family, and significant others.
- Skills (exp. approved to sign death certificates, sign athletic physical forms, etc.):
 - Certification of disability for patients to receive special access parking or disability access parking tags or placards.
 - Physicals for bus drivers in this state using State of Alabama forms.
 - Physicals to verify eligibility for students to participate in the Special Olympics.

- Employment and pre-employment physicals for Transportation Security Agency (TSA) employees at an airport or for governmental employees such as firefighters and law enforcement officers.
 - Adoptive parent applications.
 - College or trade school physicals.
 - Boy Scout or Girl Scout physicals or physical required by similar organizations.
 - Forms excusing a potential jury member due to an illness.
 - Forms relating to absenteeism for employment or school purposes, including, but not limited to, documents associated with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.
 - Authorizations for durable medical equipment, diabetic testing supplies, and diabetic shoes.
 - Home health recertification orders after initial certification.
 - Within the state Medicaid system, all forms for the ordering of medications, nutritional supplements, or infant formulas, or referrals to providers of medical specialties, home health services, and physical or occupation therapy.
 - Forms, including physical examination forms, needed for certifications in residential or inpatient dwellings within the Department of Mental Health.
 - Forms for ambulance transport.
 - Forms for donor breast milk.
 - Required documentation allowing a diabetic to renew or obtain a driver's license.
 - Not allowed to sign death certificates or athletic physical forms.
- Skills that can be done with special permission:
 - Approval for additional Specialty Protocols (critical care, critical care advanced, orthopedic, otolaryngology) can be requested through the ABN and ABME by submitting the Application for Privilege to Perform Skill or Procedure in Collaborative Practice and a Request to Train forms. Then the CRNP must be initially validated on the skill and complete a designated number of procedures annually to maintain certification.
- Limitations: CRNPs are not allowed to perform any skills/procedures not listed on their signed collaborative agreement/ standard or specialty protocols.

IV.) Collaboration requirements:

- Requirement in your state: yes
- Collaboration requirements:
 - Hours: Collaborating physician must be present for at least 10% of the CRNP's scheduled hours in an approved practice site with CRNP who has less than two years (4,000 hours) of collaborative practice experience: Since initial certification; or in the collaborating physician's practice specialty.
 - Practicing remotely: Collaborating physician must visit remote sites at least twice annually.
 - Covering physicians: must have covering physician agreement on file with ALBME/ABN with collaborating practice agreement.
 - Practice site location rules & Years of experience:
 - MD must have at least one year, and AMA/AOA-approved specialty board certified in the practice setting OR have practiced for at least three years.
 - Number of mid-levels the physician can have under them at one time:
 - Cumulative total hrs. for CRNPs/CNMs/PAs in all states may not exceed 360 hrs./week for each physician (9- full time equivalent positions).
 - Required paperwork with the state's board of medicine, fees:
 - Collaborating Physician Commencement of Collaborative Practice form.
 - Collaborative practice quality assurance plan (submit to ABME and ABN).
 - Covering Physician agreement (if applicable)
 - \$200 fee.
 - How many charts they must review?
 - Must complete quarterly evaluation for quality assurance with each CRNP. Must include review of a meaningful sample of medical records plus all adverse outcomes.
 - Amount of time the physician must be in office with APRN + does that change with experience?
 - Collaborating physician must be present for at least 10% of the CRNP's scheduled hours in an approved practice site with CRNP who has less than two years (4,000 hours) of collaborative practice experience: Since initial certification; or in the collaborating physician's practice specialty.
 - After 2 years/ 4,000 hours- must collaborate quarterly.

- APRN in new specialty requires two years/ 4000 hours oversight in new specialty.

V.) RX Authority:

- What must be included on the APRN prescription pad per their states protocol:
 - The name, medical practice site address, and telephone number of the collaborating physician or covering physician.
 - The name of the CRNP.
 - The medical practice site address and telephone number of the CRNP if different from that of the collaborating physician.
 - The CRNP's registered nurse license number assigned by the Board of Nursing.
 - The words "Product Selection Permitted" printed on one side of the prescription form directly beneath a signature line.
 - The words "Dispense as written" printed on one side of the prescription form directly beneath a signature line.
 - The date the prescription is issued to the patient.
- Controlled substance rules:
 - The CRNP must have a minimum of 12 months of active clinical practice with an approved collaborative practice agreement in the state of Alabama.
 - To prescribe Schedule **III**, **IV**, or **V** controlled substances:
 - Apply for a Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (QACSC) through the ALBME. (Initial: \$110 fee/ renewal: \$60 annual)
 - Be in a collaborative agreement with a physician who holds and maintains a current, unrestricted Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.
 - Submit proof of successful completion within the past 12 months of 12 AMA PRA Category 1 credits or equivalent that include the course "Prescribing Controlled Drugs: Critical Issues and Common Pitfalls" (8 credits) and four credits through a Board-approved course relating to advanced pharmacology and prescribing trends.
 - As a requirement for renewal, applicant must:
 - Obtain four AMA PRA Category 1 credits every two years through a Board-approved course regarding the prescribing of controlled substances.

- Have a current registration to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring Databank.
 - Have a current Drug Enforcement Administration registration.
 - Obtain DEA license after receiving initial QACSC.
 - To prescribe Schedule II controlled substances:
 - Apply for a Limited Purpose Schedule II (LPSP) Prescribing Protocol through the ALBME. (Initial: \$25 fee/ renewal: \$10 annual). Eligibility requirements:
 - Have a current collaborative practice agreement with a collaborating physician.
 - Have a current, active, unrestricted QACSC for Schedules III, IV, and V.
 - Have a current, active DEA registration.
 - Before renewing, must have:
 - Current QACSC.
 - Current Drug Enforcement Administration registration.
 - Current registration to access the PDMP.
- What is included on your state's prescription formulary?
 - Standard legend drug classes: Anti-Infective Agents; Birth Control Drugs, Contraceptive Agents, and Devices; Cardiovascular Agents; Central Nervous System Agents; Dermatological Agents; Diagnostic Agents; Endocrine and Metabolic Agents; Expectorants and Cough Preparations; Gastrointestinal Agents; Hematological Agents, including Antiplatelet and Anticoagulants & Related Agents; Local Anesthetics; Musculoskeletal Agents; Nutrition and Electrolyte Agents; Obstetrical and Gynecological Agents, including Hormones; Ophthalmic and Optic Agents; Oxytocic (for CNM and Women's Health CNRP only: May be prescribed according to protocols for management of post-partum bleeding, and in concurrent consultation with the physician for augmentation of labor.); Prosthetics/Orthotics; Pulmonary and Respiratory Agents; Renal and Genitourinary Agents; Serums, Toxoids, and Vaccines; Vitamins.
- What medications must have special permission to be prescribed/ How do you request/be granted special permission?
 - Specialty Legend Drugs: Antineoplastic Agents, Oxytocic, Radioactive Agents, Non-biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), Biologic or Biosimilar DMARDs and Anti-tumor necrosis

factor drugs (anti-TNF), Other Biologics or Biosimilars (excluding anti-TNF).

- Specialty drugs must be given within the scope of the collaborative practice specialty. The initial dose must be prescribed by a physician, with authorization to prescribe continuing maintenance doses according to written protocol or direct order of the physician.

VI.) DEA Requirements:

- What is required before applying/ process of applying with your state board of nursing: (This information is copied from above “Controlled Substance Rules” section)
 - The CRNP must have a minimum of 12 months of active clinical practice with an approved collaborative practice agreement in the state of Alabama.
 - To prescribe Schedule **III**, **IV**, or **V** controlled substances:
 - Apply for a Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (QACSC) through the ALBME. (Initial: \$110 fee/ renewal: \$60 annual)
 - Be in a registration agreement with a physician who holds and maintains a current, unrestricted Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.
 - Submit proof of successful completion within the past 12 months of 12 AMA PRA Category 1 credits or equivalent that include the course “Prescribing Controlled Drugs: Critical Issues and Common Pitfalls” (8 credits) and four credits through a Board-approved course relating to advanced pharmacology and prescribing trends.
 - As a requirement for renewal, applicant must:
 - Obtain four AMA PRA Category 1 credits every two years through a Board-approved course regarding the prescribing of controlled substances.
 - Have a current registration to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring Databank.
 - Have a current Drug Enforcement Administration registration.
 - Obtain DEA license after receiving initial QACSC.
 - To prescribe Schedule **II** controlled substances:
 - Apply for a Limited Purpose Schedule II (LPSP) Prescribing Protocol through the ALBME. (Initial: \$25 fee/ renewal: \$10 annual). Eligibility requirements:

- Have a current collaborative practice with a collaborating physician.
 - Have a current, active, unrestricted QACSC for Schedules III, IV, and V.
 - Have a current, active DEA registration.
 - Before renewing, must have:
 - Current QACSC.
 - Current Drug Enforcement Administration registration.
 - Current registration to access the PDMP.
- Renewal guidelines:
 - DEA: \$888 Q3 years.
- What classes can the APRN prescribe with an approved DEA license:
 - Dependent on state requirements.
 - Alabama- can only prescribe schedule 2-5 with DEA, QACSC, and LPSP.

VII.) Requirements for AANP and ANCC:

- AANP:
 - How to apply/ Application process:
 - Create online profile on aanpcert.org.
 - Complete application form for FNP exam.
 - Upload copy of official/ unofficial transcript.
 - Upload copy of state nursing license with expiration date.
 - Pay fee (AANP member= \$240, non-member= \$315)
 - Endorse electronic signature.
 - Processing time: 3-6 weeks depending upon receipt of a complete application, required documents, and applicable fees.
 - Once deemed “Eligible to Test”- AANPBC will send email with instructions on how to schedule exam through PSI Testing Center. Exam must be taken within 120 days of receiving email or request an extension.
 - When to apply:
 - MSN: may begin application process up to 6 months before graduation. Candidates may sit for an examination after they have completed all didactic courses and clinical practice hours required for their NP program.
 - What is needed to apply:
 - Education- successful completion of:

- The nationally recognized competencies of the nurse practitioner role and the population specialties of Family/Across the Life Span.
 - The APRN core (advanced physical assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology).
 - The NP educational program's required number of faculty-supervised direct patient care clinical hours (minimum of 500 hours).
 - Completion of a nationally accredited graduate, postgraduate, or doctoral Family Nurse Practitioner educational program that is accredited by a nursing accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
 - Nursing Licensure: Current, active, nursing license.
 - An official or unofficial transcript showing academic coursework completed to date or final official transcript showing degree awarded and date conferred is required to begin an application.
- Types of questions on each exam:
 - 135 questions + 15 pretest questions (do not count toward final grade) = 150 questions total
 - Questions are in a multiple choice, objective format.
 - The FNP exam tests clinical knowledge of the population-focus of family/individual across the life span: prenatal, pediatric, adolescent, adult, elderly, and frail elderly primary care. Age Parameters are not defined for any population.
 - 4 Domains: Assess, Diagnose, Plan, Evaluate.
 - FNP Knowledge areas: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Co-morbidities, Pharmacologic therapies, non-pharmacologic therapies, Integrative therapies, Polypharmacy, Pain management, Cultural competence/sensitivity, Diagnostic and therapeutic tests, Functional assessment, Health history, Mental health assessment, Physical examination across the lifespan, Signs and symptoms, Therapeutic communication, Clinical decision-making, Crisis management, & Differential diagnosis.
 - How often your certification must be renewed:

- Renew Q5 years.
- Fee: member= \$120, non-member= \$195
- Required CEUs to renew, hours of precepting that can be used to renew, and how many practice hours are needed to renew):
 - Option 1:
 - Minimum 1,000 hours of clinical practice in the Nurse Practitioner role in any specialty appropriate for the population focus of certification through employment, faculty clinical supervision, or as a volunteer within 5-year certification period.
 - Minimum 100 contact hours of advanced CE:
 - Pharmacology CEs are required - 25 credits of the 100 CEs must be advanced practice pharmacology that are completed within the 5-year certification period.
 - Precepting is an optional criterion that can be used to replace up to 25 non-pharmacology CE credits. A maximum of 125 preceptor hours may replace 25 non-pharmacology CE credits.
 - Hold current RN or APRN licensure during the period of certification.
 - Option 2:
 - Recertify by examination
 - Hold current RN licensure during the period of certification.
- ANCC:
 - How to apply/ Application process:
 - Create account on nursingworld.org
 - Complete online profile for FNP certification- includes educational history, and RN license information.
 - Upload copies of transcript and validation of education form (must be completed by program director)
 - Fee: AANP student member= \$290; ANA member= \$295, non-member= \$395
 - Once all documents are received and verified, ANCC will email an "Authorization to Test." Then exam must be scheduled within 90 days or request an extension.
 - When to apply:

- Candidates may be authorized to sit for the examination after all coursework and faculty-supervised clinical practice hours for the degree are complete, prior to degree conferral and graduation, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met. Official certification will be issued on the date the degree is conferred and official transcripts are received.
- What is needed to apply:
 - Current, Active RN license.
 - Master's (or higher) degree from accredited Nursing program in specialty population.
 - A minimum of 500 FNP faculty- supervised clinical hours.
 - Three separate, comprehensive graduate level courses in- Advanced physiology/pathophysiology, Advanced health assessment, and Advanced pharmacology.
 - Course Content In: Health promotion and/or maintenance & Differential diagnosis and disease management, including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions.
- Types of questions on each exam:
 - 175 questions total= 150 questions + 25 pretest questions (not scored)
 - 4 Content domains: Assessment (21%), Diagnosis (26%), Clinical Management (43%), Professional Role (10%).
 - Also broken down into body systems, drug agents, and age groups.
 - four types of questions: multiple choice; multiple response (select all that apply); drag and drop; and hot spot.
- How often your certification must be renewed:
 - Q5 years
 - Fee: AANP member- \$295, ANA member \$275, non-member- \$375
- Required CEUs to renew, hours of precepting that can be used to renew, and how many practice hours are needed to renew)
 - All certification renewal candidates are required to complete a Mandatory 75 CH in your certification specialty, plus one or more of the eight ANCC renewal categories. All APRNs—CNS and NP— are also required to complete 25 CH of pharmacotherapeutics as a

portion of the mandatory 75 CH in the CNS or NP certification held.

- 8 Categories:

- CEUs (as above)
- Academic Credits- 5 semester credits or 6 quarter credits in specialty.
- Presentations- one or more totaling 5 clock hours in specialty.
- Evidence-Based Practice, EBP/QI Project/ Quality Improvement Project; Publication or Research
- Preceptor hours: 120 hours as a direct preceptor
- Professional Services- two or more years' service with healthcare-related organizations; volunteer activities including serving on boards.
- Practice Hours: minimum of 1,000 hours practice within specialty, within the 5 years preceding renewal date.
- Assessment (Examination/ Resubmission), if available.