



Certification Maintenance Guidelines

CME Earning & Logging

To maintain NCCPA certification, you must earn and log online at least 100 hours of CME, including 50 Category 1 credits, every two years between May 1 of the beginning cycle year and December 31 of the year your certification expires (i.e., May 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014).

NCCPA accepts Category 1 (Preapproved) and Category 2 (Elective) CME credits.

Category 1 (Preapproved) CME

NCCPA accepts for Category 1 credit programs that are approved for a specific number of Category 1 credit by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), Prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), Category 1 credit by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or the American Medical Association (AMA) (activities sponsored by providers accredited by the ACCME).

NCCPA randomly audits Category 1 CME submissions. You should keep all supporting documentation for your Category 1 submissions for four years (current and previous CME logging cycle) in case you are randomly selected for auditing.

Special Guidelines for First-Time Loggers

If you are logging CME for the first time after passing the initial certification exam (PANCE) or regaining your certification, you may begin earning CME the day your certification is issued (whether before or after May 1).

Category 2 (Elective) CME

Category 2 credits are logged on an hour-per-hour basis and encompass the following:

- Any practice-related program that is not eligible for Category 1 credit.
- Any practice-related, voluntary, self-directed activity (i.e., journal reading or precepting).
- Any practice-related postgraduate course, excluding courses taken in an actual PA program.

Recertification

In addition to the CME requirements, you must pass the computer-based Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) before the end of your six-year certification maintenance cycle (if you are due to pass PANRE in 2014 or beyond, you will transition to the ten-year certification maintenance cycle after your certification has been updated). You may take the exam in your fifth year (or ninth year once you transition to the ten-year certification maintenance cycle), the year before your certification expires; doing so means you have as many as four opportunities (two each year) to take and pass the exam. Passing the exam a year early does *not* change your certification cycle. For example, if your certification expires in 2014 and you pass the recertification exam a year early in 2013, your next recertification exam year will still be 2024 (ten years from your certification expiration year—not necessarily the year in which you passed the exam).

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The PANRE is comprised of multiple-choice questions designed to assess general medical and surgical knowledge and is administered at Pearson VUE testing centers. For more information on PANRE, visit <http://www.nccpa.net/Panre.aspx>.

For PAs Who Fail to Meet All Certification Maintenance Requirements

Physician assistants who don't fulfill all certification maintenance requirements by the end of their certification expiration year will lose their certification. To review the options for regaining certification, visit <http://www.nccpa.net/LostC>.

Please Note: NCCPA's certification maintenance guidelines are subject to change. It is your responsibility to meet the requirements in effect at the time of your certification expiration. For the latest information on certification maintenance requirements, visit www.nccpa.net.

To find out when you're scheduled to recertify or for more information about the requirements described here, sign in to your personal certification record at *NCCPA Connect* (www.nccpa.net), e-mail nccpa@nccpa.net or call 678.417.8100.