

How To Justify Certification

For Your Career.
For Your Patients.
For You.

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ABOUT US

You Want Better Patient Outcomes. So Do We.

Our Mission

As a non-profit organization, our mission is to promote continuous professional development which drives safe, quality patient care. Our vision is to grow a community of certificants and lifelong learners for whom CCI is a catalyst and integral partner.



Certification Makes A Difference

CCI Is Here To Help You Achieving Your Certification Goals

Join a Community of **40,000** Certified Nurses!



By becoming a perioperative nurse, you've already answered one of the highest — and hardest — callings. Now, you're ready to go above and beyond by pursuing board certification in your area of specialization. Certification helps you be the best nurse you can be. The best employee. The best caregiver. The best YOU.



Specialty certification demonstrates your commitment to patient safety by validating your knowledge, improving technical skills, and increasing patient outcomes.



Investing in certification and become a leader who advocates and adheres to best practices, making you an invaluable asset in achieving and maintaining the highest standards in patient safety.

CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE



We proudly offer **6** prestigious certifications demonstrating nurses' skill sets at every career level, from post-orientation to advanced practice.



As one of our dedicated nurses, we know you possess a deep understanding of your own interests and strengths.



Providing you with guidance in selecting the certification that resonates most with your skills and passion will be mutually advantageous for you, your career, and your organization.

Diverse Certifications
To Help You Thrive!

CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Click On Each Credential To Learn More

Certified Foundational Perioperative Nurse | CFPN®



CFPN assesses the knowledge and skills of an early career perioperative nurse with under 23 months of experience from the initial hire date in the OR. Provides a fast track to CNOR of CNAMB.

2-year credential | Exam Based Credential | **Accredited**

Certified Perioperative Nurse | CNOR®



CNOR certification assesses the knowledge and skills of a perioperative nurse with a minimum of two years of clinical practice.

5-year credential | Exam Based Credential | **Accredited**

Certified Surgical Services Manager | CSSM®



CSSM is for perioperative managers, directors, and nurses who oversee personnel, a budget, business unit, or service line.

3-year credential | Exam Based Credential | **Accredited**

Certified Ambulatory Surgery Nurse | CNAMB®



CNAMB certification is designed for perioperative nurses working in the ambulatory surgery setting.

3-year credential | Exam Based Credential | **Accredited**

Nursing Professional Development Advanced – Board Certified | NPDA-BC



NPDA-NC acknowledges the professional achievement of a nursing professional development specialist who fulfills all NPD roles and responsibilities while demonstrating adherence to professional practice and performance standards.

5-year credential | Portfolio Based Credential | ****Not Perioperative Specific**

Certified Perioperative CNS | CNS-CP®



CNS-CP is for advanced practice registered nurses who have completed graduate preparation (Master's or Doctorate) in the CNS role. CNS-CP recognizes the important role CNSs have in promoting optimal perioperative patient outcomes.

5-year credential | Portfolio Based Credential

SPECIALTY DESIGNATIONS AVAILABLE

Specialty designations recognize the exceptional expertise and dedication of CNOR-certified nurses in a variety of settings. A CNOR-certified nurse may hold up to two specialty designations.



CNOR-PEDS Designation

This specialty designation recognizes the exceptional expertise and dedication of CNOR-certified nurses in pediatric surgical settings, showcasing specialized knowledge and experience in pediatric surgery.



CNOR-ORTHO Designation

This specialty designation celebrates the outstanding expertise and dedication of CNOR-certified nurses within Orthopedic surgical environments, demonstrating their specialized knowledge and experience in this field.



CNOR-SURG-OB Designation

This special designation demonstrates the remarkable expertise and commitment of CNOR-certified nurses in Obstetrics and Gynecology surgical settings, showcasing their specialized knowledge and experience in this area.



CNOR-ROBO Designation

This special designation demonstrates the remarkable Robotics surgical settings, showcasing their specialized knowledge and experience in this area.



CNOR-CARD Designation

This special designation demonstrates the remarkable Cardiac surgical settings, showcasing their specialized knowledge and experience in this area.



CNOR-BARI Designation

This special designation demonstrates the remarkable Bariatrics surgical settings, showcasing their specialized knowledge and experience in this area.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

Nurse Benefits



Certified nurses report higher job satisfaction and career advancement opportunities.



Certification validates specialized knowledge and expertise in perioperative nursing.



Many facilities offer pay differentials or bonuses for certified nurses.

Patient Benefits



Certification is associated with reduced surgical complications and improved patient safety.



Patients treated by certified nurses report higher satisfaction levels.



Certified nurses provide more confident and competent care.

Organizational Benefits



Certified perioperative nurses demonstrate higher levels of clinical competence and decision-making skills.



Hospitals with higher percentages of certified nurses show improved patient outcomes.



Certification creates opportunities for growth and recognition.

ACCREDITATION

CCI Credentials Are The Gold Standard In Perioperative Certification.



Accreditation is the process by which an independent body evaluates and recognizes if a certification organization meets established standards of quality, integrity, and competence.



Accreditation is essential to ensure that certification programs remain relevant and rigorous, ultimately benefiting patients by upholding the highest standards of patient care.

CREDENTIAL	ABSNC	NCCA	IN PROGRESS
CNOR®	✓	✓	
CFPN®	✓		
CNAMB®	✓		
CSSM®	✓		
NPDA-BC			✓
CNS-CP®	Sunsetting the Certification in January 1, 2029		

ACCREDITATION



ABSNC - The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification

The ABSNC serves as the only accrediting body specifically dedicated to evaluating nursing certification programs. Through a peer-review mechanism, nursing certification organizations obtain accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the most rigorous industry standards.



NCCA - The National Commission for Certifying Agencies

The NCCA's Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs were the first standards developed by the credentialing industry for professional certification programs. The NCCA Standards were developed to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

ANCC MAGNET

Being Certified Not Only Benefits You, It Also Benefits Your Organization In Becoming Magnet Recognized

Magnet Recognition Program

The Magnet Recognition Program designates organizations worldwide where nursing leaders successfully align their nursing strategic goals to improve the organization's patient outcomes.

We proudly offer **4** accredited certifications that are included in the ANCC Magnet Demographic Data. When a healthcare organization attains Magnet status, it not only gains external prestige but also shows a commitment to empowering nurses to reach their full potential and lead meaningful healthcare change.



COST

Certification Makes A Difference



At CCI, we understand that supporting certification requires an investment of both time and resources. However, the return on this investment is substantial, both in terms of patient care quality and operational excellence.



Financial barriers often prevent dedicated nurses from achieving certification. We aim to make certification accessible to as many perioperative nurses as possible.



We are thrilled to provide this guide as a necessary tool for you to present to your administrator for financial support. By encouraging and supporting CCI certifications, you are investing in yourself, the patients you serve, and the future of your perioperative department.

Credential	Single Exam Take	Single Exam Take + Prep Book	Take 2 Exam	Take 2 Exam + Prep Book	Professional Portfolio
CNOR®	\$445	\$520	\$495	\$570	
CFPN®	\$195				
CNAMB®	\$375		\$420		
CSSM®	\$400				
NPDA-BC					\$375
CNS-CP					\$375

COST

Have Colleagues Interested In Certification?



Cost can be a significant factor when pursuing specialty certification. If you're passionate about advancing your skills and improving patient care, consider encouraging your colleagues to join you in this journey.



By teaming up with just **4** other nurses, you can all benefit from CCI's Facility purchasing option, which enables administrators and supervisors to bulk purchase exam seats at a discounted cost. This ensures affordability for you and your colleagues.



Take the initiative to gather your peers, and together, you can elevate the performance of your department to new heights. Certification not only enhances your confidence and capability but also leads to a more efficient operating room and better patient outcomes. Embrace this opportunity and experience the transformative results firsthand.

Facility Purchasing

Single Exam Available

CREDENTIAL	STANDARD PRICING	FACILITY DISCOUNT	AMOUNT SAVED PER NURSE
CFPN®	\$195	\$175	\$20
CSSM®	\$400	\$350	\$50

Two Exams Available

CREDENTIAL	STANDARD PRICING	FACILITY DISCOUNT	AMOUNT SAVED PER NURSE
CNOR®	\$495	\$445	\$50
CNAMB®	\$420	\$375	\$45

Order Forms

- **CFPN®** | Facility Order Form
- **CSSM®** | Facility Order Form
- **CNOR®** | Facility Take 2 Order Form
- **CNAMB®** | Facility Take 2 Order Form
- * Must have a minimum of 5 nurses to be eligible for facility discount.
- * Facility purchasing is not available for professional portfolio certifications.

PROCESS

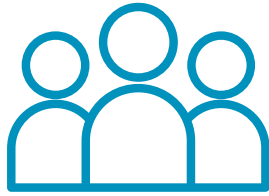
CCI will provide guidance, direction, and encouragement in your pursuit of certification

- 1** Check your eligibility at cc-institute.org
- 2** Review the terms and conditions in the Candidate Handbook
- 3** Begin studying for the exam
We recommend studying for a minimum of 3 months
- 4** Determine when you want to test
Once your application has been submitted and approved, you are automatically placed in the following 3-month testing window
- 5** Create a CCI account or log into an existing CCI account
Your name on your CCI account must match your government issued ID
- 6** Start an application and provide all necessary information
- 7** Submit your application with payment
If you are randomly selected for audit, you must pass your audit before further action can be taken
- 8** Review your authorization to test email
Be sure to check your junk and spam folders
- 9** Schedule your exam at a testing center location of your choice or a remotely secure proctored exam
- 10** Continue to study and take your exam.

Let's Champion Your Success Together!



TOOLS + RESOURCES



Join CCI in our vision to grow a community of certificants and lifelong learners.

Support, invest, and promote certification to drive safe, quality patient care.

Exam Preparation Resources Available

CREDENTIAL	BOOK	ON-DEMAND PREP COURSE*	ONLINE PRACTICE EXAM*	BUNDLE *INCLUDED IN BUNDLE	LIVE IN-PERSON PREP COURSE
CNOR®	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CFPN®		✓			
CNAMB®		✓			
CSSM®	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Must have a minimum of 15 nurses to be eligible for a Live In-Person Prep Course.

Download a flyer for more information.



Additional Resources

- Practice Questions
- Credential Handbooks
- Exam Study Outlines
- Certification Webinars

TOOLS + RESOURCES

As the leader in perioperative certification for more than 40 years, CCI is dedicated to our mission and provides all necessary resources to support your certification journey.



CCI Blog

CCI's blog is your go-to source for the latest insights and resources in perioperative nursing. We offer a wide range of materials, including exam preparation guides, certification updates, and expert tips on how to best prepare for your exams.



Document Hub

CCI has put together several document banks of materials related to each of CCI's certifications as well as recertification to help each of our candidates succeed.



Exam References Books

Guidelines for Perioperative Practice
Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique
Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery
Drain's Perianesthesia Nursing: A Critical Care Approach



Credential Statistics

In accordance with accreditation standards, CCI publishes certification statistics on an annual basis. Information is published per credential including the number of testing candidates, pass/fail statistics, number of certificants, and data on recertifications.



Certification Coach

CCI's Certification Coaches are volunteers dedicated to helping others achieve certification. Coaches offer guidance with everything from preparing for the exam, succeeding after a failed attempt, and other general questions about preparing and taking the exam.

OUR PARTNERS

Take advantage of these excellent resources from CCI's network of community partners to stay connected and further educate yourself and your colleagues on the importance of certification and the commitment to excellence in care.



Discover the value of becoming an AORN Member. Be part of a supportive community of perioperative nurses and stay current with evidence-based practice recommendations for the continued safe care of your patients.



Education is and always has been a cornerstone of Beyond Clean. From educating frontline technicians in a sterile processing department, to educating healthcare professionals at conferences and manufacturers at national sales meetings, this is an area where we are proud to say we shine!



An operating room podcast featuring exciting interviews, engaging discussions, and innovative solutions that are changing the way patients receive surgical care.



For over 20 years, OR Today has provided perioperative and SPD professionals with up-to-date news and information about their profession. The magazine aims to educate readers about new guidelines, techniques, and equipment, as well as practical information for career building, problem-solving and overall well-being.



OR Manager is the trusted source for perioperative leaders, providing critical information, analysis, and best practices for management of the surgical suite. Through a monthly publication, daily newsletter, website, conferences and other educational events, we cover topics including advances in technology, data analytics, standards and regulations, and process changes designed to enhance all aspects of surgical patient care.

TESTIMONIES

I became a certified Perioperative nurse to further my knowledge in the operating room to ensure my patients receive the best and safest care. - *Stephanie Kidwell CNOR*

In the beginning, taking my CNOR was to challenge myself, a personal goal. After achieving the honor of certification I felt stronger. Stronger as an OR RN, mentor and overall professional. I wasn't afraid to challenge other staff, or management on the best way to advocate and care for my patients. - *Cathy Spisak CNOR*

Being a certified Perioperative Nurse gives me more confidence on what I do and boost my morale. It helps me provide more quality and safe patient care and participate proactively with our department quality initiatives. - *Gerry Asuncion CSSM, CNOR, CNAMB*

I feel certification validates practice for my patients, and employer while giving me a personal confirmation in practice. - *Beth Hogan CNOR, CNAMB*

Being certified has gave me confidence to be a better nurse. - *Troy Bland D.Min., Ph.D, RN, RNFA, CNOR, CLC*

I am very proud of my CNOR certification and I am very grateful to CCI for all of their support. I love being a CNOR Coach and will advocate for nursing certification as long as possible. It is the crowning achievement of what is now a 34+ year career in surgery. Maybe one day, 30 years from now, a nurse will consider certification, remembering there was this old nurse when I first started! - *Joey Hayden CNOR*

Being certified means that you dedicate yourself to perfecting your craft and adhere to evidence - based and best practices in your field of specialization which fosters safety and quality service to all recipients of your nursing care - *Marilyn Erive CNOR*

Obtaining certification might pave the way to landing your dream job. Personally, I feel more assured in my ability to care for patients and their loved ones. Having this expands my horizons academically and gives me more assurance as I collaborate with the periop team to ensure patient safety. - *Ivan Bumatay CNOR, CNAMB (2022 CNAMB High Scorer)*

My journey in earning my certifications with CCI has been memorable especially with my second Certification (CNAMB). I was a grateful recipient of their certification grant to which I owe my success as an OR Ambulatory Nurse! - *Floris Tu CNOR, CNAMB*

Being certified encourages me to continue learning new and inventive innovations in the OR. - *Robin Merritt CNOR*

LETTER OF RATIONALE TEMPLATE

Customize This Template To Gain Support From Your Leadership Team.

Dear [Leadership Team/Executive's Name],

I am writing to express my interest in pursuing [specific certification, e.g., CNOR] certification through the Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI). As a dedicated member of our perioperative nursing team, I believe this certification will not only enhance my professional skills but also contribute significantly to our department's overall excellence and patient care quality.

Rationale for Supporting CCI Certification:

- Improved Patient Outcomes - CCI-certified nurses demonstrate advanced skills in critical thinking and clinical decision-making, crucial in our high-stakes environment.
- Operational Excellence - Certified nurses contribute to increased efficiency in OR operations, potentially reducing costs and improving throughput.
- Staff Retention and Satisfaction - Offering support for certification demonstrates our commitment to staff development, potentially reducing turnover rates.
- Competitive Advantage - A highly certified nursing staff can differentiate our facility in a competitive healthcare market.
- Alignment with Quality Initiatives - CCI certification supports our ongoing quality improvement efforts and can contribute positively to accreditation processes.

Support Program Proposition:

To maximize the benefits of certification, I propose the following support structure:

- Financial Support - Cover the cost of certification exams (currently [amount] per exam).
- Education Support - Purchase study materials and practice exams for departmental use.
- Recognition Program - Implement a recognition system for newly certified nurses.
- Long-term Integration - Set departmental goals for the percentage of certified staff.

Financial Implications:

- Exam Fees: [X nurses] x [exam cost] = [total]
- Study Materials: [estimated cost]
- Paid Study Time: [X hours] x [average hourly rate] x [X nurses] = [total]
- Paid Exam Time: [X hours] x [average hourly rate] x [X nurses] = [total]
- Total Initial Investment: [sum of above]

I am committed to this certification process and believe it will enable me to provide even better care to our patients and contribute more effectively to our team. I see this as an investment in both my professional growth and our department's success.

Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Department Name]

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Perioperative Nursing Professional,

In the dynamic and critical field of perioperative nursing, excellence isn't just an aspiration—it's a necessity. At CCI, we believe that certification is the key to unlocking your full potential and elevating the standard of care in operating rooms across the nation.

You've already chosen a challenging and rewarding career path. Now, it's time to take the next step. CCI certification isn't just a credential; it's a testament to your expertise, your commitment to patient safety, and your dedication to the highest standards of perioperative nursing.

Why pursue CCI certification? The reasons are compelling:

- **Improved Patient Outcomes:** Studies consistently show that certified nurses contribute to improved patient safety and better surgical outcomes.
- **Professional Growth:** Certification opens doors to career advancement, leadership roles, and increased job satisfaction.
- **Personal Achievement:** The journey to certification is one of personal and professional growth, expanding your knowledge and boosting your confidence.
- **Organizational Excellence:** Healthcare facilities with higher percentages of certified nurses demonstrate superior performance metrics and patient satisfaction scores.

We understand that pursuing certification requires dedication, time, and resources. At CCI, we're more than just a credentialing body—we're your partners in excellence.

To the nursing leaders and administrators reading this: I urge you to support your perioperative nurses in their certification journey. The investment in certification pays dividends in improved patient care, increased staff satisfaction, and enhanced organizational performance.

The operating room is where precision, knowledge, and compassion intersect. By pursuing CCI certification, you're not just advancing your career—you're elevating our entire profession and, most importantly, enhancing the care we provide to patients at their most vulnerable moments.

We can't wait to welcome you to the ranks of CCI-certified perioperative nurses.

Sincerely,



Melissa R. Nosik
Chief Executive Officer
Competency & Credentialing Institute

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