



CNAMB® Certification: Eligibility and Maintenance Requirement Rationales

The CNAMB® credential recognizes perioperative nurses who specialize in the ambulatory surgery setting. Eligibility criteria for initial certification and recertification are based on industry best practices, input from subject matter experts, and national accreditation standards. Below is a summary of these requirements and the rationale behind them, presented in a clear and accessible format for current and prospective certificants.

Initial Certification

- Hold a current, unrestricted RN license

This confirms the nurse has completed an accredited nursing program and passed the NCLEX exam, granting legal authority to practice independently. Restricted or encumbered licenses are not eligible.

- Pre-licensure degree (diploma, ADN, or global equivalent)

Ensures candidates have completed a formal nursing education program that qualifies them for licensure. Accepts multiple education pathways while maintaining consistency in minimum standards for entry-level practice.

- Currently employed in an ambulatory surgery setting

Confirms real-time practice in an appropriate care environment—hospital-based, free-standing, or physician-owned—that reflects the scope of the credential.

- At least 2 years and 2,400 hours of perioperative RN experience (500 intraoperative)

Demonstrates depth of experience in the ambulatory surgical environment, including hands-on intraoperative care. SMEs determined this threshold supports readiness for certification.

- Alternate pathway: CFPN®, CST, TS-C, or military equivalent (18 months, 2,400 hours)

Acknowledges structured, foundational training that overlaps with CNAMB content. Allows earlier entry while maintaining required experience.

- Volunteer work may count toward experience

Supports equitable access by recognizing unpaid but relevant work experience in perioperative roles.

Recertification

- Hold an active CNAMB® and RN license

Maintains the nurse's credential and legal authority to practice throughout the certification period.

- 1,500 perioperative hours over 3 years (no intraoperative requirement post-certification)

Reflects continued practice engagement while allowing flexibility for role changes. Recognizes that intraoperative care may not remain a focus.

- Employment setting may be hospital-based, free-standing, or physician-owned

Supports role diversity while maintaining alignment with the ambulatory surgical environment targeted by the credential.

- Volunteer roles may count toward experience

Encourages continued engagement in the profession through community-based or unpaid service.

- Complete professional development activities (200 points over 3 years)

Ensures certificants remain current with evolving standards, best practices, and advances in ambulatory perioperative care.