

ANCC vs AANP Comparison

Question

We've been considering which FNP certification to take. There's the ANCC and the AANP. So, both certification exams pretty much cover the same topic, right?

☐

True

☐

False

SUBMIT

ANCC vs AANP

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) are the governing boards that administer tests to examinees seeking to become certified as a nurse practitioner. There are multiple test areas including Family, Adult-Gerontology, Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Midwifery and Psychiatric. Depending on your degree, tests can either be acute or primary care.

American Nurses Credentialing Center ANCC

175 questions (150 scored + 25
pretest/practice questions)

Assessment #29 = 19%

Diagnosis #26 = 17%

Planning #29 = 19%

Implementation #43 = 29%

Evaluation #23 = 15%

**Total does not come to 100 because of
rounding*

American Association of
Nurse Practitioners AANP

150 questions (135 scored + 15

pretest/practice questions)

Assessment # 43 = 32%

Diagnosis # 36 = 26.5%

Planning # 36 = 26.5%

Evaluation # 20 = 15%

CONTINUE

What content is covered in the ANCC exams?

1

Knowledge

2

Skill

3

Assessment, Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, and
Evaluation

ANCC - Assessment (19%)

Knowledge

1. Evidenced-based population promotion and screening

Skill

1. Comprehensive history and physical assessment
2. Focused history and physical assessment
3. Functional assessment (i.e. cognitive, developmental, physical capacity, family and caregiver roles)
4. Risk assessment (i.e. genetic, behavioral, lifestyle, cultural)

ANCC - Diagnosis (17%)

Knowledge

1. Pathogenesis and clinical manifestations of disease states

Skill

1. Diagnostic test selection
2. Differentiating between normal and abnormal physiologic changes
3. Formulating differential diagnoses

ANCC - Planning (19%)

Knowledge

1. Age-appropriate primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
2. Anticipatory guidance
3. Evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards of care

4. Pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenetics

Skill

1. Culturally sensitive practice
2. Research appraisal

ANCC - Implementation (29%)

Knowledge

1. Legal and ethical implementations for healthcare and technology (i.e. HIPPA, confidentiality accessibility)
2. Non-pharmacological intervention and treatment selection (i.e. procedures, splinting, biopsies, sutures, imaging)
3. Pharmacotherapeutic intervention selection (i.e. interaction, contraindications)
4. Regulatory guidelines (i.e. reportable disease, abuse reporting)
5. Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Skill

1. Comprehensive documentation
2. Patient-specific education
3. Resource management (i.e. accessibility, coordination, cost-effectiveness)
4. Therapeutic communication (i.e. motivational interviewing, shared decision making)

ANCC - Evaluation (15%)

Knowledge

1. Ethical and legal principles and issues for patients, populations, and systems (i.e. justice, consent, guardianship, bioethics)
2. Non-pharmacologic intervention and treatment outcomes
3. Pharmacotherapeutic intervention and treatment outcomes (i.e. monitoring, side/adverse effects, patient outcomes)

Skill

1. Test results evaluation, management and reporting

Assessment (19%)	Diagnosis (17%)	Planning (19%)
Knowledge 1. Evidenced-based population promotion and screening	Knowledge 1. Pathogenesis and clinical manifestations of disease states	Knowledge 1. Age-appropriate primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention 2. Anticipatory guidance 3. Evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards of care 4. Pharmacotherapeutics: pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenetics
Skill	Skill	Skill

Assessment (19%)	Diagnosis (17%)	Planning (19%)
1. Comprehensive history and physical assessment 2. Focused history and physical assessment 3. Functional assessment 4. Risk assessment	1. Diagnostic test selection 2. Differentiating between normal and abnormal physiologic changes 3. Formulating differential diagnoses	1. Culturally sensitive practice 2. Research appraisal

CONTINUE

What content is covered in the AANP exams?

1

Assessment

2

Diagnosis

3

Planning

4

Evaluation

AANP - Assessment (32%)

- Obtain elements of subjective patient information (i.e. chief complaint, history, review of systems)
- Perform appropriate physical examinations (i.e. focused, complete)
- Order, perform, and interpret screening and diagnostic tests

AANP - Diagnosis (26.5%)

- Synthesize and analyze subjective and objective information to develop differential diagnoses
- Prioritize differential diagnoses and establish primary diagnosis

AANP - Planning (26.5%)

- Establish a patient-centered, evidence-based plan of care
- Initiate interprofessional referrals or consultations
- Prescribe, order or administer pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments
- Provide education, counseling, and health promotion strategies

AANP - Evaluation (15%)

- Evaluate effectiveness of plan of care
- Monitor and modify plan of care based on patient outcomes

Assessment (32%)	Diagnosis (26.5%)	Planning (26.5%)	Evaluation (15%)
Obtain elements of subjective patient information (i.e. chief complaint, history, review of systems)	Synthesize and analyze subjective and objective information to develop differential diagnoses	Establish a patient-centered, evidence-based plan of care Initiate interprofessional referrals or consultations	Evaluate effectiveness of plan of care Monitor and modify plan of care based on patient outcomes
Perform appropriate physical examinations (i.e. focused, complete)	Prioritize differential diagnoses and establish primary diagnosis	Prescribe, order or administer pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments	
Order, perform, and interpret screening		Provide education, counseling, and health promotion strategies	

Assessment (32%)	Diagnosis (26.5%)	Planning (26.5%)	Evaluation (15%)
and diagnostic tests			

CONTINUE

Key Takeaway

In comparison to the AANP exam, the ANCC usually has more questions focused on professional issues like healthcare policy and ethics.

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How do I get my ANCC or AANP exam results?

ANCC

You'll receive notification of whether you passed or failed the exam immediately upon completion. If you fail the exam (don't worry, you won't) ANCC will send a score report to your address including information regarding performance on each content area of the test.

AANP

Don't stress out, exam results are available immediately upon completion of the exam in a pass/fail format. Examinees who fail the exam (it won't be you) will receive an official letter articulating strengths and weaknesses pertaining to knowledge areas covered on the test.

What is the average pass rate?

ANCC

In 2022, the average pass
rate for the FNP exam was
86%
8,192 takers
7,040 passed=86%

AANP

In 2022, the average pass
rate for the FNP exam was
74%
17,968 takers
13,296 passed=74%

Key Takeaway

Many examinees make the mistake of not adequately preparing for the difficulty found in these exams as demonstrated by the pass rates. This is not the NCLEX. Understand that and prepare effectively.

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What happens if I fail the exam?

ANCC

If you do not pass the examination you may apply to retest after 60 days from the date you last tested. You may not test more than three times in any 12-month period. All candidates who retest must submit a retest application and meet eligibility requirements in effect when the retest application is submitted.

AANP

For AANP, there's no wait to retest again, but you have to do 15 contact hours to be able to apply to retest.

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Study Tips

1

For both exams you need to use more than one resource.

2

First: master your material from school and clinicals.

3

Second: choose a highly vetted question bank to complement your other study materials (i.e. APEA, Board Vitals, etc)

4

Use a review course (i.e. Fitzgerald, Barkley & Associates, Sarah Michelle NP, etc)

CONTINUE

Bottom line, does it really matter which test I take?

- Absolutely NOT!
- Just make sure to take one and be as prepared as possible

CONTINUE

How to I sign my name?

- Highest degree earned is listed first
- Followed by:
 - Licensure OR APRN designation
 - Nursing certifications
 - Nursing fellowships

Examples: Laura Flinn, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

CONTINUE

What is the difference between FNP-BC & FNP-C?

•Have you ever seen the credentials listed as FNP-BC or FNP-C and wondered what the difference was?

- FNP-BC = ANCC certified
- FNP-C = AANP certified

**There is no difference in the job which you can obtain after becoming certified. It simply differentiates the certifying bodies*