



2021 Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Brochure

GENERAL INFORMATION

Certification provides an added credential beyond licensure and demonstrates by examination that the Nurse Practitioner has acquired specialized knowledge in dermatology and adheres to practice standards. It assures consumer protection and confers peer and public recognition to those individuals who prove proficient in their practice.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To become a certified dermatology nurse practitioner (DCNP), the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Board (DNPCB) requires that candidates meet all eligibility criteria at the time of application, complete the enclosed application form, submit all fees, and successfully pass the certification examination. No individual shall be excluded from the opportunity to participate in the DNPCB certification program on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. To be eligible to participate in the examination, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Current NP State Licensure
- Master's degree in nursing
- National certification as a nurse practitioner
- Minimum of 3,000 hours of general dermatology practice within the past three (3) years with current practice in dermatology (hours obtained from a formal dermatology NP academic program count towards the 3,000 hours)
 - Any discrepancies in hours submitted will be verified with the individual and/or employer listed.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DNPCB

The DNPCB promotes the highest standards of dermatology advanced nursing practice and establishes credentialing mechanisms for validating proficiency as a nurse practitioner working in dermatology.

ONLINE APPLICATION

Links to the online DCNP application can be found at dnpcb.org or cnetnurse.com.

The application will be considered incomplete if any of the requested information or the appropriate fees are not provided. Candidates will be informed of the measures to take to complete their applications. Exam permits are issued only to candidates with complete applications.

DNPCB shall not discriminate against any certification candidate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. DNPCB shall not publish materials with discriminatory content, graphics or language that may be offensive to population subgroups.

To avoid bias and to ensure sensitivity, individual items and the test as a whole are reviewed at several stages of the test development for inappropriate references to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability or linguistic ability. The basic issue underlying these efforts is fairness in all aspects of testing in order to ensure to the extent possible that the test performance of an individual is not adversely affected by factors extraneous to the domain of knowledge being assessed.

Substitution of candidates cannot be made and no such request will be honored. The Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Board reserves the right to verify the employment and licensure of any applicant.

FEE STRUCTURE

The fees for the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination are as follows:

Application Fee

\$400

All exam fees include a non-refundable application fee of \$50 in their total price.

Recertification Fee

\$300

--or-- payment of the examination fee if re-examination is selected as the method of certification.

Late Application Fee

\$50

For applications submitted after the deadline. (Late applications are accepted for two weeks after the deadline.)

Computer-Based Testing (CBT) is now available throughout the year. Complete the exam application for CBT in its entirety.

NOTE: If the application is incomplete or the criteria cannot be verified, the candidate will be contacted to provide the missing information. *If the requested information is not received within the stated time frame, the application process will stop and a refund less the \$50 administrative fee will be given.*

Examination Permit for Computer-Based Testing:

Upon approval of an examination application, the applicant will receive an examination permit by email. The emailed permit will include a link to an online scheduling portal for the applicant to schedule the exam at the computer-based testing location of choice. The computer-based testing agency will send a follow-up email to the applicant confirming the exam site, date, and time that the applicant has chosen. If the applicant does not receive an examination permit by email within 7 days prior to the testing month, notify C-NET by calling 800-463-0786.

The examination permit will remain active for a period of 30 days. The applicant must test within the 30-day window printed on the permit. If the applicant does not test by the end of the 30-day window, both the examination permit and exam application will expire. The applicant must then submit a new application and fee for the exam before being allowed to test.

Applicants will not be admitted to the examination without proper (non-expired/non-temporary) government-issued photo ID.

SPECIAL DISABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, C-NET will provide special exam accommodations for any certification candidate with documentation of a diagnosed disability.

To request Special Accommodation, you must contact C-NET in writing at info@cnetnurse.com and inform them that you would like special accommodations for an upcoming DNP certification examination. C-NET will respond with instructions and outline acceptable documentation for certification testing. Do NOT submit documentation to C-NET until you have been instructed to do so.

All requests for special accommodation should be made prior to submitting your online application for the DNP certification.

Once your online application is determined to be complete and eligible for the certification exam, you will be contacted via email with a link to schedule your exam date.

NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION SCORES

A total score of approximately 75% is required to pass the certification examination. CBT Candidates will be notified of their scores immediately following their exam at the testing center. C-NET scores reports are presented to the candidate as follows:

- A total score will be provided for candidates who successfully pass the examination.
- A total score and sub scores in all the major test areas of concentration will be provided for candidates who do not pass the examination.

Passing candidates will receive a certificate in the mail from the DNPCB approximately 4-6 weeks after score notification.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION

To insure the security of the examination, the test materials are confidential and will not be released to any person or agency. Also, information about a candidate's individual test results will be released only to the candidate, upon written request.

DESIGNATION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is awarded to those who successfully complete the certification process by meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a written multiple choice examination. The designated credential is Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner (DCNP). This credential (DCNP) may be used in all correspondence or professional relations.

Certification as a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner is valid for a period of three (3) years. Recertification is available by examination or by continuing education. Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioners will be sent application forms for recertification approximately six (6) months in advance of the expiration of their certification.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the DNPCB of any change in address after the certification is issued.

**Questions related to the certification program should be directed to the DNPCB President at the following address:
Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Board (DNPCB)**

222 S. Riverside Pl, Suite 1870 Chicago, IL 60606

888-501-3853

www.dnpcb.org, tschorle@dpsamc.com

RIGHT OF APPEAL

A candidate who has been deferred, failed, or had their certification revoked has the right of appeal. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the President of the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Board within three (3) months of notification. The appeal shall state specific reasons why the candidate feels entitled to certification.

At the candidate's request and expense, the DNPCB shall appoint an Appeals Committee of three (3) certified dermatology nurse practitioners who will meet with the candidate and make recommendations to the DNPCB. The Appeals Committee will meet in conjunction with a regularly scheduled DNPCB meeting. The final decision of the DNPCB will be communicated in writing to the candidate within one month of the DNPCB meeting. Failure of the candidate to request an appeal or appear before the Appeals Committee shall constitute a waiver of the candidate's right of appeal.

RETESTING

Candidates that do not pass on their first attempt may retest, but cannot test in the same testing window and are only allowed one retest in a 12 month time span to avoid overexposure to the exam.

EXAMINATION DESCRIPTION

The Dermatology Nurse Practitioner's certification exam is based on a practice analysis of dermatology nurse practitioner practice. The practice analysis and the exam were developed with the assistance of the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET). The test is written within the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice and within the specialty of dermatology. The examination consists of 175 multiple choice questions, of which around 150 items will be scored. The other questions are deemed as pretest or new items. The applicant will have 4 hours to complete the exam. The content areas, their corresponding percentages and objectives areas follows:

Objectives of the Examination

The Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination is designed to measure the nurse practitioner's ability to:

- Assess and diagnose acute and chronic dermatological conditions that occur across the life span. (35%)
- Prescribe/perform interventions, including evidence-based treatments, therapies, and procedures. (35%)
- Educate patient, family, other health professionals and the public about dermatologic conditions. (25%)
- Participate in professional activities that promote optimal healthcare practices and outcomes. (5%)

****Exam content with corresponding percentages can be found under Exam Information online****

Certification granted by the DNPCB is pursuant to a voluntary procedure intended solely to test for special knowledge. The DNPCB does not purport to license, to confer a right to privilege upon, nor otherwise to define the qualifications of any person for nursing practice. The significance of certification in any jurisdiction or institution is the responsibility of the candidate to determine. The candidate should contact the appropriate state board of nursing or institution in order to determine practice implications.