



PEDIATRIC NURSING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

Eligibility Requirements - General Process

1. The mission / purpose of the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) is:

PNCB promotes optimal outcomes in global pediatric health by providing certification services that validate specialized knowledge and continuing competence in pediatric nursing.

2. Since its establishment in 1975 to develop a certification program for Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (CPNP-PC), the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board has established and periodically reviewed its eligibility requirements for all advanced practice exams based on the recommendations put forth in the following seminal documents:
 - A. Curriculum guidelines from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
 - B. The AACN National Task Force Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (2016)
 - C. Regulatory and licensing requirements from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).
 - D. The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (2008)
 - E. NONPF Population-focused Nurse Practitioner Competencies (2013) PNCB job task analysis research conducted every 4-7 years
 - F. Pediatric Nursing Scope & Standards of Practice (2015)
3. Since the inception of the general practice exam for Certified Pediatric Nurses in 1989, the PNCB has established eligibility requirements for this exam based on
 - A. Job task analysis research conducted every 4-7 years
 - B. Input from subject matter experts
 - C. Regulatory and licensing requirements from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)
 - D. Pediatric Nursing Scope & Standards of Practice (2015)
4. Staff verify a candidate's conformance with eligibility requirements by reviewing application attestations, transcripts, verification of licensure and other documents as outlined in the table below, and in more detail, in PNCB procedure documents as listed.
5. Staff determination of a candidate's ability to meet the eligibility requirements is subject to candidate appeal to the Appeals Committee (Executive Committee) of the PNCB Board of Directors. This appeal process affords the candidate due process to have their concerns heard by this panel of the Board. Exceptions to policy are rare.
6. Eligibility requirements are reviewed periodically, and no later than the time interval between each Job Task Analysis report and the documents listed in sections B and C above. The Board also reviews annual

statistical data from the testing vendor to inform decisions. This process ensures that eligibility criteria are relevant and current and that all candidates have a fair, rigorous, but achievable pathway to certification.

Eligibility Requirements – Nurse Practitioner

Candidates for the pediatric nurse practitioner exams must meet the following requirements

Licensure	<p>Current, active, unencumbered RN license issued by a US state, US territory, or Canada</p> <p>Verified by: Each candidate signs and agrees to an attestation statement confirming that they hold a current, active, and unencumbered RN license issued by a US state, US territory, or Canada. When questions arise, staff confirm this information on the individual board of nursing’s web site.</p> <p>Rationale: This is a regulatory requirement (NCSBN Model Rules 2012, p.35)</p>	
Education	<p>Graduation from an accredited college or university that offers an ACEN or CCNE accredited formal nursing master’s or doctoral degree with a concentration in either pediatric primary care OR pediatric acute care as a nurse practitioner or formal dual primary/acute care program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Graduation from a post master’s pediatric acute care nurse practitioner or primary care nurse practitioner certificate program from an accredited college or university. The population focus of the certificate must match requirements for the exam being taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verified by: Requesting primary source verification of education. Each candidate must request that the school’s registrar send directly to PNCB an official transcript(s). <p>Rationale: This is mandated by the Consensus Model (2008), p.10 and NCSBN Model Rules (2012), p.35</p>	
Specific Educational Content	Primary Care PNP	Acute Care PNP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a minimum of 500 supervised direct care clinical practice hours in primary care pediatrics and • completion of three separate comprehensive graduate-level courses in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Advanced physiology/pathophysiology, ◦Advanced health assessment, ◦Advanced pharmacology <p>Verified by:</p> <p>Each recognized PNP program is required to complete an annual survey attesting:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a minimum of 500 supervised direct care clinical practice hours in acute care pediatrics (PNCB strongly recommends 600) and • completion of three separate comprehensive graduate-level courses in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Advanced physiology/pathophysiology, ◦Advanced health assessment, ◦Advanced pharmacology <p>Verified by:</p> <p>Each recognized PNP program is required to complete an annual survey attesting:</p>

- All graduates have completed at least 500 direct care clinical practice hours.
- Documentation of course names and numbers for advanced practice physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology. PNCB staff confirms the program's submitted information matches the transcript. PNCB contacts the PNP Program Director when abnormalities arise.

If a program is not recognized by PNCB, the school must provide a PNCB Documentation of Education Form verifying the above information for each graduate.

Rationale: Required by NCSBN Model Rules 2012, p. 38; Consensus Model 2008 p.10; AACN Curriculum Guidelines for Master's (2011) p.8; NTF (2012), p.8



- All graduates have completed at least 500 direct care clinical practice hours.
- Documentation of course names and numbers for Advanced practice physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology. PNCB staff confirms the program's submitted information matches the transcript. PNCB contacts the PNP Program Director when abnormalities arise.


If a program is not recognized by PNCB, the school must provide a PNCB Documentation of Education Form verifying the above information for each graduate.

Rationale: In addition to the sources cited for the Primary Care PNP, subject matter experts, to include PNCB Board members, put forth the recommendation of 600 hours for acute care. This is due to the complexity and critical nature of the care being rendered.




Eligibility Requirements – Pediatric Nurse

Candidates for the certified pediatric nurse exam must meet the following requirements

Licensure	<p>Current, active, unrestricted, Registered Nurse (RN) license in the U.S., Canada, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands.</p> <p>Verified by: Each candidate signs and agrees to an attestation statement confirming that they hold a current, active, and unencumbered RN license issued by a US state, US territory, or Canada. When questions arise, staff confirm this information on the individual board of nursing's web site.</p> <p>Rationale: This is a regulatory requirement. NCSBN Model Rules (2012), p. 35.</p>
Experience	<p>A minimum of 1800 hours of pediatric clinical practice within the past 24-month period as an RN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>A minimum of 5 years as an RN in pediatric nursing and 3,000 hours in pediatric nursing within the last 5 years with a minimum of 1000 hours within the past 24 months. (This option is available for candidates who do not meet the previous eligibility requirements.)</p> <p>Verified by: All CPN exam candidates sign and agree to an attestation statement that confirms completion of one of the two CPN exam eligibility pathways. Exam applications are randomly audited, and a document is provided that the candidate's supervisor must attest to the candidate meeting exam eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Rationale for both: RN education is broad-based with limited clinical and didactic exposure to nursing specialties such as pediatrics. Therefore, the eligibility requirement is based on practice as a pediatric nurse, not on fulfilling an educational requirement. Subject matter experts, passing rates and role delineation research over time have provided the requirement for a specific number of hours within two timeframes.</p> 

Eligibility Requirements – Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS)

Candidates for the PMHS exam must meet the following requirements:

<p>Licensure</p>	<p>Current, active, unencumbered APRN license issued by a US state, US territory, or Canada, and current certification as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in the role and population foci of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care PNP (CPNP or PPCNP-BC), • FNP (FNP-BC or FNP-C), • Child/Adolescent Psychiatric & Mental Health CNS (PMHCNS-BC) or • Psychiatric-Mental Health NP [formerly Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP-BC)]. <p>Verified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMHS exam candidates must provide PNCB with a copy of their current, active, and unencumbered APRN license. If staff question the licensure. <p>Rationale: A specialty, such as the PMHS, evolves out of a specific nurse practitioner (NP) role/population focus, such as pediatric primary care. State licensing boards do not regulate the NP at the level of specialty practice. The candidate must maintain licensure and certification in the role that lead to the specialty competency. Consensus Model (2008), p. 11.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Graduation from an accredited college or university that offers a ACEN or CCNE accredited nursing master's or doctoral degree, or a post-master's certificate from an accredited college or university, with a concentration as a primary care PNP, an FNP, a Family Psychiatric NP, a Child/Adolescent Psychiatric CNS, or a Child/Adolescent Mental Health CNS.</p> <p>Verified by: Requesting primary source verification of education. Each candidate must request that the school's registrar send directly to PNCB an official transcript(s).</p> <p>Rationale: This is mandated by the Consensus Model (2008), p.10 and NCSBN Model Rules (2012), p.35</p>
<p>Practice</p>	<p>A minimum of 2,000 hours of pediatric developmental, behavioral, and mental health (DBMH) clinical practice experience (with or without preceptor) while holding an APRN license in the past 5 years</p> <p>Verified by: All PMHS exam candidates sign and agree to an attestation statement that confirms completion of 2,000 hours of pediatric developmental, behavioral, mental health (DBMH) clinical practice while</p>

	<p>holding an APRN license in the last 5 years. Exam applications are randomly audited, and a document is provided that the candidate's supervisor must attest that the candidate met exam eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Rationale: Clinical practice hours are the primary source of learning and preparation for this added specialty credential. This concept has been validated by the 2 most recent job task analysis.</p>
<p>CE or Coursework</p>	<p>Either 30 hours of pediatric DBMH CE or 1 graduate level pediatric DBMH course of at least 2 credits in the past 5 years</p> <p>Verified by: All PMHS exam candidates sign and agree to an attestation statement that confirms completion of 30 hours of pediatric DBMH CE or 1 graduate level pediatric DBMH course of at least 2 credits in the past 5 years. Exam applications are randomly audited, and candidates must submit the CE certificates verifying completion of the CE hours or an unofficial transcript verifying completion of at least 2 credits.</p> <p>Rationale: Competency in the specialty is acquired through a combination of continuing education (CE) events or individual courses, and by clinical practice experience. This concept has been validated by the 2 most recent job task analysis.</p>

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