



Frequently Asked Questions About CNL[®] Recertification

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1. How do I apply for recertification?

Download the recertification application and guidelines posted on www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC. Print and complete a hard copy of the application and submit with payment.

2. What are the requirements for CNL recertification?

For CNL recertification, the following is required:

- **CNL Certification**
- **RN Licensure**
Certificants must have a current unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse (RN).
- **Professional Practice**
Applicants must attest to their employment status of a minimum 4000 hours in the past five years in areas of advanced generalist clinical practice, nursing administration, nursing education, research and or consultation.
- **Contact Hours/Continuing Education**
A minimum of 75 contact hours relevant to the CNL or an advanced generalist nursing role is required – 25 of these contact hours must focus on quality and safety.
- **Outcomes and Professional Practice**
Applicants are requested to summarize how the end-of-program competencies and/or elements of the role outlined in AACN's white paper on *The Education and Role of the Clinical Nurse Leader* have been elements of ongoing practice.
- **Documentation**
CNLs are responsible for maintaining records of their continuing education credits and may be required to substantiate these units during random audits. Certificants are encouraged to maintain an electronic portfolio. However, documentation may be submitted to the CNC electronically or in a hard copy format.

3. What is the cost to recertify?

The cost to recertify is \$295; \$345 for late applications.

4. When is the recertification application due?

The recertification application should be filed with CNC no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration.

5. When does my certification expire?

Certification expires December 31st of the fifth year of initial certification or previous renewal. Certificants must recertify once every five years to maintain an “active” certification status.

6. What happens if I am delinquent submitting the application?

Allowing a lapse in certification greater than three (3) months of the expiration date without completing and submitting the necessary documents for recertification or without notifying CNC of a change in employment status will result in automatic nullification of the CNL certification. Your record will indicate a “suspended” status.

7. If my certification is suspended, can I be reinstated as a CNL?

Individuals who do not meet the recertification criteria or who allow a lapse in certification greater than three (3) months will be required to re-take the CNL Certification Examination for re-instatement, pay the appropriate fee at the time of reapplication, and successfully pass the examination (multiple choice and simulation).

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