



Roundtable Series

Overview of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL[®]) Certification Program

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What is CNL certification?

CNL certification is a unique credential that recognizes graduates of Clinical Nurse Leader programs who have demonstrated accepted standards of practice.



The CNL mark of excellence promotes safe, quality practice through ongoing requirements for personal and professional growth.

Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC)

Commission Purpose: Assure integrity of the certification exam

Board of Commissioners – Officers:

Sue Hartranft, PhD, ARNP, CNL – Chair

Melissa Vandever, PhD, RN, PNP, CNL – Vice Chair

Mary Seed, PhD, RN, CNL – Secretary

Enna Trevathan, DNP, MSN, MBA, CNL – Treasurer

Tracy Lofty, MSA, CAE – Director, CNC and Staff Liaison

Exam Data

- More than 1,600 CNLs
- More than 80 eligible institutions registered to serve as exam sites
- More than 100 schools offer CNL education programs
- 72% pass rate on CNL Certification Exam (as of September 2010)

Eligibility

RN licensure

*Students may test prior to NCLEX; certification granted following proof of RN licensure (rationale: allows Model C students to test)

Graduation from a CNL education program

*Students may test in their last term of a CNL education program (rationale: increases exposure to CNL certification exam)

Faculty of existing CNL education programs

*Faculty waiver expires

December 31, 2012

Registration Dates

Testing Period

Deadline

Dec 5-Dec 16, 2011

Oct 28, 2011

Jan 9-Jan 27, 2012

Dec 2, 2011

Apr 30-May 25, 2012

Mar 30, 2012

Jul 16-Aug 10, 2012

June 15, 2012

Application Fees

Initial application/testing	\$315	\$345*
Re-testing		
• Complete exam	\$230	\$245*
• MC only	\$175	
• SIM only	\$175	

***New fees beginning with registration for the April 2012 testing period.**

Exam Site Registration

Program responsibilities:

- Review Program Checklist
- Submit the School of Nursing CNL Education Program Verification Form
- Select exam date within CNC testing period
- Arrange for meeting space/exam location
- Confirm proctor
- Submit the Site Registration form to CNC
- Notify examinee(s) of exam date/time and location

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/register.htm>

Candidate Application

Step 1: Candidate submits application (online or hardcopy) with payment

Step 2: Candidate submits Standards of Conduct, CNL Education Documentation Form

Step 3: Candidate confirms exam date, time, and location with CNL faculty contact

Step 4: CNC confirms list of examinees with CNL faculty contact

Current Certification Exam

- Computer-based
- Multiple choice and simulation
 - Simulation exam consists of unfolding case studies
- 2 hour time limit per section
- CNC forwards exam results to candidate

Exam Update

- CNL Job Analysis (completed September 2011)

- New Exam (April 2012)
 - Developed based on job analysis
 - Multiple choice exam
 - Will continue to offer unfolding case studies
 - Test rigor will remain
 - Automatic exam results

- Notification – All program director and Deans of CNL education programs have been notified as well as those individuals who need to retest and all pending candidates.

Register by December 2, 2011 for current exam format.

Exam Resource Materials

- CNL Job Analysis
- Certification Candidate Handbook
- Self Assessment Exam
- Sample Simulation Item
- Multiple Choice Tutorial
- AACN White Paper on *The Education and Role of the Clinical Nurse Leader*
- Recommended Reading List
- CNL Education Program Review Materials

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/pubs.htm>

Additional Resources

- CNL Online Discussion Groups
 - CNLs and Students
 - Faculty and Partners

- Continuing Education/Networking
 - AACN
 - CNC
 - CNLA

Resource Materials

www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC

www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL

www.cnlassociation.org



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