



CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT
Certification/Recertification Handbook

Purpose of the CRNFA Certification/Recertification Handbook

This handbook provides essential information about policies and procedures pertaining to CRNFA certification and recertification. If you have any questions after reviewing this handbook, you can contact NASC by email at info@nascertification.org or by calling 866-681-NASC (6272). All information in this handbook including portfolio content, certification fees, and policies is subject to change without notice.

8547 E. Arapahoe Rd., Ste. J-262
Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1436
866.681.NASC (6272)
info@nascertification.org

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INTRODUCTION TO CERTIFICATION

What is certification?

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) defines certification as formal recognition of the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes.¹

CRNFA certification is a voluntary program that validates the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience of an individual RN practicing at a proficient or expert level as an RN first assistant (RNFA).

Why obtain CRNFA certification?

Earning and maintaining CRNFA certification

- demonstrates accountability to the general public for providing safe nursing practice;
- enhances quality patient care;
- identifies RNs who have demonstrated specialized knowledge, skills, and experience in the RNFA expanded role;
- allows employing agencies to identify RNFAs who have obtained proficiency as an individual RNFA; and
- provides personal satisfaction for practitioners.

What are the objectives of the CRNFA certification program?

According to the National Assistant at Surgery Certification (NASC) Board of Directors, objectives of the CRNFA certification program include

- promoting excellence in nursing and health care globally by enhancing the value of RNFA certification;
- establishing and promoting credentialing standards for RNFAs;
- recognizing individuals who achieve CRNFA certification;
- creating value for employers, employees, and the CRNFA;
- seeking inclusion by partnering with organizations who share the NASC vision and values; and
- promoting the art and science of assisting at surgery.

How does an RNFA earn the CRNFA credential?

To earn the CRNFA credential, candidates must meet eligibility requirements, apply for certification, and successfully complete the CRNFA Professional Portfolio.

Successfully completing the CRNFA Professional Portfolio requires a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills required for proficient or expert clinical practice in the RNFA role. Knowledge and skills can be obtained through work experience, independent learning, and/or educational programs. The experiential component of the portfolio requires an individual to have a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience performing in the RNFA role. Thus, the CRNFA Professional Portfolio is based on the knowledge and skills an RN with 2,000 hours of RNFA practice in the perioperative setting is expected to know. The portfolio assesses both experiential and cognitive knowledge and skills, as together these form the foundation of clinical practice.

How was the CRNFA Professional Portfolio developed?

The CRNFA Professional Portfolio was developed by NASC committees composed of active and emeritus CRNFAs, qualified CRNFA certification candidates, and subject matter experts. Appendix A provides additional information about the NASC Portfolio Task Force/Committees/Panel.

Job Analysis

Under the expert guidance of Manny Straehle, PhD, President of Assessment, Education, and Research Experts (AERE), NASC conducted a Job Analysis intended to describe the functions, responsibilities, and underlying knowledge and skills essential for proficiency in the RNFA role. The domains and knowledge statements from the Job Analysis served as a guideline for development and content of the professional portfolio. See Appendix B for a list of the knowledge statements included in the CRNFA Job Analysis. Table 1 shows the seven domains of the CRNFA Job Analysis, the number of knowledge statements for each domain, and the percentage of portfolio items for each domain.

DOMAIN	NUMBER OF KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS	PERCENT OF PORTFOLIO
Preoperative Patient Assessment	25	10%
Intraoperative Patient Care Interventions	21	35%
Emergency Situations	6	9%
Postoperative Patient Care Interventions	6	5%
Infection Prevention	16	13%
Perioperative Workplace Safety	7	13%
Professional Practice	16	15%
Total	97	100%

Portfolio development

NASC formed four committees of Subject Matter Experts to develop the documents for the CRNFA Professional Portfolio and the rubrics used to evaluate completed candidate portfolios. These committees were:

- **Standards Committee:** This committee reviewed the domains and the task and knowledge statements identified in the job analysis. The committee then met several times to discuss various methods of addressing the necessary content from each domain in a portfolio format to best represent each candidate's professional achievement and growth. The committee summarized this information and made recommendations to the Peer Review Committee.
- **Peer Review Committee:** Based on the recommendations from the Standards Committee, the Peer Review Committee developed the basic structure of the portfolio, then wrote the individual activities that made up the portfolio using the task and knowledge statements from the job analysis, and their expertise and experience in the RNFA role. The committee then developed the scoring rubric to be used in evaluating completed portfolios.
- **Pilot Committee:** The Pilot Committee was made up of certified CRNFAs and RNFA's who were eligible for certification but not yet certified. Their job was to trial-test the portfolio and provide feedback. The Peer Review committee worked closely with this committee to improve the portfolio documents and evaluation rubric.
- **Standard Setting Committee:** This committee worked with a psychometrician to review a statistical analysis of the results of the Pilot and Beta test and used this information to set a passing score for the portfolio.

By basing all of the required portfolio activities on the seven domains, 104 task statements, and 97 knowledge statements identified by the job analysis, bias is avoided in the CRNFA portfolio. In addition, the diverse panel

of nurses serving on the portfolio development committees screened all activities to avoid bias against any particular candidate or population subgroup.

Portfolio Pilot and Beta test

After the NASC committees finished developing the portfolio documents and scoring rubric, NASC issued a call to the RNFA community for volunteers to test the portfolio. Eligible RNFAs completed the application process, and 22 candidates were chosen to pilot test the portfolio and provide feedback on their experience. Based on their feedback, the portfolio documents were refined one more time. Thirty-eight additional volunteers were then chosen to beta test the portfolio, and their feedback was used to adjust the portfolio documents, rubric, and processes a final time.

What are the subject areas addressed in the portfolio?

The CRNFA Professional Portfolio consists of three studies that address the seven domains identified during the Job Analysis. Table 2 provides an outline of the content of the CRNFA Professional Portfolio delineating the number of activities that must be completed in each study and the percent of the portfolio comprised by each study.

SUBJECT AREA	NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	PERCENT OF PORTFOLIO
Clinical Case Study		
Preoperative	29	27%
Intraoperative	35	32%
Postoperative	12	11%
Workplace Safety Study	15	14%
Professional Practice Study	18	16%
Total	109	100%

APPLYING FOR THE CRNFA PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

What are the eligibility requirements to apply for CRNFA?

Based on whether the applicant is a registered nurse (RN) or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), candidates must meet one of two eligibility paths for CRNFA certification:

RN applicants

If the applicant is an RN, eligibility requirements for CRNFA certification include

- a bachelor’s degree or higher in any field;
- current CNOR certification;
- current, unrestricted RN licensure in the state where currently practicing;
- completion of an acceptable RNFA program* that meets AORN standards for RNFA education programs; and
- a minimum of 2,000 documented hours of practice as an RNFA.

*For a list of acceptable RNFA programs, see <https://nascertification.com/resources/acceptable-rnfa-programs/>.

APRN applicants

If the applicant is an APRN (ie, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or certified registered nurse anesthetist), eligibility requirements for CRNFA certification include

- national certification as an APRN by an accredited certification program;
- current, unrestricted RN licensure in the state where currently practicing;
- completion of an acceptable RNFA program* that meets AORN standards for RNFA education programs; and
- a minimum of 2,000 documented hours of practice as an RNFA.

*For a list of acceptable RNFA programs, see <https://nascertification.com/resources/acceptable-rnfa-programs/>.

Applicants must attest to comply with the NASC Code of Conduct (Appendix C) and the American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* and to practice RNFA services in a manner consistent with the certification standards and responsibilities set forth in the NASC's Code of Conduct. Applicants must also attest to the accuracy of information reported within the application.

Eligibility Appeal

Applicants who are notified that they do not meet the eligibility requirements may appeal this decision by sending a written notice of the appeal to the NASC Executive Director within 30 days of communication of the adverse eligibility decision. The Executive Director will forward the notice to the NASC Board of Directors for review.

The NASC Board of Directors will review the applicant's information and will make a final decision regarding eligibility. No new or additional information may be submitted with the appeal request. The eligibility appeal will be reviewed within 45 days of receipt. Written notice of the final decision will be sent to the applicant within 30 days of the review.

How do I document 2,000 hours of practice as an RNFA?

At the time of application, all CRNFA candidates must have completed a minimum of 2,000 hours of practice as an RNFA. A practice hour log delineating your 2,000 hours of RNFA practice must accompany your application.

How should I log my RNFA hours?

Candidates should document their practice hours using the CRNFA Practice Hour Log provided in Appendix D. Appendix D also contains a link to the log in Excel format.

Facility printouts may be used to document practice hours. The candidate's name must be documented as RNFA or first assistant and the log must include the

- date of procedure;
- type of procedure;
- duration of procedure delineating pre-, intra-, and postoperative minutes; and
- name or initials of the surgeon assisted.

What types of practice hours may I include in my documented 2,000 hours of RNFA practice?

Documented practice hours may include patient care provided while performing in the RNFA role during the preoperative, intraoperative, or postoperative phases.

- The *Preoperative Phase* includes care provided on the day of the procedure from the time the patient enters the surgical facility until the patient enters the operating room. The following may be documented as care performed during the Preoperative Phase:

- conducting history and physical assessments;
 - providing patient, family, or caregiver education;
 - reviewing patient records in preparation for the surgical procedure;
 - participating in preoperative components of the Universal Protocol; and
 - communicating the plan of care, special needs of patient and/or surgeon, and other pertinent information with interdisciplinary and/or perioperative team members.
- The *Intraoperative Phase* includes care provided from the time the patient enters the operating room until the patient leaves the operating room. While performing in the intraoperative role the RNFA cannot be concurrently serving in any other perioperative role (eg, scrub person).
 - The *Postoperative Phase* includes care provided from the time the patient leaves the operating room until the patient is discharged from Phase 1 post-anesthesia care. The following may be documented as care performed during the Postoperative Phase:
 - transporting patient to post-anesthesia care;
 - assisting with initial post-anesthesia care monitoring;
 - writing postoperative orders;
 - writing or dictating progress notes or discharge summaries;
 - implementing postoperative interventions (eg, changing dressings, checking and monitoring surgical drains, removing/inserting catheters or intravenous lines, providing nutritional support or electrolyte therapy);
 - providing patient, family, or caregiver education;
 - collaborating with facility and community resources for post discharge care; and
 - administering medications.

What are acceptable RNFA practice hours?

When documenting RNFA practice hours,

- the 2,000 hours must be completed during the five years immediately preceding the application;
- at least 500 of the required 2,000 hours must be completed during the two years immediately preceding application;
- at least 1,000 of the required 2,000 hours must be for RNFA practice performed during the intraoperative period;
- pre-, intra-, and postoperative hours do not have to be for the same patient;
- pre- and postoperative hours do not have to be from cases where the applicant assisted intraoperatively;
- the 2,000 hours may include practice hours performed while in an RNFA internship, practicum, or RNFA educational program, otherwise the hours must be completed after graduation from an RNFA program;
- practice hours completed while working in an RNFA role in a volunteer status may be included; and
- the 2,000 hours may not include time attending classes, programs or seminars.

How can I apply for CRNFA certification by portfolio?

You may apply for CRNFA certification by portfolio by completing the online application at www.nascertification.org. Click the “*Login*” link at the top of the page, and then click “*NASC Profile*”. The first

time you log in, you will need to click the orange “Register as an Applicant” button to register and create a profile.

To complete the online application for certification by portfolio, you will need

- contact information including your address, email, birth date, and home phone numbers; and
- contact information for your current employer and each employer with whom you have logged practice hours including the facility name, address, phone number and your supervisor’s name, address, email, and phone number.

RN applicants must include:

- RN license,
- CNOR certification,
- diploma for bachelor’s degree or higher in any field,
- certificate of completion of an acceptable RNFA education program, that meets AORN standards for RNFA education programs, *
- CRNFA Practice Hour Log with a minimum of 2,000 documented hours of practice as an RNFA, and
- payment (you may use a credit card when submitting the application, or you may mail a check).

APRN applicants must include:

- RN license,
- national APRN certification by an accredited certification program,
- certificate of completion of an acceptable RNFA education program that meets AORN standards for RNFA education programs,*
- CRNFA Practice Hour Log with a minimum of 2,000 documented hours of practice as an RNFA, and
- payment (you may use a credit card when submitting the application, or you may mail a check).

*For a list of acceptable RNFA programs, see <https://nascertification.com/resources/acceptable-rnfa-programs/>.

Does NASC verify the information I provide on my application?

Information provided by candidates on applications for CRNFA certification may be verified. Information that may be verified includes the applicant’s

- RN license (via Nursys),
- CNOR certification (via CCI website),
- professional nursing history (via contact with past employers), and/or
- practice hour logs (via contact with supervisor).

How much does CRNFA certification by Professional Portfolio cost?

The fee to apply for CRNFA certification is:

- New applicants: \$550.
- Current RNAS-C certificant: \$275

COMPLETING THE CRNFA PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

How much time do I have to complete the portfolio?

Once your application for CRNFA certification is approved, NASC will grant you access to the online CRNFA Professional Portfolio Portal, which provides general information about the portfolio. NASC will also contact you to select a start date to begin working on your portfolio. You must begin working on the portfolio within two months from the date your application is approved.

On your start date, the instructions and documents you need to complete the portfolio will be provided to you through the portal.

Your completed portfolio documents must be uploaded to the portal no later than three months after your start date.

What happens if I do not schedule a start date for the portfolio?

If you fail to schedule a start date and do not contact NASC, your entire certification fee is forfeited. To reapply for certification, you must meet current eligibility criteria and pay the applicable certification fee.

What happens if I do not submit my portfolio documents by the due date?

If you fail to submit your completed CRNFA Professional Portfolio documents within three months after your start date and you do not contact NASC, your entire certification fee is forfeited. To reapply for certification, you must meet current eligibility criteria and pay the applicable certification fee.

What if I need more time to begin or complete the portfolio?

If you are unable to choose a start date and begin working on your portfolio within two months after your application is approved or you fail to complete your portfolio within three months after your start date, you can request a one-month extension. The administrative fee for a one-month extension is \$100, and you are limited to three extensions.

Are there specific references or materials I should use to prepare for the portfolio?

See Appendix E for a list of recommended reference materials for completing the CRNFA Professional Portfolio.

As a certification organization, NASC develops and administers the CRNFA Professional Portfolio. NASC does not promote or endorse any specific study guides, review products, and/or training courses.

Do I need a computer to complete the portfolio?

You will need an Internet connection to access the portal and some of the recommended references. You will need to complete the portfolio on a computer using a standard word processing program such as Microsoft Word or Apple Pages. The CRNFA Professional Portfolio documents are provided as Microsoft Word documents and your completed documents must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. If you complete your portfolio using an Apple computer, you will need to convert the documents to Microsoft Word format.

How does my portfolio get evaluated?

The completed CRNFA Professional Portfolios are evaluated by two members of a NASC volunteer panel consisting of active and emeritus CRNFAs. The volunteers use a detailed rubric to evaluate and score each portfolio. If the two evaluators reach different conclusions (ie, one evaluator awards a passing score and one evaluator awards a failing score), a third evaluator will review the portfolio submission. The portfolio evaluation process is double-blind, meaning that the candidate does not know who evaluated their portfolio and the evaluators do not know the identity of the candidate.

How long does it take to receive my results?

NASC is committed to notifying each applicant of their results in a timely manner while maintaining a high standard of accuracy, objectivity, and impartiality. Our goal is to notify all candidates of their pass or fail status

within one month from the date the completed portfolio is submitted. However, based on the number of candidate submissions, Portfolio Evaluation Panel schedules, and the need for additional portfolio review, additional time may be required.

What happens when I pass the portfolio?

If your portfolio submission earns a passing score, we will notify you that you are CRNFA certified. You will be able to log into your account and print your certificate immediately. You will also be able to verify your certification on our website. NASC will mail an official certificate to you within three weeks.

What happens if I fail the portfolio?

If you fail your portfolio submission, you will have one opportunity to revise and resubmit your documents. Revisions must be completed and submitted within 60 days, and there is a \$100 resubmission fee. Your revised documents will be evaluated by the same committee members who originally evaluated your portfolio. If you earn a passing score on your revised documents, we will notify you that you are CRNFA certified.

If you do not earn a passing score on your revised documents, you fail to obtain certification. To become certified, you will need to apply again, pay the certification fee, and complete a new portfolio using a different patient for the Clinical Case Study.

Can I appeal the portfolio results?

Candidates who fail the CRNFA Professional Portfolio and believe irregular conditions or breach of policy by NASC were a contributing factor may file an appeal to NASC. All appeal requests must be made in writing and postmarked or emailed no later than 7 days after the receipt of the score report. All appeals must describe the suspected error or problem and the requested remedy. The NASC Board of Directors will review the information and make a final decision within 30 days of receipt. The decision of the NASC Board shall be final.

What happens if I cheat or share information from the portfolio with my colleagues?

When you submit your portfolio, you will sign a statement that you have maintained the confidentiality of the portfolio contents and that your portfolio submission is your own work. While we recognize that collaboration with your surgical team is an important aspect of interprofessional collegiality, your portfolio must be your own work and a demonstration of your personal knowledge, skills, and experience in the RNFA role.

USING THE CRNFA CREDENTIAL

CRNFA is the official credential recognizing a nurse who has achieved certification as an RNFA. The CRNFA certification validates the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience of an individual RN practicing at a proficient or expert level in the expanded RNFA role.

The CRNFA mark is federally registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and may only be used in accordance with NASC policy by those who have achieved and maintain the designation.

When can I begin using the CRNFA credential?

You may use the CRNFA credential as soon as you receive email notification from NASC that you have successfully completed the CRNFA Professional Portfolio with a passing score. You will be able to log into your account and print your certificate immediately. You will also be able to verify your certification on our website. NASC will mail an official certificate to you within three weeks.

How long is the CRNFA credential active?

Certification status is granted for a period of five years. Unless you complete one of the recertification methods in effect at that time, your certification will expire on December 31st of the fifth year of the recertification cycle.

If your CRNFA certification lapses, you may no longer use the CRNFA designation. To reinstate your certification, you must meet the eligibility requirements, reapply, and complete the certification process by

successfully completing the CRNFA Professional Portfolio. Any misuse or misrepresentation of the CRNFA credential by those not currently holding the credential shall be subject to legal action by NASC.

How do I display the CRNFA credential after my name?

You should display your credentials as recommended by the American Nurses Association² and the American Nurses Credentialing Center³ beginning with the highest degree earned and followed by licensure, state designations or requirements, national certifications, awards and honors, and other certifications. For example,

- Jane A. Doe, BSN, RN, CNOR, CRNFA
- John A. Doe, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, CRNFA

CRNFA RECERTIFICATION – MAINTAINING YOUR CREDENTIAL

When do I recertify my CRNFA credential?

CRNFA certification is conferred by NASC for a period of five years, at which time a CRNFA may seek recertification. Table 3 shows the accrual and recertification periods for CRNFA certifications with expiration dates falling between December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2029.

IF YOUR CRNFA CERTIFICATION EXPIRES	PERIOD TO ACCRUE YOUR PRACTICE HOURS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY POINTS/CONTACT HOURS	PERIOD TO SUBMIT YOUR RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION
December 31, 2024	January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
December 31, 2025	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024	January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025
December 31, 2026	January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025	January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026
December 31, 2027	January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026	January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027
December 31, 2028	January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027	January 1, 2028 to December 31, 2028
December 31, 2029	January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028	January 1, 2029 to December 31, 2029

Note. The accrual period is the time period during which the certificant must complete professional development activities and practice hour requirements. Certificants have up to 5 years to complete their recertification activities and apply for recertification the following year.

How do I recertify my CRNFA credential?

To recertify your CRNFA credential, you must

- meet the recertification eligibility requirements,
- choose a recertification method (ie, professional activity points or contact hours) and complete recertification activities during your accrual period,
- submit the NASC application for CRNFA recertification during your recertification year, and
- pay the application fee.

What are the eligibility requirements for CRNFA recertification?

At the time of application for CRNFA recertification, you must

- hold CRNFA certification;
- hold current licensure, in the state or country where currently practicing; and
- complete a minimum number of 500 practice hours during the accrual period.

In addition to the eligibility requirements, all applicants must fulfill the requirements of the selected recertification method.

What are the fees for CRNFA recertification?

CRNFA recertification fees are shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Early and Standard CRNFA Recertification Fees		
CRNFA RECERTIFICATION METHODS	EARLY RECERTIFICATION FEES JANUARY 1 – JULY 1	STANDARD RECERTIFICATION FEES JULY 2 – DECEMBER 31
Contact Hours	\$450	\$500
Points	\$450	\$500
One-Year Extension	\$100	\$100
Emeritus (one-time fee)	\$125	\$125

How do I submit my CRNFA recertification application?

You may complete and submit your recertification application online by clicking the “Login” link at the top of the NASC web page (www.nascertification.org) and then click “NASC Profile”. All CRNFAs have an existing online account. The first time you log in, click the orange “Request a Password” button. If you have trouble logging in, please contact NASC at 1-888-681-6272.

Alternatively, you may submit your recertification application by downloading the application packet from the NASC website (<https://nascertification.com/crnfa/recertification/>) and mailing or faxing the completed CRNFA Recertification application to: National Assistant at Surgery Certification, 8547 E. Arapahoe Road, Suite J-262, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80112-1436, or 866-681-6272. Please call NASC at 866-681-6272 to confirm receipt of your application.

What are the methods for CRNFA recertification?

To recertify your CRNFA credential, you must choose a recertification method that includes a prescribed plan for nursing continuing professional development. CRNFA certificants may recertify by

- professional activity points, or
- contact hours.

CRNFA RECERTIFICATION – RECERTIFYING BY PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY POINTS

Recertification by points recognizes that nurses accomplish professional development in a number of ways.

How many professional activity points are required for CRNFA recertification?

The number of professional activity points required for CRNFA recertification is based on the number of RNFA practice hours completed. Recertification by professional activity points requires the accumulated points be earned within the five-year accrual period (see Table 3).

When recertifying by points, you may choose from a list of approved activities to earn points for recertification. There are maximum numbers of points allowed for each activity with the exception of academic study, which has no limit on the number of points earned. Table 4 shows the number of points required for recertification based on the number of clinical practice hours completed.

Table 4: Professional Activity Points Required for CRNFA Recertification Based on CRNFA Practice Hours	
NUMBER OF RNFA CLINICAL PRACTICE HOURS	NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY POINTS REQUIRED
Between 500 and 999	500
1,000 or more	400

What types of activities may be used to earn professional activity points for CRNFA recertification?

Any of the following activities may be used to earn points for recertification:

1. Continuing education through contact hours (Max. 250 points)
2. Academic study (Unlimited points)
3. Teaching/Presenting (See Table 5)
4. Service as a preceptor for the RNFA role (Max. 100 points)
5. Service as a mentor for the RNFA role (Max. 60 points)
6. Service as a board member (Max. 100 point)
7. Service as a committee member (Max. 80 points)
8. Perioperative volunteer service (Max. 150 points)
9. Perioperative-related certification (Max. 100 points)
10. Publication (Max. 150 points)
11. NASC Task Force/Committee member (Max. 100 points)
12. NASC Portfolio Evaluation Panel member (Max. 200 points)
13. Clinical inquiry activities (Max. 200 points)

1. Continuing education through contact hours (Max. 250 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 250 points (ie, 125 contact hours) from continuing education activities relevant to CRNFA practice through an accredited, approved provider in fulfillment of the requirements for CRNFA recertification by points.

- 1 Contact hour (CE) = 2 points
- 1 CME Category 1 credit = 2 points

Contact hours approved by any of the following are acceptable:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- An agency, organization, or educational institution accredited by ANCC
- Any State Board of Nursing
- Any state nurses’ association
- Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
- American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), formerly NAACOG)
- American Academy of Family Practitioners (AAFP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Academy of Physicians Assistants (AAPA)
- American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)

Note: Certificates from other groups deemed equivalent to those listed above may be accepted as determined by the NASC Executive Director.

When earning points for continuing education through contact hours, the candidate is responsible for providing copies of the certificates of attendance for each activity. Certificates of attendance with handwritten

accreditation statements or provider numbers, or without an appropriate accreditation statement or acceptable provider number are not acceptable for earning contact hours for CRNFA recertification. Likewise, contact hours earned before January 1 of the year certified are not acceptable.

CRNFAs may submit Category 1 CME credits in fulfillment of the contact hour requirements. Category 1 credits are those expected to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships used to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession.⁴

2. Academic study (Unlimited points)

CRNFA candidates can earn unlimited points through academic study. Academic credits used for CRNFA recertification must be relevant to clinical practice or must be courses required for a higher academic degree or an additional bachelor’s degree. CRNFAs do not need to be enrolled in a formal degree program at the time the course is taken. A grade of C or better must be earned for each course and courses must be sponsored by an accredited educational institution.

- 1 academic semester credit = 30 points
- 1 academic quarter credit = 20 points

3. Teaching/Presenting

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn points for teaching and/or presenting. Table 5 shows the points that may be earned for teaching and presenting.

TYPE OF TEACHING/PRESENTING	ROLE	INDIVIDUAL POINT VALUE	MAXIMUM POINT VALUE
Academic Teaching: Developing and teaching a course(s) relevant to CRNFA practice (ie, nursing, business) in an academic setting.	Instructor	100 points per course	200 points
Nursing Continuing Professional development (NCPD) Presentation: Developing and presenting an educational session(s) on a topic related to CRNFA practice at conferences or other educational activities where attendees earn contact hours for attendance.	Presenter	25 points per 30 minutes	150 points
Health Care Provider Presentation: Developing and presenting an educational session(s) for health care providers at locations where attendees do not earn contact hours for attendance (eg, facility inservices).	Presenter	20 points per 30 minutes	120 points
Panel Presentation: Participating in a panel presentation(s) on a topic related to CRNFA practice at a conference or other educational event	Panel member	10 points per 15 minutes	60 points
Community Teaching: Developing and presenting an educational session(s) for non-health care workers at a non-health	Presenter	10 points per 15 minutes	60 points

care-related event or location (eg, club meetings, community centers, schools)			
Poster Presentation: Developing and presenting a poster(s) related to CRNFA practice at a conference(s) or other educational activity where attendees earn contact hours for attendance.	Primary author/presenter	40 points	80 points
Poster Presentation: Developing and presenting a poster(s) related to CRNFA practice at a conference(s) or other educational activity where attendees earn contact hours for attendance.	Contributing author/presenter	30 points	
Poster Presentation: Developing and presenting a poster(s) related to CRNFA practice at a location or event where attendees do not earn contact hours for attendance (eg, facility educational fair).	Primary author/presenter	25 points	
Poster Presentation: Developing and presenting a poster(s) related to CRNFA practice at a location or event where attendees do not earn contact hours for attendance (eg, facility educational fair).	Contributing author/presenter	20 points	

Note: Teaching and/or presenting in other equivalent venues may be accepted as determined by the NASC Executive Director.

4. Service as a preceptor for the RNFA role (Max. 100 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 100 points by serving as a preceptor (ie, providing supervision and evaluation during clinical practice) for an RNFA student or new employee in the RNFA role. Each student or employee earns 25 points.

5. Service as a mentor for the RNFA role (Max. 60 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 60 points by serving as a mentor (ie, providing guidance, motivation, emotional support, role modeling) for an RNFA student or new employee in the RNFA role. Each student or employee earns 15 points.

6. Service as a board member (Max. 100 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 100 points by serving as a member of a board whose work is related to perioperative care or the perioperative setting. Attendance at a minimum of four meetings per year is required. Each board membership earns 20 points per year.

7. Service as a committee member (Max. 80 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 80 points by serving as a member of a committee whose work is related to perioperative care or the perioperative setting. Attendance at a minimum of four meetings per year is required. Each committee membership earns 20 points per year.

8. Perioperative volunteer service (Max. 150 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 150 points for volunteer perioperative service. Examples include surgical mission trips, service at medically underserved clinics, or other community outreach. Each hour of service earns 5 points.

9. Perioperative-related certification (Max. 100 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 100 points for earning or recertifying an accredited perioperative-related certification. Examples of accredited perioperative-related certifications include CNOR, certified perianesthesia nurse (CPAN), certified ambulatory perianesthesia nurse (CAPA), certified registered central service technician (CRCST), certified gastroenterology registered nurse (CGRN) or certified plastic surgical nurse (CPSN). This list is not all-inclusive. Other accredited certifications deemed equivalent by the Executive Director of NASC may be accepted. Table 6 shows the points that may be earned for certification and recertification.

CERTIFICATION STAGE COMPLETED	POINT VALUE
Initial Certification	30 points
Recertification	20 points

10. Publication (Max. 150 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 150 points for publication. Table 7 shows the points that may be earned for various types of publications.

TYPE OF PUBLICATION	ROLE	POINT VALUE
Book chapter	First author	50 points
Book chapter	Contributing author	40 points
Peer-reviewed journal article	First author	50 points
Peer-reviewed journal article	Contributing author	40 points
Guest editorial	First author	30 points
Book review	First author	20 points
Patient education or other health care resource	First author	30 points
Patient education or other health care resource	Contributing author	20 points

11. NASC task force/committee (Max. 100 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 100 points for volunteer service on a NASC task force/committee. Table 8 shows the points that may be earned for service.

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE	POINT VALUE
Job Analysis Task Force	40 points
Standards Committee	30 points
Peer Review Committee	30 points
Item Writer	20 points
Ad Hoc	15 points

12. NASC Portfolio Evaluation Panel (Max. 200 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 200 points for volunteer service on the NASC Portfolio Evaluation Panel. Each portfolio evaluated earns 10 points.

13. Clinical inquiry activities (Max. 100 points)

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn a maximum of 100 points for leading clinical inquiry. This category includes quality improvement (QI), quality assurance (QA), evidence-based practice (EBP) and research projects. To earn points, the candidate must have primary responsibility for developing, implementing, or evaluating QI, QA, EBP, or research projects that improve practice or patient outcomes. Table 9 shows the points that may be earned for leading clinical inquiry activities.

ROLE	POINT VALUE
Primary investigator or project lead	50 points per project
Contributing investigator or project lead	30 points per project

CRNFA RECERTIFICATION – RECERTIFYING BY CONTACT HOURS

Recertification by contact hours recognizes that nurses accomplish professional development by participation in a variety of educational activities.

How many contact hours are required for CRNFA recertification?

The number of contact hours required for CRNFA recertification is based on the number of RNFA practice hours completed. Recertification by contact hours requires the accumulated hours be earned within the five-year accrual period (see Table 3). Table 10 shows the number of contact hours required for recertification based on the number of clinical practice hours completed.

NUMBER OF RNFA CLINICAL PRACTICE HOURS	TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACT HOURS REQUIRED
Between 500 and 999	300
1,000 or more	200

What types of activities may be used to earn contact hours for CRNFA recertification?

The following activities may be used in any combination to earn recertification:

- Continuing education through contact hours
- Academic study

Continuing education through contact hours

CRNFA recertification candidates can earn contact hours from continuing education activities relevant to CRNFA practice through an accredited, approved provider in fulfillment of the requirements for recertification by contact hours.

- 1 CE = 1 contact hour
- 1 CME Category 1 credit = 1 contact hour

Contact hours approved by any of the following are acceptable:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- An agency, organization, or educational institution accredited by ANCC
- Any State Board of Nursing
- Any state nurses' association
- Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
- American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)

- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), formerly NAACOG)
- American Academy of Family Practitioners (AAFP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Academy of Physicians Assistants (AAPA)
- American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)

Note: Certificates from other groups deemed equivalent to those listed above may be accepted as determined by the NASC Executive Director.

When recertifying by contact hours, you are responsible for providing copies of the certificates of attendance for each activity. Note that certificates of attendance with handwritten accreditation statements or provider numbers, without an appropriate accreditation statement or acceptable provider number, or provider numbers that do not state Board of Registered Nursing are not acceptable for earning contact hours for CRNFA recertification. Likewise, contact hours earned before January 1 of the year certified are not acceptable.

CRNFAs may submit Category 1 CME credits in fulfillment of the contact hour requirements. Category 1 credits are those expected to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships used to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession.⁴

Academic study

CRNFAs may use academic credits in fulfillment of the requirements for recertification by contact hours. Academic credits used for CRNFA recertification must be relevant to clinical practice or must be courses required for a higher academic degree or an additional bachelor’s degree. CRNFAs do not need to be enrolled in a formal degree program at the time the course is taken. A grade of C or better must be earned for each course and courses must be sponsored by an accredited educational institution.

- 1 academic semester credit = 15 contact hours
- 1 academic quarter credit = 10 contact hours

CRNFA EXPIRATION/ALTERNATIVES TO CRNFA RECERTIFICATION

How do I reactivate my expired CRNFA credential?

Once expired, the CRNFA credential may only be reactivated by successfully meeting all current eligibility requirements and completing the CRNFA Professional Portfolio. Contact hours or points will not be accepted to regain certified status.

How do I apply for a one-year extension?

If your CRNFA credential is nearing expiration and you are unable to meet the recertification requirements, you can apply for a one-year extension of your CRNFA certification. A one-year extension allows the candidate one additional calendar year to accrue the required contact hours or points for recertification. The extension process is available only once every 10 years or two recertification cycles. It lasts one calendar year and there are no extensions to that time period. The fee for a one-year extension is \$100. You can access the application for a one-year extension from the NASC website: <https://nascertification.com/crnfa/recertification/>

What is CRNFA Emeritus status?

If you are a CRNFA who is retiring from perioperative nursing, you may maintain your CRNFA credential in an Emeritus status. The CRNFA(E) credential was established to recognize the service and commitment of retiring CRNFAs to the perioperative profession as well as their achievement and maintenance of the CRNFA credential.

To apply for Emeritus status, you must currently hold the CRNFA credential in good standing. There is a one-time fee of \$125 for changing the credential to Emeritus status. Once NASC has received your CRNFA(E) application and fee, your CRNFA(E) certificate will be mailed to you within three weeks. You can access the application for Emeritus status from the NASC website: <https://nascertification.com/crnfa/emeritus-status/>

The CRNFA(E) credential does not need to be maintained by submitting contact hours or points and it never expires. To reactivate CRNFA after changing to Emeritus status, you would need to meet all current eligibility requirements and successfully complete the CRNFA Professional Portfolio.

NASC CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION POLICIES

NASC reserves the right to establish, review, and revise policies and procedures related to CRNFA certification/recertification as deemed appropriate.

NASC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy

The leaders, employees, and governing bodies of NASC support the fair treatment and dignity of all human beings. The organization does not discriminate among candidates based on age, color, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical or mental ability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran status, or any other characteristics that contribute to the diversity of human individuals.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations

NASC is committed to providing reasonable accommodations in its portfolio processes to otherwise qualified individuals with physical or mental disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Under the ADA, persons with disabilities may be entitled to accommodations if they have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as hearing, seeing, learning, reading, or concentrating) or a major bodily function (such as the neurological, endocrine, or digestive system).

During the online application process, candidates with disabilities who believe they need ADA accommodations will have the opportunity to notify NASC of the type of accommodation they require and to provide current and appropriate documentation of the disability. Because the provision of accommodations is based upon an assessment of the current impact of the individual's disabilities, the candidate must provide documentation based on an evaluation conducted within the past five years.

The documentation provided should include correspondence from a health care provider who has first-hand knowledge of the candidate's disability. Correspondence should describe the nature of the disability and make specific recommendations regarding the type of accommodation required to address the disability. The letter should be on the health care professional's letterhead stationery and include his or her title, address, phone number, and original signature.

All accommodation determinations will be made by NASC at its sole discretion. NASC is not obligated to provide accommodations that would fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the portfolio is intended to test, or that would impose an undue burden on NASC.

Audit process for certification/recertification applications

As part of the accreditation process, each certification/recertification application has a 10% chance of being selected for audit. Additionally, if there is any reason to believe that an applicant does not meet eligibility requirements, or if an outside party informs NASC that an individual does not meet certain requirements, the application will be flagged for audit.

When an audit occurs, NASC will contact the individual in writing and provide instructions for uploading documentation to substantiate the information in question. Specific documents that may be required for verification are outlined in Appendix F.

All information gained through verification procedures will be kept confidential, except in instances where the law demands disclosure of facts. Under no circumstances will the reporting party be disclosed.

If any information on the certification application is found to be false, the applicant will be notified and declared ineligible for certification.

Recertification Appeals

Individuals who are notified that they do not meet the recertification requirements may appeal this decision by sending a written notice of the appeal to the NASC Executive Director within 30 days of receipt of the adverse recertification decision. The Executive Director will forward the notice to the NASC Board of Directors for review.

The Board will review the information and will make a final decision regarding eligibility. No new or additional information may be submitted with the appeal request. The recertification appeal will be reviewed within 45 days of receipt. Written notice of the final decision will be sent to the applicant within 30 days of the review.

Revoking or suspension of CRNFA certification

NASC may deny, suspend or revoke CRNFA certification for cause, including but not limited to

- failing to complete or provide evidence of completion of the requirements for initial certification, certification renewal, or reactivation of certification;
- failing to maintain the required RN or APRN professional licensure;
- finding that initial certification or certification renewal was improperly granted or improperly reactivated;
- providing false or misstated information on any CRNFA certification-related document;
- providing false or misleading information;
- misusing or misrepresenting the CRNFA credential or credential status;
- cheating or assisting others to cheat;
- assisting others to wrongfully obtain initial certification or to renew or reactivate certification;
- failing to comply with the scope and standards of practice in the area in which the certification is held;
- participating in the commission of a crime or gross negligence in the practice of nursing;
- violating NASC policy or procedure;
- failing to meet audit processes;
- failing to comply with the American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*⁵;
- demonstrating conduct unbecoming of the nursing profession; and/or
- not paying outstanding debts to NASC.

Note. If CRNFA status is revoked for any reason, NASC will inform the RNFA of the decision to revoke CRNFA status in writing. There will be no refund of any fees paid.

Maintaining confidentiality

NASC maintains a system for safeguarding confidential information provided by certification applicants. No outside agency or persons shall have access to individual certification records unless the records are required to be provided under applicable law or in conjunction with regulatory investigations.

Publicity

NASC reserves the right to designate and approve national publicity concerning the certification program. National publicity may be authorized by NASC for purposes of marketing the program.

REFERENCES

1. American Board of Nursing Specialties. *A position statement on the value of specialty nursing certification*. Approved 2005, March 5. <https://www.aacn.org/sites/default/files/images/ABNS-cert-stat.pdf>. Accessed August 30, 2021.
2. American Nurses Association. *Position statement: credentials for the professional nurse: determining a standard order of credentials for the professional nurse*. Published December 11, 2009. <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/determining-a-standard-order-of-credentials-for-the-professional-nurse/>. Accessed September 9, 2021.
3. American Nurses Credentialing Center. *How to display your credentials: common questions and answers about displaying your credentials in the proper order*. 2013. <https://www.nursingworld.org/~48fdf9/globalassets/certification/renewals/how-to-display-your-credentials>. Accessed September 9, 2021.
4. American Medical Association. *AMA PRA credit system frequently asked questions*. 2018, December. <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-09/cme-provider-faq.pdf>. Accessed August 30, 2021.
5. American Nurses Association. *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements;2015*.

APPENDIX A – NASC PORTFOLIO TASK FORCE/COMMITTEES/PANEL

A certification portfolio is the product of a scientifically rigorous process based on professional standards. This process is subject to accreditation oversight and approval. Participation of RNs providing perioperative care in the expanded RNFA role is essential for maintaining a portfolio program for certification. Nurses holding CRNFA certification may apply to serve on the NASC portfolio task force/committees/panel. A short description of each working group follows.

Job Analysis Task Force

A job analysis is designed to obtain descriptive information about the tasks performed in a specific job and the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to support job performance. Members of the Job Analysis Task Force define the major tasks performed and the areas of knowledge necessary for an RN to function effectively and competently as an RNFA.

Standards Committee

Members of the Standards Committee are responsible for designing the format of the portfolio based on the Knowledge and Task statements of the CRNFA job analysis and current best practices in the community.

Peer Review Committee

Members of the Peer Review Committee are responsible for designing the format of the portfolio and rubric used for peer evaluation and scoring of the CRNFA portfolio. This group also helps establish inter-rater reliability in portfolio scoring.

Portfolio Evaluation Panel

Members of the Portfolio Evaluation Panel evaluate candidate portfolios using the detailed rubric developed by the Peer Review Committee.

APPENDIX B – RNFA KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS

Domain A: Preoperative Patient Assessment

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Chemistry
3. Microbiology
4. Pathophysiology
5. Pharmacology
6. Psychology
7. Sociology
8. Nutrition assessments and implications
9. Laboratory values
10. Indicators for laboratory studies
11. Diagnostic procedures (eg, imaging studies, invasive/non-invasive)
12. Indicators for diagnostic procedures
13. Hemodynamic monitoring (eg, fluid and electrolyte status)
14. Nursing assessment skills
15. History and physical examination
16. Interviewing techniques
17. Nursing process
18. Medical diagnoses
19. Age-specific care
20. Cultural, religious, and other diversity care considerations
21. BMI and implications
22. Pre-procedure verification protocols (eg, Universal Protocol)
23. Surgical procedures
24. Pain assessment and management
25. Discharge planning

Domain B: Intraoperative Patient Care Interventions

1. Universal Protocol
2. Surgical procedures
3. Safe patient positioning (eg, alignment, devices, equipment)
4. Draping for specific procedures
5. Wound exposure techniques
6. Principles of hemostasis (eg, mechanical, manual, chemical)
7. Instrument handling (eg, identification, selection, use)
8. Sterile technique (eg, surgical conscience)
9. Sharps safety
10. Suture selection, suturing and knot-tying techniques
11. Tissue-handling and dissection techniques
12. Specimen management
13. Wound closure techniques
14. Wound dressings, drains, tubes, and immobilization devices
15. Surgical equipment, devices, supplies, implants, and instrumentation
16. Principles of anesthesia care
17. Body temperature regulation (eg, normo/hyper/hypothermia)
18. Transfer/transport techniques
19. Hemodynamic monitoring (eg, fluid and electrolyte management)
20. Pain assessment and management
21. Medication safety

Domain C: Emergency Situations

1. Pathophysiology of malignant hyperthermia (MH), anaphylaxis, perioperative cardiac arrest, trauma, hemorrhage, airway compromise, and local anesthesia systemic toxicity (LAST)
2. Management of MH, anaphylaxis, perioperative cardiac arrest, trauma, hemorrhage, airway compromise, and LAST
3. Environmental hazards and response protocols
4. Disaster response protocols
5. Terrorism response protocols
6. Fire safety and response protocols

Domain D: Postoperative Patient Care Interventions

1. Handoffs (eg, SBAR, IPASSBATON)
2. Psychosocial issues (eg, support systems, risks for harm, resources)
3. Postoperative assessments (eg, neurological, vascular, skin, visual)
4. Postoperative continuum of care (eg, rounding, discharge planning, postdischarge care)
5. Pain assessment and management
6. Indications and postoperative management of surgical complications

Domain E: Infection Prevention

1. Wound classifications
2. Environmental cleaning (eg, room turnover, terminal cleaning)
3. Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions (eg, personal protective equipment [PPE], hand hygiene, Airborne, Contact, Droplet, Enhanced)
4. Regulatory requirements (eg, Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]), professional guidelines (eg, Association of periOperative Registered Nurses [AORN], Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology [APIC], Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation [AAMI]), and accreditation standards (eg, Joint Commission, Det Norske Veritas [DNV])
5. Cleaning, packaging, and processing of instruments and reusable items
6. Transportation and storage of instruments, reusable and single use items
7. Methods for handling and disposition of biohazard materials (eg, blood, prions)
8. Immediate use steam sterilization [IUSS] protocols
9. Surgical attire guidelines
10. Restricted, semi-restricted, and nonrestricted areas
11. Spaulding classification system
12. Sterile technique
13. Antibiotic management (eg, administration, selection, timing)
14. Patient skin antisepsis
15. Hand hygiene techniques
16. PPE

Domain F: Perioperative Workplace Safety

1. Body mechanics and ergonomic safety
2. Radiation safety
3. Handling and disposition of hazardous materials (eg, disinfectants, chemotherapy drugs, radioactive materials, formalin, chemicals)
4. Handling and disposition of biohazardous materials (eg, blood, prions)
5. PPE
6. Perioperative environmental safety (eg, fire, surgical plume, toxic fumes)
7. Workplace safety regulations (eg, OSHA) and guidelines

Domain G: Professional Practice

1. Technology (eg, artificial intelligence, robotics, hybrid suites, electronic medical records, informatics)
2. Regulatory requirements (eg, Nurse Practice Act, Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act [HIPAA]), professional guidelines (eg, American Nurses Association [ANA], AORN) and institutional policies
3. Resource management (eg, cost containment, sustainability)
4. Team communication and collaborative practice
5. Patient advocacy and rights
6. Professional advocacy and public policy development
7. Professional accountability and ethics
8. Credentialing and privileging processes
9. Principles of leadership and mentoring
10. Risk management, liability, and malpractice issues
11. Evidence-based practice and research evaluation
12. Negotiation techniques
13. Professional self-assessment (eg, reflection, competence)
14. Shared governance (eg, committees)
15. Impaired and disruptive behaviors
16. Nursing documentation

APPENDIX C – CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

NASC Code of Conduct applies to individuals credentialed by the NASC and individuals seeking certification from NASC (candidates or applicants).

Registered nurse first assistants (RNFAs) are responsible for patient safety and health care before, during, and after surgery. NASC credential holders have an ethical obligation to serve their patients.

All applicants and certificants agree to the NASC Code of Conduct (Code) as a condition of certification during the application process. Violation of any portion of the Code may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Disciplinary Policy.

The Code of Conduct will be published and available to all applicants and certificants.

Purpose

The Code of Conduct establishes the basic ethical standards for the professional behavior of NASC certificants and candidates. The Code is designed to provide both appropriate ethical practice guidelines and enforceable standards of conduct for all certificants and candidates.

Code of Conduct

NASC supports appropriate, professional standards designed to serve the public. NASC certificants and candidates for certification provide RNFA services in a manner that promotes integrity, reflects positively on the profession, which is consistent with accepted moral, ethical, and legal standards.

Certificants and candidates have the obligation to practice RNFA services in a manner consistent with the certification standards and responsibilities set forth below. This includes the obligations to maintain and demonstrate high standards of integrity and professional conduct; accept responsibility for their actions; continually seek to enhance their professional capabilities; practice with fairness and honesty; and, encourage others to act in a professional manner.

Section 1: Adherence to Legal Requirements

1. Adhere to all laws, regulations, policies, and ethical standards that apply to the practice of nursing.
2. Refrain from public behavior that is clearly in violation of professional, ethical, and/or legal standards that apply to the practice of providing RNFA services.
3. Refrain from discrimination in professional activities, including relationships with employees, employers, patients and their families, and other professionals.

Section 2: Adherence to NASC Policies & Requirements

4. Follow all NASC policies, procedures, requirements and rules. This includes the obligation to be aware of and understand these policies and requirements.
5. Provide accurate and complete information to NASC concerning certification and recertification.
6. Keep confidential all portfolio assessment information; including preventing unauthorized disclosures of assessment information. No part of the assessment may be copied, recorded, reproduced, shared, or otherwise compromised in any manner.
7. Cooperate with NASC regarding matters related to the Code of Conduct including complaint and/or disciplinary investigations.
8. Adhere to NASC policies regarding the use and display of credentials awarded by NASC.
9. Agree not to make any false, misleading, or unauthorized statement regarding NASC or its certification programs.

Section 3: Service to Patients

10. Promote the interest and safety of patients in all aspects of practice.
11. Treat patients with fairness and respect.

Section 4: Professional Performance

12. Act honestly in the conduct of responsibilities and in all professional interactions with others.
13. Deliver competent RNFA services.
14. Be accountable and responsible for his/her actions and behaviors.
15. Recognize the limitations of one's professional ability (based on education, knowledge, skills, and experience) and provide services only when qualified to do so.
16. Maintain the confidentiality of private and sensitive information unless there is a legal obligation to disclose the information.
17. Properly use all professional licenses, titles, degrees and all credentials and provide accurate and truthful information regarding education, experience, qualifications, and the performance of services.
18. Disclose any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest and avoid conduct that could cause a conflict of interest.
19. Adhere to the guidelines established by your regulatory body and employer regarding soliciting or accepting industry gifts.
20. Participate in industry-associated research only when that research meets accepted ethical, regulatory, and scientific standards.
21. Contribute professionally as an author only in healthcare-related publications that meet accepted ethical, regulatory, and scientific standards.
22. Provide educational programs and materials with a fair and balanced presentation that meet guidelines as established by recognized accrediting bodies, are peer-reviewed, and/or meet regulatory requirements.
23. Uphold high standards of professional behavior at all times in the nursing role and RNFA specialty.

APPENDIX E – REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR THE CRNFA PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

You will find these reference materials extremely useful as you complete your CRNFA Professional Portfolio. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Texts

- AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice (most current version) (<https://aorn.org/guidelines/purchase-guidelines>)
- Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery (most current version) (<https://www.amazon.com/Alexanders-Care-Patient-Surgery-Rothrock/dp/0323479146>) OR
- Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique (most current version) (https://www.amazon.com/Berry-Kohns-Operating-Room-Technique-dp-0323709141/dp/0323709141/ref=dp_ob_image_bk)

Resources

- AORN Position Statement on RN First Assistants (<https://aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/position-statements>)
- AORN Position Statement on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in the Perioperative Setting (<https://aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/position-statements>)
- AORN Universal Protocol Comprehensive Surgical Checklist (AORN Member's Only Tool Kit on Correct Site Surgery: <https://aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/correct-site-surgery-tool-kit>)
- AORN Surgical Wound Classification Decision Tree (AORN *Guideline for Sterile Technique*) (AORN Member's Only: Guidelines and Clinical Resources > Clinical FAQs > Sterile Technique > How is the Surgical Wound Classification Determined > Surgical Wound Classification Decision Tree [pdf] <https://aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/clinical-faqs/sterile-technique>)
- ANA. Position Statement: Incivility, Bullying, and Workplace Violence (<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/incivility-bullying-and-workplace-violence/>)
- ANA Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements for Nurses (<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>)
- Perioperative Explications for the ANA Code of Ethics (AORN Member's Only Code of Ethics: <https://aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/code-of-ethics>)
- ASA Physical Status Classification (<https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/asa-physical-status-classification-system>)
- ERAS Protocols
 - <https://www.aana.com/practice/clinical-practice-resources/enhanced-recovery-after-surgery>
 - <https://erassociety.org/guidelines/list-of-guidelines/>
- HIPAA Regulation (<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>)
- State Nurse Practice Act (<https://www.ncsbn.org/npa.htm>)
- RNFA Regulations in Your State (AORN Member's Only: Government & Clinical Affairs > Government Affairs > My State > Select Your State > Registered Nurse First Assistants [RNFAs] <https://aorn.org/government-affairs/my-state>)
- Why you need your own malpractice insurance. <https://www.myamericannurse.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ant11-Malpractice-1023.pdf>
- What is the purpose of malpractice insurance? <https://allnurses.com/one-healthcare-risk-managers-view-t580070/>
- Should I carry nursing malpractice (liability) insurance? <https://allnurses.com/should-i-carry-nursing-malpractice-t278767/>

APPENDIX F – AUDIT VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Table E-1: Documents Potentially Required for Verification during an Audit.	
ACTIVITY	VERIFYING DOCUMENT
Continuing education through contact hours	Certificate of Attendance from accepted provider
Academic credit	Unofficial transcript
Teaching perioperative courses in an academic setting	Course description, Course Syllabus
Presentation	Program brochure, Activity Documentation Form, Course Evaluation, or other document verifying title, date, objectives, audience, and location of presentation
Service as a board or committee member	Letter from board or committee officer verifying membership
Service as a preceptor or mentor for the RNFA role	Letter from supervisor verifying service as RNFA preceptor or mentor
Service as a coach for RNAS-C or CRNFA certificant	Letter from candidate verifying service as a coach for RNAS-C or CRNFA certification
Perioperative volunteer service	Letter from supervisor or mission director on organization letterhead attesting to dates and contributions of volunteer
Perioperative-related certification/recertification	Copy of Certificate of Certification/Recertification, wallet card
Publication	Title page, Table of Contents, Abstract, or other document verifying authorship of the publication
NASC Task Force/Committee	Acceptance letter from NASC for task force or committee assignment
NASC Portfolio Evaluation Panel	Certificate from NASC for panel assignment
Clinical inquiry	Letter from Project Chair verifying participation in a QI, QA, EBP, or research project
Practice hour log	Letter or email from surgeon or supervisor verifying certificant has met the practice hour requirement