

**AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER  
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS  
 Item Writer Application – 2008  
 Core Clinical Nurse Specialist Examination**



**Directions:**

1. Complete ALL sections of the application and sign on the signature page.  
**Attach a copy of your vitae.**
2. Type or print your responses. Do not use abbreviations.
3. Mail or fax your completed application to:  
 ANCC/Measurement Services – Tawana Brown  
 8515 Georgia Ave  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3402  
**Fax: 301-628-5353**

<b>MS OFFICE ONLY</b>
Notes:

Personal Information	
Legal Name:	
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>M.I.</i></span>
Address:	
Credentials:	
Home Phone: (      )	Home Fax: (      )
Personal E-mail Address:	
Certification Name and ID (1): Certification Name and ID (2): Certification Name and ID (3):	Date Certified (most recent): Date Certified (most recent): Date Certified (most recent):
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Currently Certified	

Employer Information	
Employer:	
Work Address:	
Job Title:	Department:
Work Phone: (      )	Work Fax: (      )
Office E-mail Address:	

**Employment Practice Setting:** Select all that apply :

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home/Long-Term Care            | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospice               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term Care                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Solo Practice                          | <input type="checkbox"/> School Health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory Care       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managed Care                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/ Community Health               | <input type="checkbox"/> Group  | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Nursing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational /Environmental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse – Managed Practice Group/ Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Nursing (Physician/Dentist/ Nurse Practitioner) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |

**Are you currently employed in clinical nursing practice providing direct patient care?**

PLEASE NOTE: This does not include working with students during clinical rotations.

- Yes    If Yes, indicate which category(ies) of entry-level you work with:     RN     LPN/VN     NP/CNS  
 No

If you responded "yes" above please indicate the average number of hours per week you give direct patient care.

- 1-8     9-16     17-24     25-34     35-39     40     40+

**Are you currently employed as a faculty/staff member at a school/college of nursing?**     Yes     No

If employed by a school/college of nursing program and teaching RN or Advanced Practice Nursing content, check the type of program:     RN Diploma     RN Associate Degree     RN Baccalaureate     Nursing Masters     Nursing Doctorate

**Indicate current area(s) of clinical specialization.**

- Critical Care     Geriatric     Adult Psychiatric     Child/Adolescent Psychiatric  
 Medical/Surgical     Community Home Health     Home Health     Pediatrics  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have access to a personal computer with either Internet Explorer (6.0 or higher) or FireFox (1.0 or higher) and internet access?**     Yes     No

**Do you have a laptop with a wireless modem and Internet Explorer (6.0 or higher) or FireFox (1.0 or higher) to bring to the workshop?**     Yes     No

**Have you completed any previous item writing training?**     Yes     No

If so, please specify Organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Training(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**List your Educational Preparation: graduate work, basic nursing education: List highest level first.**

Graduate Level Educational Preparation			
Educational Institution	Area Of Major Concentration	Degree Or Number Of Credits	Year Degree Received

**Professional Experience: List most recent first.**

Professional Experience			
Organization	Position/Title	Clinical Specialty	Years Of Practice

## Writing Exercises

1. **Briefly state why you would like to become an item writer. This might include what you hope to gain from the instruction and the experience or your personal goals.** (Attach your typed response – No more than 150 words)
2. **What special qualities or experiences do you feel you will bring to the task of writing items? This might include item-writing, practical, and/or teaching experience.** (Attach your typed response – No more than 150 words)
3. **Complete item writing exercises A and B**

A. Review and edit one (1) of the two (2) test items listed below. As you edit the item, consider both content and grammar.

1. A 32-year-old patient who is receiving a low-thoracic epidural infusion with a combined opioid and a local anesthetic is being assessed by the clinical nurse specialist for the extent of motor blockade. Twelve hours after gastric bypass surgery, the patient is asked by the clinical nurse specialist to:
  1. count backwards by 7's from one hundred.
  2. raise their buttocks and wiggle their toes.
  3. turn, cough, and breathe deeply.
  4. touch the tip of their nose with their right hand.
2. An elderly man has worked over 35 years in a grain factory and tells the clinical nurse specialist that he has coughed for a long time and has trouble breathing, which is getting worse. The patient has smoked 1 ½ packs of cigarettes a day for the past 30 years. He has increased AP diameter, short expirations, and a pulmonary function study indicates an abnormal forced expiratory volume. What risk factor for this patient will be given immediate attention?
  1. Age of patient
  2. Cigarette smoking
  3. Gender of the patient
  4. Work environment

B. Write one (1) multiple-choice item with four (4) options on a topic you choose related to nutrition.

When writing your item, use the following criteria:

1. Only one (1) option is to be correct while the other three options are to be completely incorrect.
2. The item must be phrased in the positive (do not use negatives such as NOT or NEVER). Also, the item stem must be in the form of a complete question or as an incomplete sentence (such as "Which procedure is recommended for a patient with an occluded distal superficial femoral artery?" or "The clinical nurse specialist who is teaching a patient positive coping skills recommends:") Do not use fill-in-the-blank style items.
3. Along with your test item, indicate the correct answer and provide a rationale for why it is correct.
4. Type your item on a separate sheet and attach it to this application.

## Signature

**Please sign this form.** Your signature below verifies that the information provided in this application is correct to the best of your knowledge. It also verifies that you are willing to go through the selection process and if selected you agree to attend a three-day face to face workshop in Atlanta, GA on March 3-5, 2008 and commit to a one year term submitting a total of 70 questions. You will begin to write questions during the item writing workshop and agree to submit at least seven questions per month.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 12/6/2007

**AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER  
COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION**

**EXAMINATION SECURITY, CONFIDENTIALITY  
AND NO-CONFLICT OF INTEREST AGREEMENT**

My signature on this document indicates that I agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the ANCC/COC Policy on Conflict of Interest as specifically applied to certification activities. I agree to the following terms and conditions in conjunction with my duties as an

**Item Writer**

For and in consideration of the general professional benefits of participating in the work of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), including public recognition for my contribution to the profession of nursing, the undersigned agrees:

1. I shall maintain the security and confidentiality of all confidential examination materials assigned, produced, developed, or reviewed by me while under my control or possession. I shall report any suspected breach I witness or of which I become aware.
2. I shall not reproduce, divulge, or disseminate in any form any portion of the confidential examination materials assigned, produced, developed, or reviewed by me.
3. I shall not retain in any form the original or copies of the confidential examination materials assigned, produced, developed, or reviewed by me after the completion of the project.
4. I shall submit all confidential examination materials to ANCC through either the specified authorized secure courier or through the Castle Worldwide, Inc.'s I-Dev online item development system following ANCC instructions.
5. I shall keep the confidential examination materials, including, but not limited to, written materials, diskettes, CD-ROMs, and usernames and/or pass codes, in a locked cabinet while under my possession.
6. I shall consider usernames and/or passwords granted to me by ANCC as confidential and shall not reproduce, divulge, or disseminate them in any form to any persons or entity.
7. I shall not allow any person, other than those authorized by ANCC Measurement Services, to have access to any account granted to me in relation to the Castle Worldwide, Inc. I-Dev online item development system.
8. During the term of my office and for two (2) years thereafter, I will not participate in any manner in an activity that prepares (or purports to prepare) individuals to take an ANCC certification examination, including, but not limited to, (1) offering or participating in a course or program that prepares individuals for an ANCC certification examination or (2) writing or contributing to a publication or forum, electronic or otherwise, including, but not limited to, bulletin boards, listservs, chat rooms, and focus groups, that prepares individuals, formally or informally, for an ANCC certification examination.
9. I represent and warrant that all examination items that I develop or produce are original works and I hereby hold ANCC harmless for any claims for copyright infringement arising from my development or production of such items
10. I agree that all examination items that I develop, produce, or review shall be considered works made for hire, become the property of ANCC, and that I shall not make further use of them without written permission from ANCC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Item Writer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area of Certification and Certification Number (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of ANCC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

rev 12/03/2007

## **Policy on Conflict of Interest as Specifically Applied to Certification Activities**

During their term of office, and for two (2) years thereafter, ANCC/COC officials participating in the certification process (including Board on Certification members and Content Expert Panel members) shall not engage in any activity that could be considered to constitute a conflict of interest. Such activities include, but are not necessarily limited to, those in which an individual: 1) receives money in exchange for knowledge acquired directly from participation in the ANCC/COC certification program, 2) compromises the security of examination materials or candidate identity, or 3) releases information that provides an advantage to certain candidates. ANCC/COC officials will be required to sign a form, entitled Certification Security Agreement, indicating that they agree to abide by the conditions of this policy.

### **Examples of activities judged to be inappropriate include:**

- 1. Offering (or participating in) an examination preparation course for an ANCC certification examination, whether or not the individual has participated in test developmental activities.**
- 2. Writing or contributing to a publication intended to prepare individuals for ANCC certification examinations.**
- 3. Informally advising a candidate about the content of the test (e.g. "Don't forget to study DRGs") beyond that contained in the test content outline, but not releasing specific test items.**

For instances in which staff cannot clearly interpret whether or not a conflict exists, staff would consult with the chair of the respective content expert panel or the chair of the board on certification. For example, a question involving a content expert panel member could be evaluated by the chair of that panel, the chair of the board on certification, or the chair of the Commission on Certification.

Violations will be referred to the appropriate committee for action, which may include, but may not be limited to, removal from the panel.

Adopted: Interim Board on Certification, November 14-15, 1985

Revised: Board on Certification, May 8, 1986

Adopted: Commission on Certification, June 1991

Reviewed: Commission on Certification, June 27-28, 1994, June 28-29, 1995, October 31-November 1, 1996, May 28-29, 1998,

Revised: Commission on Certification, March 30-31, 2001