

Advanced Practice Examination in Wound Care: Eligibility, Registration, Preparation and Recertification

Eligibility Criteria:

- Hold a current RN license and/or APN license in your State or territory
- Hold a masters degree or higher to become an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, APRN (NP, CNS, CNM, CRNA)
- Fulfill one of the following requirements to document basic Wound, Ostomy and/or Continence knowledge*
 - Accredited Education Program Pathway
 - Experiential Pathway
 - Current entry-level WOCNCB certification in the specialty or specialties for which Advanced Practice certification is desired

Register for the Exam thru Castle Worldwide Inc. All APRNs must initially pass the AP-exam specialty test for Advanced Practice, AP, certification

- The online application process is available at www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb/
 - If this is the first time you will test with Castle Worldwide, then you will need to contact them to obtain an online password: 919-572-6880
 - Provide Castle with the needed documents prior to scheduling your exam
- Choose a testing location where you will sit for your exam(s)

Exam Preparation:

- Download the AP Exam Content Outlines on the WOCNCB Advanced Practice Certification webpage: <http://www.wocncb.org/certification/exam-preparation/exam-content-outlines>
 - The practice domains and related tasks are outlined with the number of scored exam questions to be found on each specialty test (80)
 - 10 additional non-scored test items are included in the exam for a total of 90 questions
 - Review the content areas to assess where additional self-study may be needed
 - Create a study plan with an allotted time frame
 - Remember the exam has been designed to assess entry-level specialty knowledge – both in the direct and the indirect care APRN role
- References and Resource Materials to assist in the study preparation for the Wound Care AP exam:
 - WOCN Guidelines for the Management and Prevention of Patients with LEAD (2014), LEND (2012), LEVD (2011) and Pressure Ulcers (2010). Mt. Laurel: WOCN.
 - An authoritative textbook for the Wound Care Specialty, examples include:
 - Bryant, R.A. & Nix, D.P. (2012). *Acute & Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby.
 - Krasner, D.L. (2014). *Chronic Wound Care: The Essentials*. 1st ed. Malvern: HMP Communications.

*details available at <http://www.wocncb.org/certification/advance-practice-certification/eligibility>

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- References and Resource Materials to assist in the study preparation for the Wound Care AP exam (continued):
 - Peer-reviewed journals specializing in Wound Care, examples include:
 - [*Advances in Skin and Wound Care*](#), Wolters Kluwer Health
 - [*Journal of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing \(JWOCN\)*](#), Wolters Kluwer Health – JWOCN “Getting Ready for Certification” articles are now open access. No login is required to access those articles.
 - [*Ostomy Wound Management*](#), HMP Communications
 - APRN Professional Practice Resources addressing the topics of advanced assessment, professional roles and responsibilities and nursing research, examples include:
 - Bickley, L.S., Szilagyi, P.G., & Bates, B. (2007). *Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
 - Hamric, A.B., Hanson, C.M., Tracy, M.R, O’Grady, E.T. (2014). *Advanced Practice Nursing: An Integrative Approach*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Saunders.
 - WOCN Society. (2010). *Wound, ostomy, and continence nursing: Scope & standards of practice*. Mt. Laurel: Author.
 - Burns, N & Grove, S.K. (2010). *Understanding Nursing Research: Building an Evidence-Based Practice*. 5th ed. St. Louis: Saunders/
 - Polit, D.E & Beck, C.T. (2011). *Nursing Research: Generating and Assessing Evidence for Nursing Practice*. 9th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Recertification: The recertification period is every 5 years (similar to all WOCNCB credentials). There are 2 pathways for recertification: AP portfolio or retesting:

- Submit a WOCNCB Advanced Practice Portfolio per each nursing certification specialty to meet:
 - 350 clinical hours related to the specialty
 - 40 continuing education hours related to the specialty
 - One (1) professional AP level activity defined in the WOC AP Portfolio Handbook
 - Details available at <http://www.wocncb.org/recertification/advance-practice-recertification>
- Retest thru the WOCNCB-AP Exam venue (please see Register for Exam above)