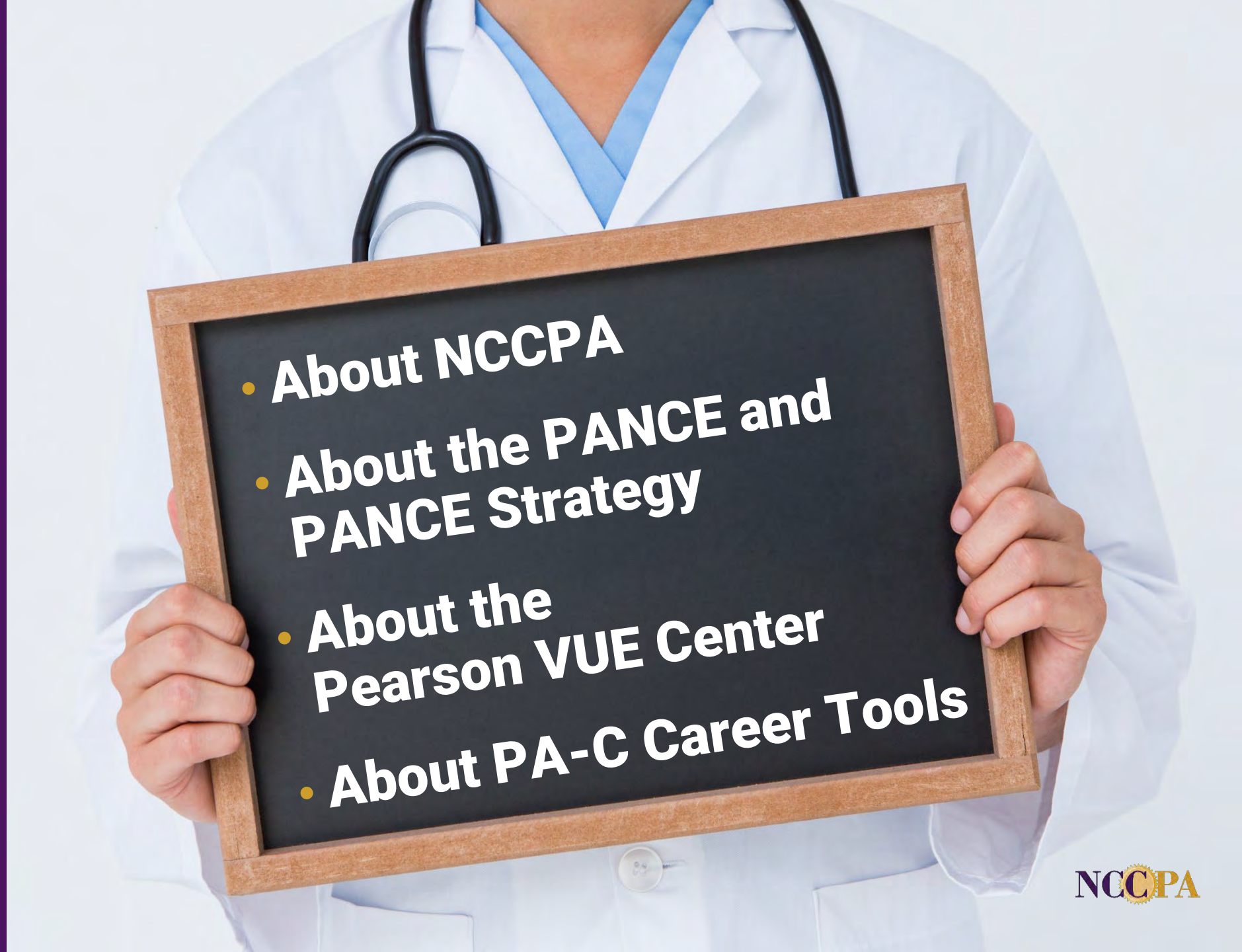
NCCPA
Certification. Excellence.

NCCPA FOR STUDENTS:

PANCE AT A GLANCE

Jeff Boswell
Presentation, Exhibits & Events Manager
Student Outreach Ambassador, NCCPA

TODAY YOU'LL LEARN MORE …



THE NCCPA IS…

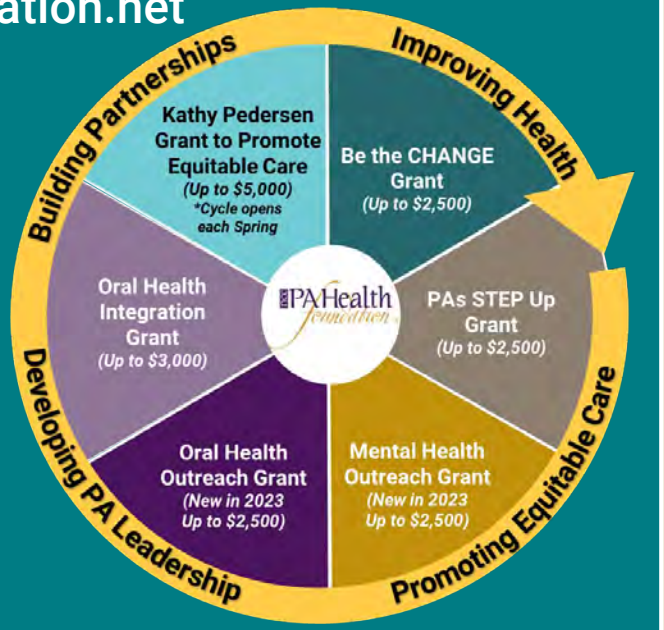
- The only national certifying body for PAs and has been since its inception in 1974
- Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)
- Continually exploring strategies to most effectively provide a relevant and meaningful initial certification and recertification processes
- Committed to finding ways to minimize the burden of certification maintenance

NCCPA SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

nccPA Health Foundation

Funding & Resources for Better Health

- New! Updated Website: nccPAHealthFoundation.net
- Up to $2,500 for year-round grants
- >135 projects, just like yours!
- Be the change: Address mental health, oral health, health disparities, equitable care, and/or DEI needs in your community



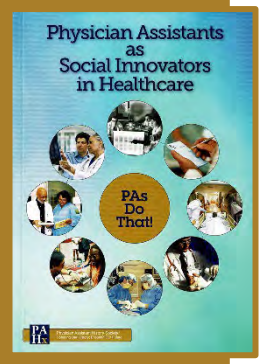
PAHx

Physician Assistant History Society®

Honoring our History; Ensuring our Future

Explore PA history at www.pahx.org

- PA profession Timelines
- Biographies
- Interviews and inspiring stories



Know your PA profession – Brand New Book!

- Learn about the profession as a transformative social innovation.
- Perfect resource to learn about the history and evolutionary changes of the profession over the years.

NCCPA Guiding Principles

- NCCPA is dedicated to serving the interest of the public
- We remain committed to the flexibility that PAs have to change specialties during their career and to work in multiple specialties

YOU CAN'T SPELL NCCPA WITHOUT PAs

PAs are involved in many important aspects of the NCCPA, and we are passionate about the people of the PA profession.

Our Board of Directors

17 Voting Members

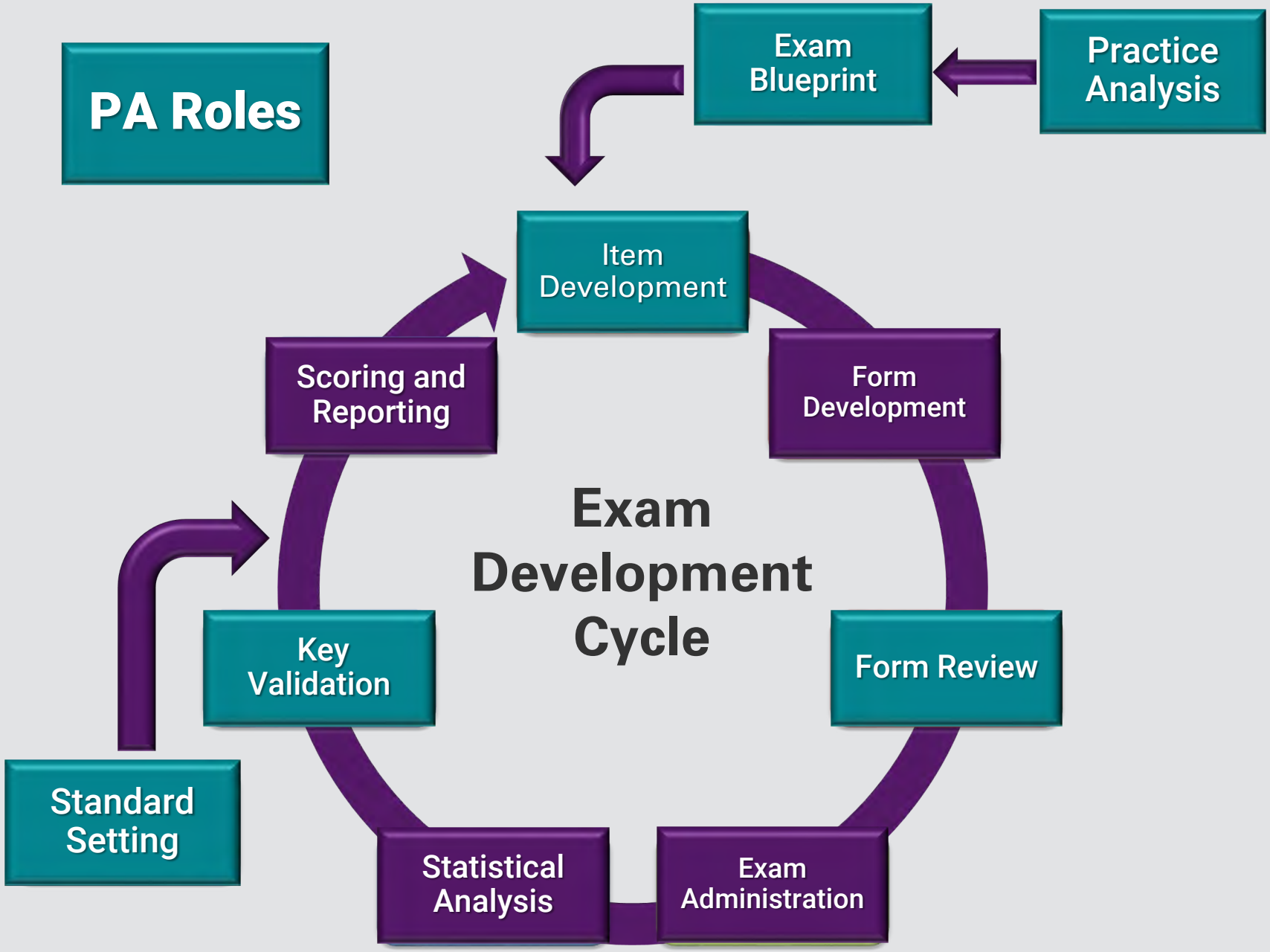
1 **Non-Voting Member**
NCCPA President/CEO (also a PA-C)

2 **Public Members**

5 **Physician Members**
Comprised of: 1 MD nominee from AMA; 1 DO nominee from AOA; 3 Physician Directors-at-Large

10 **PA Members**
Comprised of: 1 PA nominee from AAPA; 1 PA nominee from PAEA; 1 PA nominee from FSMB; 7 PA Directors-at-Large

NCCPA



PA INVOLVEMENT IN THE EXAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

NCCPA

REQUIREMENTS TO EARN YOUR PA-C

Graduation from a PA program accredited by ARC-PA

- Students must graduate or complete program requirements before taking the exam

Passing score on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE)

- Students can be certified within 4 weeks of graduation or less in most cases

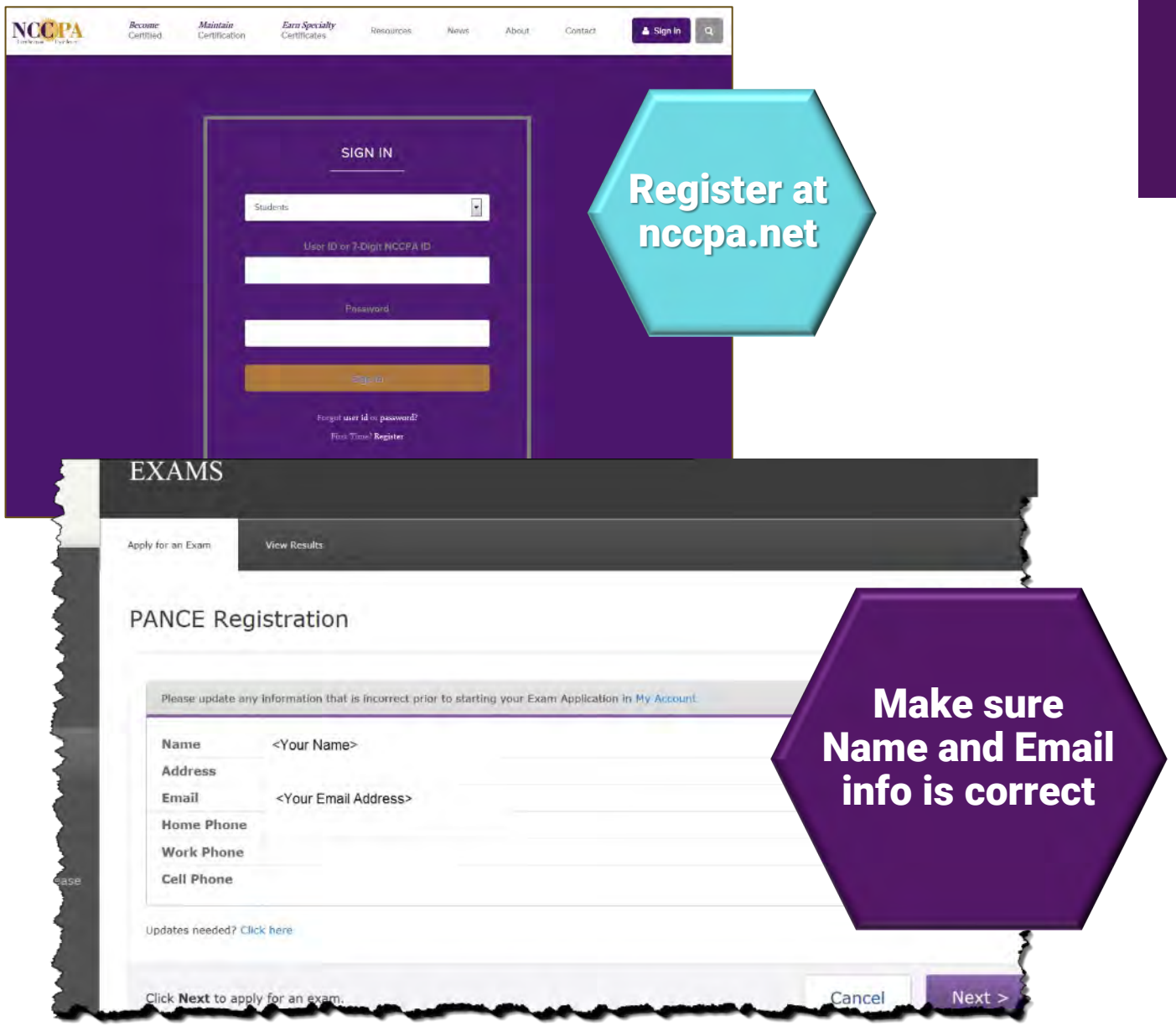
NCCPA

PANCE

REGISTRATION & APPLICATION

NCCPA

PANCE REGISTRATION



- You can apply as soon as your program has entered your expected graduation date but no sooner than 180 days prior to your expected graduation date

- Test Accommodations
  - NCCPA policy requires PA Program AND Medical documentation

EXAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT EMAIL – Important Information

- You'll receive an Exam Acknowledgement email from NCCPA 1-3 days after the application process has been completed
- Link to Pearson VUE site and details on how to schedule your exam
- 180-day exam window
  (starting 7 days after your graduation date)
- Policy reminders
- ★ **Preparing for PANCE information and a link to exam tutorial/demonstration**
- What to expect on exam day

NCCPA

EXAM TUTORIAL VIDEO – www.pearsonvue.com/nccpa

Pearson | VUE Take a test Partner with us Become a test center COVID-19 update Contact us

Home > Test-taker home > National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

program is designed to augment PA-C certification, so to be eligible for the CAQ program, PAs must first be currently certified by the NCCPA. They also must have an unrestricted license or government privileges to practice as a PA. The program requirements include CME, experience, procedures/case management, and lastly passing an exam. CAQs are valid for ten years provided certification and licensure requirements are maintained. For more information on this new program, click on the CAQ link in the Related Links section of this site.

NCCPA Tutorial Information

Physician assistants are encouraged to take the sample online tutorials provided below prior to their exam day to become familiar with the computer functions. The tutorial provides an opportunity to practice:

- Navigating through the examination
- Answering questions
- Changing answers
- Marking questions for review
- Accessing the table of laboratory values

Tutorials:

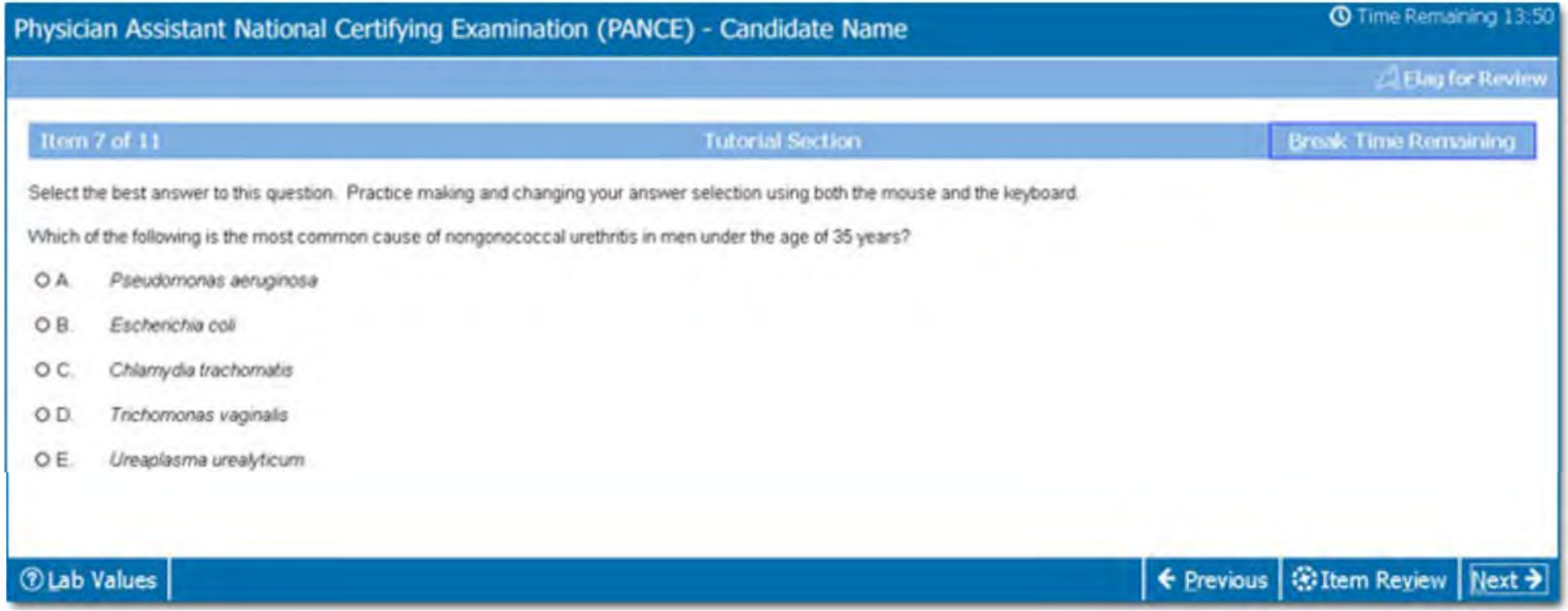
- PANCE and PANRE Exam Tutorial
- CAQ Exam Tutorial

Related links

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) website
- PANCE Content Blueprint
- PANRE Content Blueprint
- PANCE/PANRE Practice Exams
- Sample PANCE Questions
- Sample PANRE Questions
- Specialty CAQs
- What to expect on test day
- What to expect in a Pearson VUE test center

NCCPA

PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM



PANCE

WHAT'S ON THE EXAM?

NCCPA

PANCE Quick Glance

- Computer-based exam administered at Pearson VUE
- 200+ exam centers (www.pearsonvue.com/nccpa)
- 300 multiple-choice questions that assess general medical and surgical knowledge

- Five-hour exam
  - **15-minute tutorial at beginning of exam**
  - **5 blocks of 60 questions, 60 minutes each**
  - **45 minutes of break time for the entire day**

EXAM CONTENT BLUEPRINT

Two dimensions:

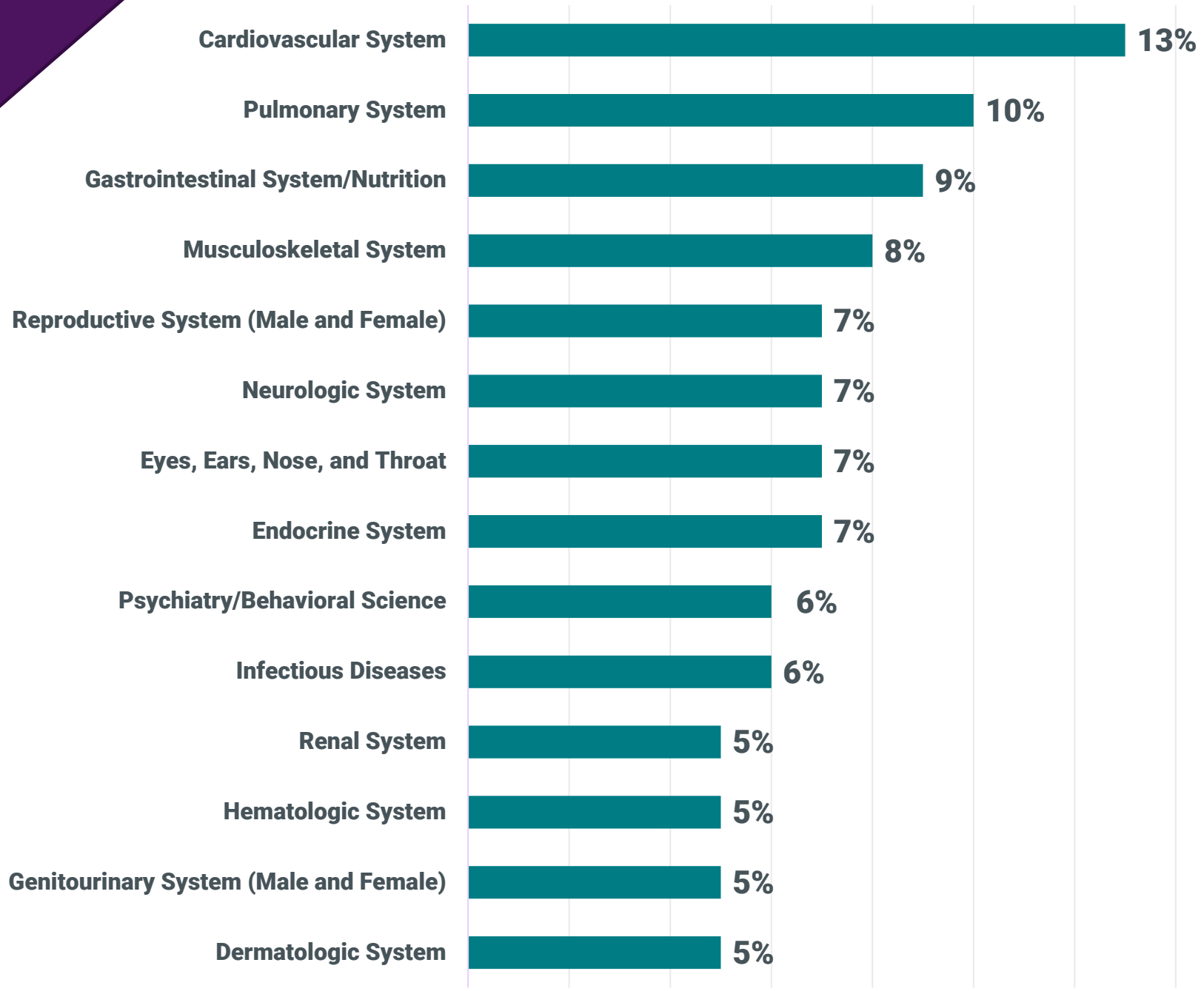
1. Organ systems and the diseases, disorders and medical assessments PAs encounter within those systems
2. The Knowledge and Skills PAs should exhibit when confronted with those diseases, disorders and assessments

Can be found at:

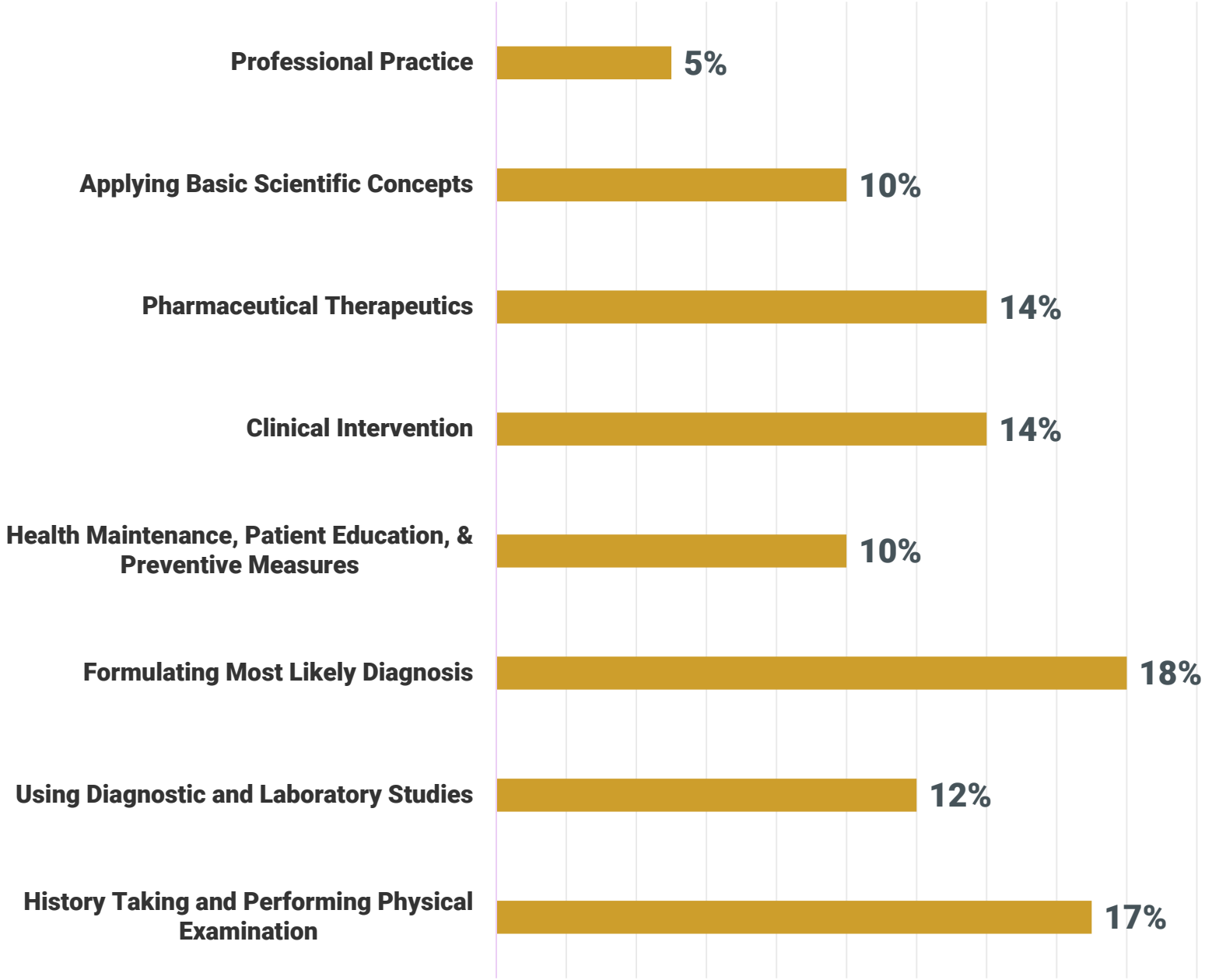
nccpa.net/pance-content-blueprint

NCCPA

% DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT BY ORGAN SYSTEM



NCCPA



NCCPA

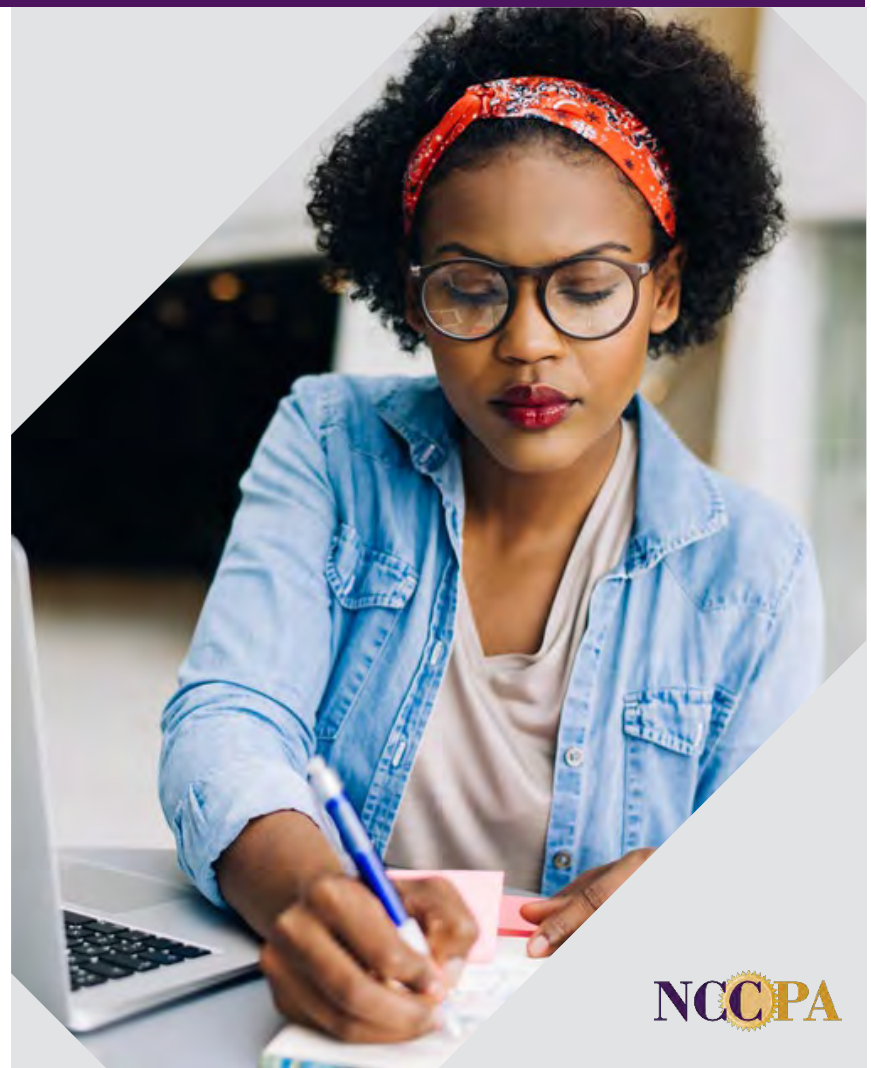
% DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT BY KNOWLEDGE & SKILL (TASK) AREAS

Preparing for PANCE Every Day

- You are preparing for PANCE every day through the way you are learning in your program
- The most difficult part of preparing for PANCE is **sorting out** the jam-packed vault of knowledge in your own head

PRACTICE EXAMS

- 120 questions taken from the retired exam item banks
  (Two sections of 60 questions each)
- General performance feedback helps inform your exam preparation
- Practice exam cost: $50
- Register online the same way you do for a certification exam



Format of Practice Exam Feedback

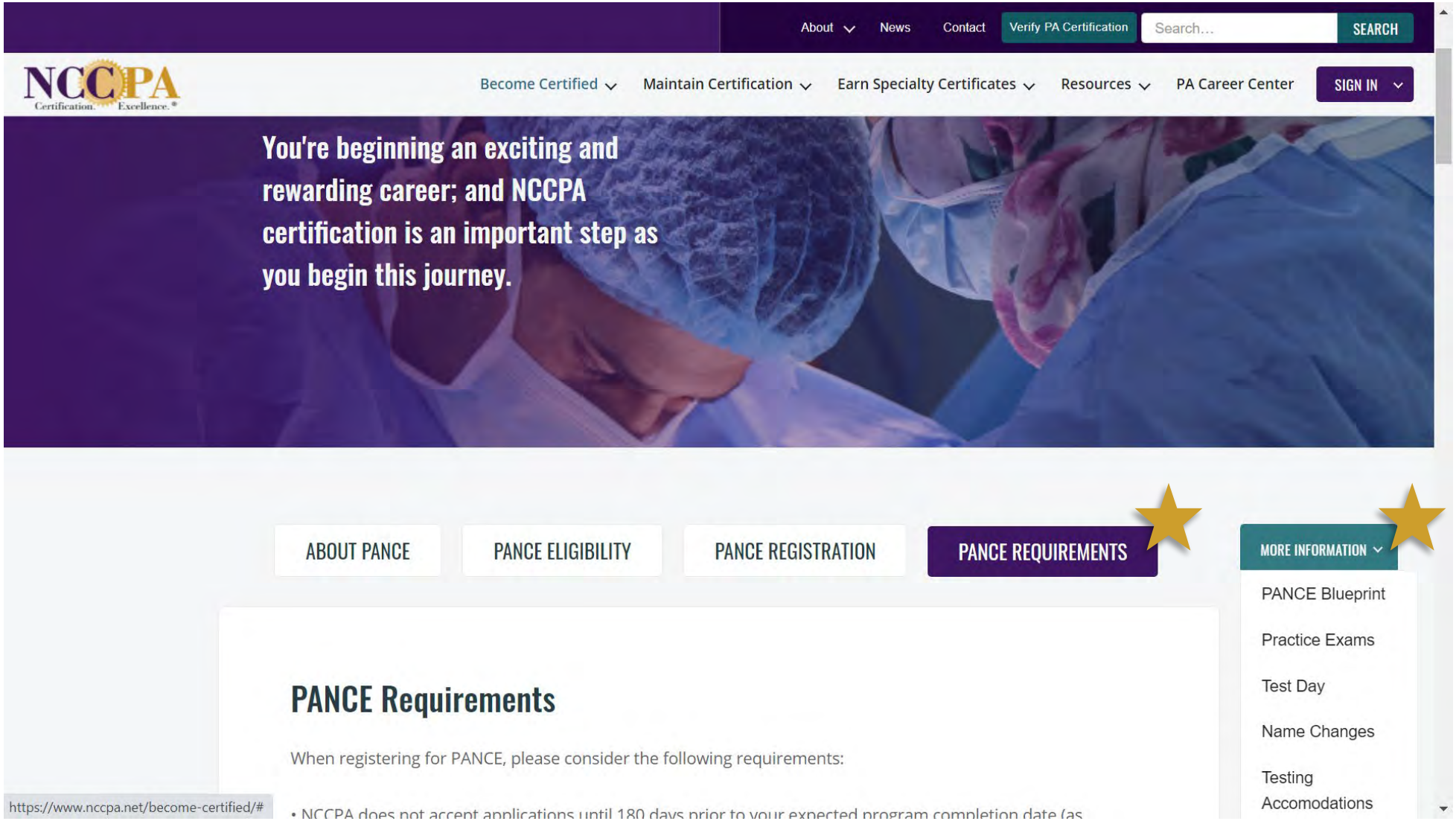
By Exam Content and Task Area

Performance band for overall performance

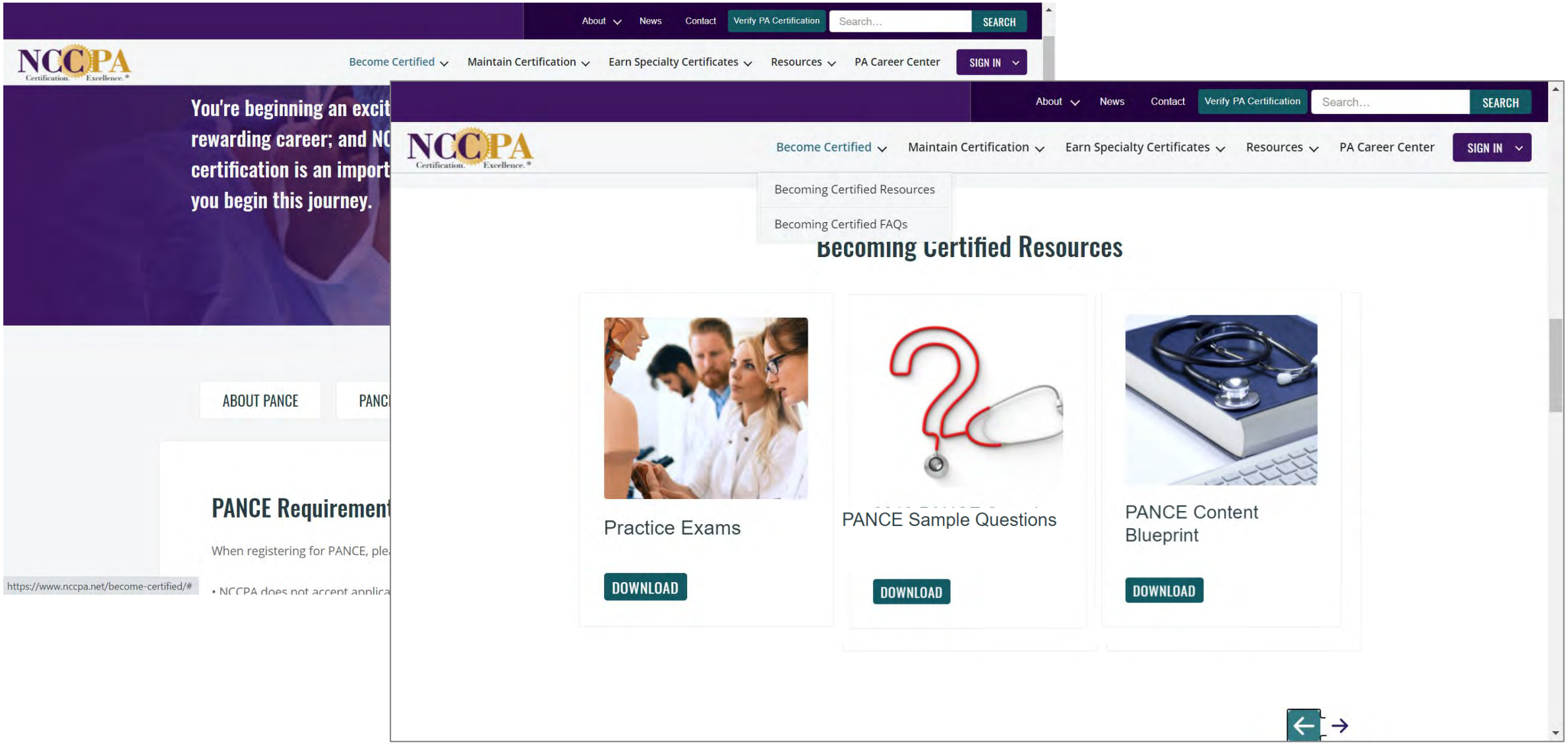
Your mean performance on the test questions in each content area

Mean performance of test questions when last administered on exam

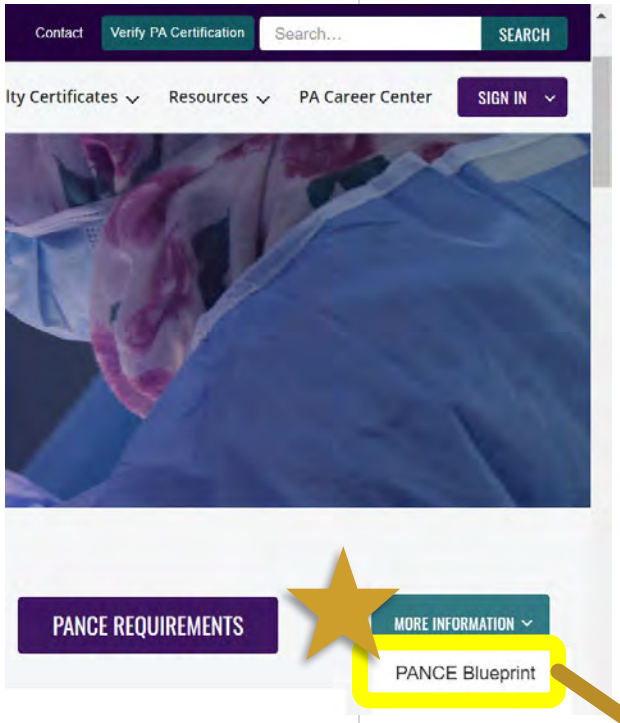
NCCPA.NET > BECOME CERTIFIED



NCCPA.NET > BECOME CERTIFIED RESOURCES & FAQs



NCCPA.NET > BECOME CERTIFIED



NCCPA Certification. Excellence.®

Become Certified | Maintain Certification | Ear

Task Categories	Percent Allocation*
History Taking and Performing Physical Examination	17%
Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies	12%
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	18%
Managing Patients	
Health Maintenance, Patient Education, and Preventive Measures	10%
Clinical Intervention	14%
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	14%
Applying Basic Scientific Concepts	10%
Professional Practice	5%

*Medical content comprises 95% of the exam. All medical content questions are also coded to one of the task areas, with the exception of the professional p
Questions related to professional practice issues comprise 5% of the exam. In addition, up to 20% of the exam may be related to general surgical topics. The
allocations may vary slightly on exams.

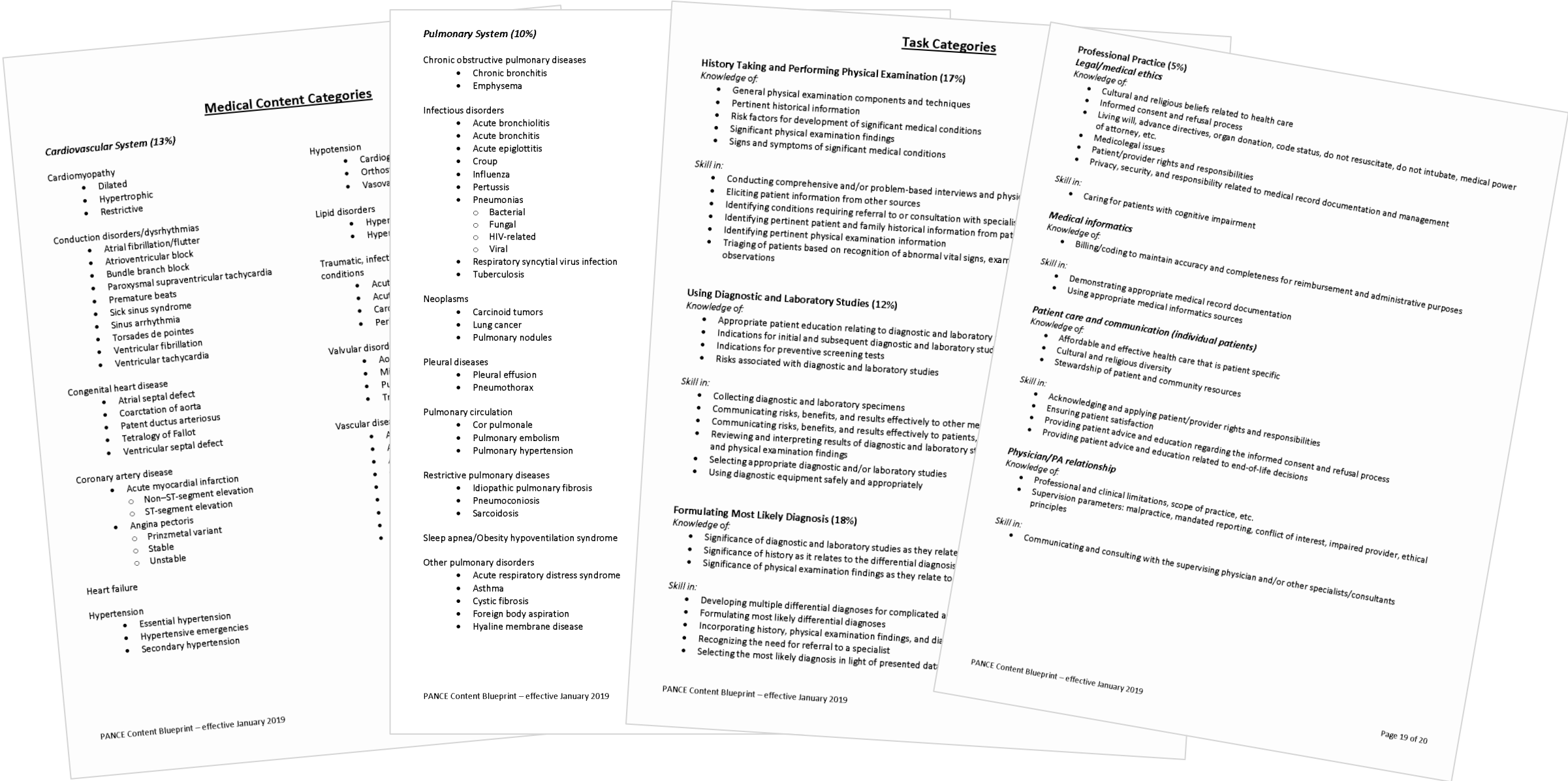
PANCE Content Blueprint (effective for all PANCE administrations between January 2019 and December 2024)

Sample NCCPA Questions

PAs preparing for PANCE have often asked the NCCPA about how the exam items are developed and should be answered. To help address that request, NCC
removed from the item pool and created a tool for PAs. In the PDF document below, PAs can review sample NCCPA items and critiques written by NCCPA tes

To review sample NCCPA questions and explanations regarding why the correct answer is correct and why the other answer choices are incorrect, please clic

NCCPA.NET > BECOME CERTIFIED



Medical Content Categories

Cardiovascular System (13%)

Cardiomyopathy
- Dilated
- Hypertrophic
- Restrictive

Conduction disorders/dysrhythmias
- Atrial fibrillation/flutter
- Atrioventricular block
- Bundle branch block
- Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
- Premature beats
- Sick sinus syndrome
- Sinus arrhythmia
- Torsades de pointes
- Ventricular fibrillation
- Ventricular tachycardia

Congenital heart disease
- Atrial septal defect
- Coarctation of aorta
- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Ventricular septal defect

Coronary artery disease
- Acute myocardial infarction
  - Non–ST-segment elevation
  - ST-segment elevation
- Angina pectoris
  - Prinzmetal variant
  - Stable
  - Unstable

Heart failure

Hypertension
- Essential hypertension
- Hypertensive emergencies
- Secondary hypertension

Hypotension
- Cardiog
- Orthost
- Vasova

Lipid disorders
- Hyper
- Hyper

Traumatic, infect
conditions
- Acut
- Acut
- Card
- Per

Valvular disord
- Ao
- Mi
- Pu
- Tr

Vascular dise
- A

PANCE Content Blueprint – effective January 2019

Pulmonary System (10%)

Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases
- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema

Infectious disorders
- Acute bronchiolitis
- Acute bronchitis
- Acute epiglottitis
- Croup
- Influenza
- Pertussis
- Pneumonias
  - Bacterial
  - Fungal
  - HIV-related
  - Viral
- Respiratory syncytial virus infection
- Tuberculosis

Neoplasms
- Carcinoid tumors
- Lung cancer
- Pulmonary nodules

Pleural diseases
- Pleural effusion
- Pneumothorax

Pulmonary circulation
- Cor pulmonale
- Pulmonary embolism
- Pulmonary hypertension

Restrictive pulmonary diseases
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Pneumoconiosis
- Sarcoidosis

Sleep apnea/Obesity hypoventilation syndrome

Other pulmonary disorders
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Asthma
- Cystic fibrosis
- Foreign body aspiration
- Hyaline membrane disease

PANCE Content Blueprint – effective January 2019

Task Categories

History Taking and Performing Physical Examination (17%)

Knowledge of:
- General physical examination components and techniques
- Pertinent historical information
- Risk factors for development of significant medical conditions
- Significant physical examination findings
- Signs and symptoms of significant medical conditions

Skill in:
- Conducting comprehensive and/or problem-based interviews and physi
- Eliciting patient information from other sources
- Identifying conditions requiring referral to or consultation with specialis
- Identifying pertinent patient and family historical information from pat
- Identifying pertinent physical examination information
- Triaging of patients based on recognition of abnormal vital signs, exam observations

Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies (12%)

Knowledge of:
- Appropriate patient education relating to diagnostic and laboratory
- Indications for initial and subsequent diagnostic and laboratory stud
- Indications for preventive screening tests
- Risks associated with diagnostic and laboratory studies

Skill in:
- Collecting diagnostic and laboratory specimens
- Communicating risks, benefits, and results effectively to other me
- Communicating risks, benefits, and results effectively to patients,
- Reviewing and interpreting results of diagnostic and laboratory st and physical examination findings
- Selecting appropriate diagnostic and/or laboratory studies
- Using diagnostic equipment safely and appropriately

Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis (18%)

Knowledge of:
- Significance of diagnostic and laboratory studies as they relate
- Significance of history as it relates to the differential diagnosis
- Significance of physical examination findings as they relate to

Skill in:
- Developing multiple differential diagnoses for complicated a
- Formulating most likely differential diagnoses
- Incorporating history, physical examination findings, and dia
- Recognizing the need for referral to a specialist
- Selecting the most likely diagnosis in light of presented dat

PANCE Content Blueprint – effective January 2019

Professional Practice (5%)

Legal/medical ethics

Knowledge of:
- Cultural and religious beliefs related to health care
- Informed consent and refusal process
- Living will, advance directives, organ donation, code status, do not resuscitate, do not intubate, medical power of attorney, etc.
- Medicolegal issues
- Patient/provider rights and responsibilities
- Privacy, security, and responsibility related to medical record documentation and management

Skill in:
- Caring for patients with cognitive impairment

Medical informatics

Knowledge of:
- Billing/coding to maintain accuracy and completeness for reimbursement and administrative purposes

Skill in:
- Demonstrating appropriate medical record documentation
- Using appropriate medical informatics sources

Patient care and communication (individual patients)

Knowledge of:
- Affordable and effective health care that is patient specific
- Cultural and religious diversity
- Stewardship of patient and community resources

Skill in:
- Acknowledging and applying patient/provider rights and responsibilities
- Ensuring patient satisfaction
- Providing patient advice and education regarding the informed consent and refusal process
- Providing patient advice and education related to end-of-life decisions

Physician/PA relationship

Knowledge of:
- Professional and clinical limitations, scope of practice, etc.
- Supervision parameters: malpractice, mandated reporting, conflict of interest, impaired provider, ethical principles

Skill in:
- Communicating and consulting with the supervising physician and/or other specialists/consultants

PANCE Content Blueprint – effective January 2019

Page 19 of 20

EXAM TIPS

- **ANSWER EVERY QUESTION -** Your score is based on the number of questions you answer correctly; points aren't deducted for incorrect answers

- You may answer the questions within a block in any order
- There are NO "True/False", "All of the Above", or "None of the Above" questions on the exam
- After you exit a block of questions or after time expires for that block, you won't be allowed to review its questions or change your answers

NCCPA

PANCE

EXAM DAY: WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

NCCPA

EXAM DAY – IDENTIFY YOURSELF

- Two forms of valid ID required
- Be sure the name on the ID you will present at the test center matches your name as listed with NCCPA
- ★ If you don't have the appropriate ID, you won't be able to take your exam!
- If something goes wrong, call NCCPA before you leave the exam center! (678) 417-8100

PRIMARY ID

- Must be valid (not expired)
- Original document (not a photocopy or fax)
- Contain a permanently affixed photo of you, your pre-printed name and your signature

Acceptable examples (as long as they meet the criteria) are:

- Driver's license
- Passport
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Naturalization papers
- International Driver's License issued by government
- Employee ID
- State issued ID

NCCPA

SECONDARY ID

- Must be valid (not expired)
- Original document (not a photocopy or fax)
- Contain your pre-printed name and signature

Acceptable examples (as long as they meet the criteria) are:

- Driver's license
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Employee ID
- Social Security Card
- ★ Credit Card

NCCPA

EXAM DAY PREPARE & PLAN

- Read ALL correspondence from NCCPA
- Go to nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/What-to-Expect-on-Test-Day.pdf for detailed instructions about what to expect on exam day
- Arrive 30 minutes early on exam day for check-in
- Pearson VUE will take a photo and a palm vein scan each time you enter and leave the testing room
- Lockers will be provided to store your personal items or leave them at home or in your car

EXAM DAY PREPARE & PLAN

You won't be allowed to bring any personal items into the exam room including but not limited to:

- **Watches, bracelets & purses**
- **Electronic equipment**
- **Hats, jackets & sweaters**
- **Food & drink**
- **Notes**

NCCPA

EXAM DAY PREPARE & PLAN

- All examinees are provided with earplugs
- Noise Reducing Headsets are provided and can be requested at the test center – In some test centers, they already have them on the workstation
- All examinees are given one sheet of laminated paper and a dry erase marker to use during the exam
- The test center will also provide tissues
- A link to the list of comfort aids that do not require special accommodations can be found at: nccpa.net/TestingAccommodations

EXAM DAY BREAK TIME – SCHEDULED vs. UNSCHEDULED

- Take breaks between exam blocks (scheduled breaks)
  Keep in mind your total break time is limited to 45 minutes

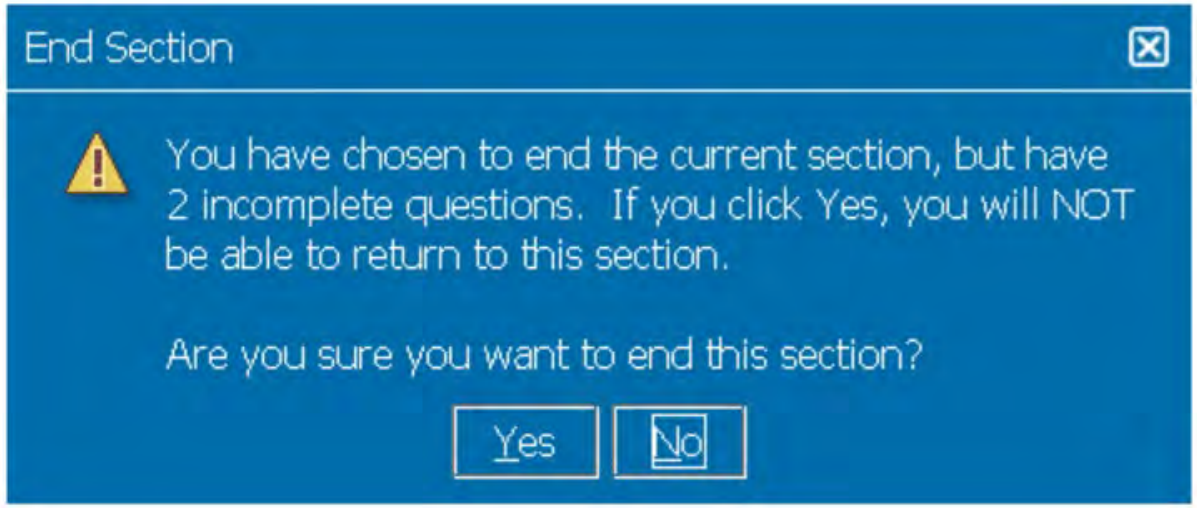
  - **Scheduled Break** – occurs BETWEEN exam blocks
  - **Unscheduled Break** – occurs DURING exam blocks

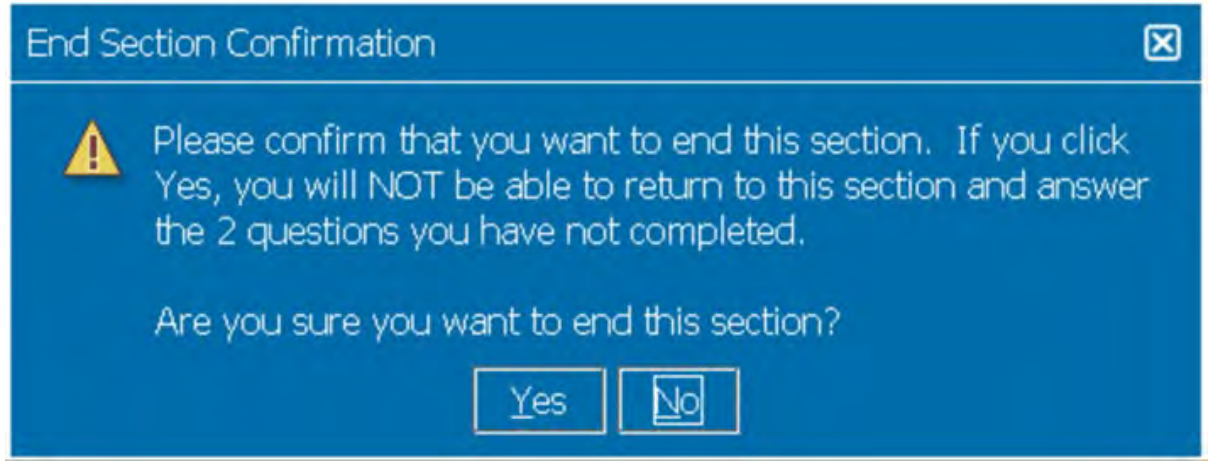
    Unscheduled breaks do not stop the clock

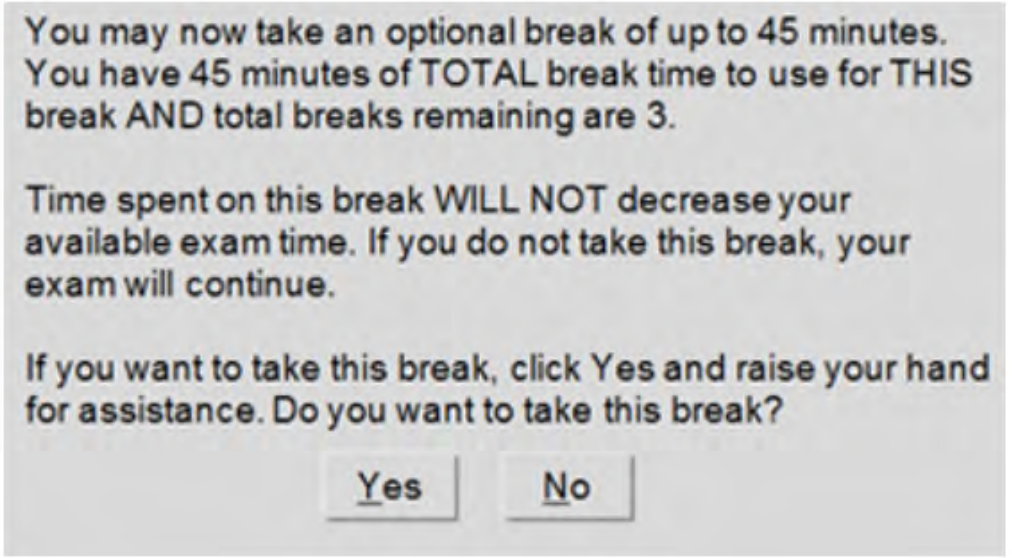
- Taking long or frequent breaks early may leave you with no break time — even between blocks —later in the day
- Each time you leave, you will be required to sign out and sign back in upon return

NCCPA

PANCE TUTORIAL END OF SECTION & BREAK REQUEST







“WHAT TO EXPECT” @ PEARSON VUE VIDEO – www.pearsonvue.com/nccpa

Pearson | VUE Take a test Partner with us

Become a test center COVID-19 update Contact us

Home > Test-taker home > National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

program is designed to augment PA-C certification, so to be eligible for the CAQ program, PAs must first be currently certified by the NCCPA. They also must have an unrestricted license or government privileges to practice as a PA. The program requirements include CME, experience, procedures/case management, and lastly passing an exam. CAQs are valid for ten years provided certification and licensure requirements are maintained. For more information on this new program, click on the CAQ link in the Related Links section of this site.

NCCPA Tutorial Information

Physician assistants are encouraged to take the sample online tutorials provided below prior to their exam day to become familiar with the computer functions. The tutorial provides an opportunity to practice:

- Navigating through the examination
- Answering questions
- Changing answers
- Marking questions for review
- Accessing the table of laboratory values

Tutorials:

- PANCE and PANRE Exam Tutorial
- CAQ Exam Tutorial

Related links

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) website
- PANCE Content Blueprint
- PANRE Content Blueprint
- PANCE/PANRE Practice Exams
- Sample PANCE Questions
- Sample PANRE Questions
- Specialty CAQs
- What to expect on test day
- What to expect in a Pearson VUE test center

NCCPA

PANCE

LIFE AFTER THE EXAM

NCCPA

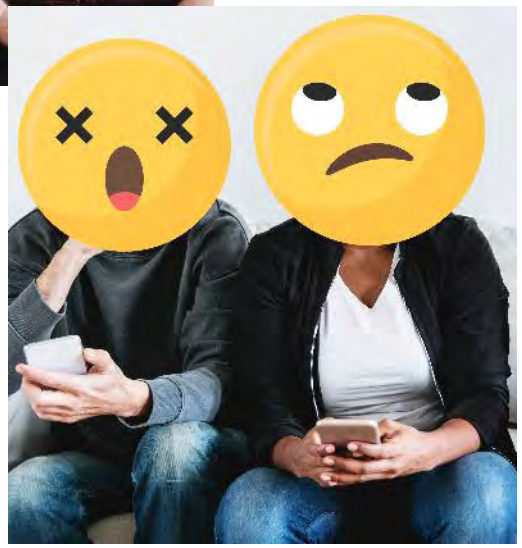
AFTER THE EXAM

- Do not discuss the exam with others
  - Sharing exam questions or even general subject matter with others constitutes “irregular behavior” and it is considered cheating. It’s just not worth it!

- If an unusual event or condition occurred during the administration of the exam, document the situation in writing and contact NCCPA within 3 business days of your exam

EXAM GRIEVANCE PROCESS

- Did an unusual event or condition occur during the administration of your exam?
- Report any incident to Pearson VUE staff before leaving and get an Incident Report #
- Submit information to: examgrievances@nccpa.net
- Must be submitted within three (3) business days of your exam date
- Simply reporting your grievance to the test center staff does not constitute a formal examination grievance

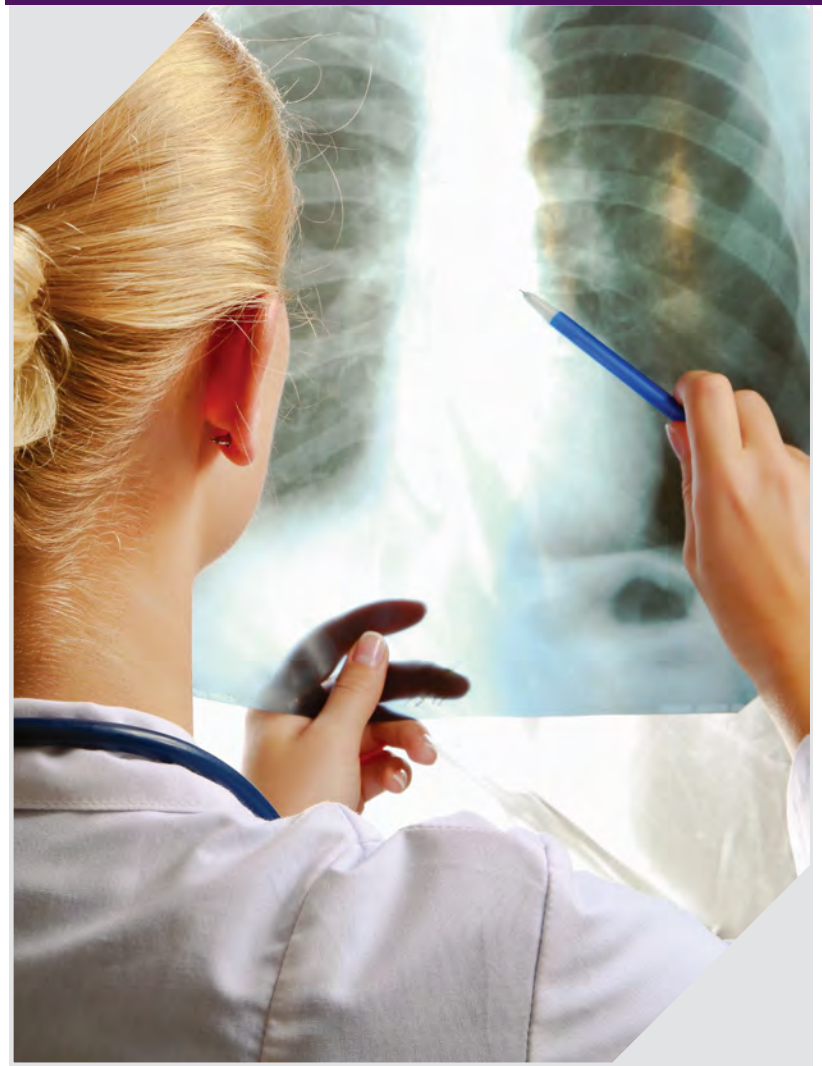


EXAM GRIEVANCE PROCESS

- What is an example of a reportable grievance?
- You may **NOT** submit an exam grievance for the following:
  - Exam Score
  - Exam Content

NCCPA

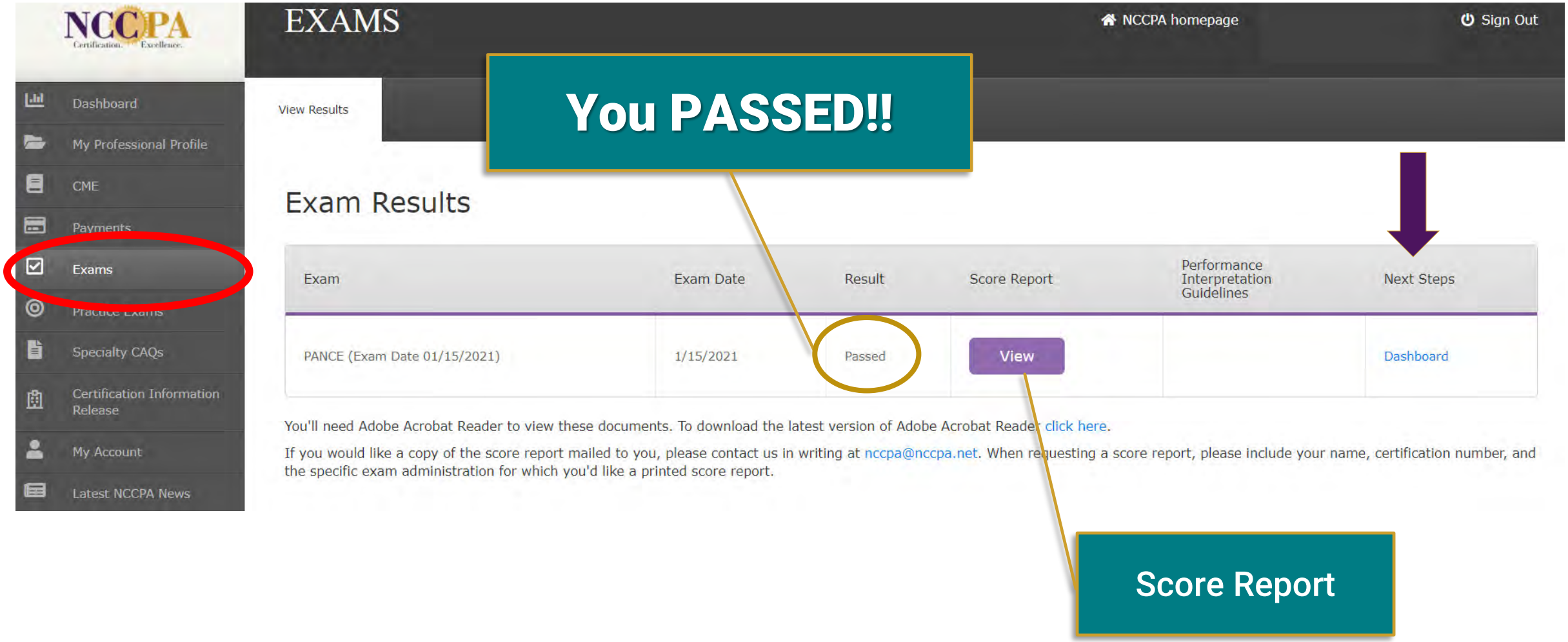
GETTING YOUR RESULTS



- When your results are ready (about two weeks after your exam date) you will receive email instructions for accessing your score report available via your online account

- To ensure receipt of your score notification email, be sure NCCPA has your current email address

VIEWING YOUR RESULTS



NCCPA

KEEP IN MIND TWO KEY POLICIES:

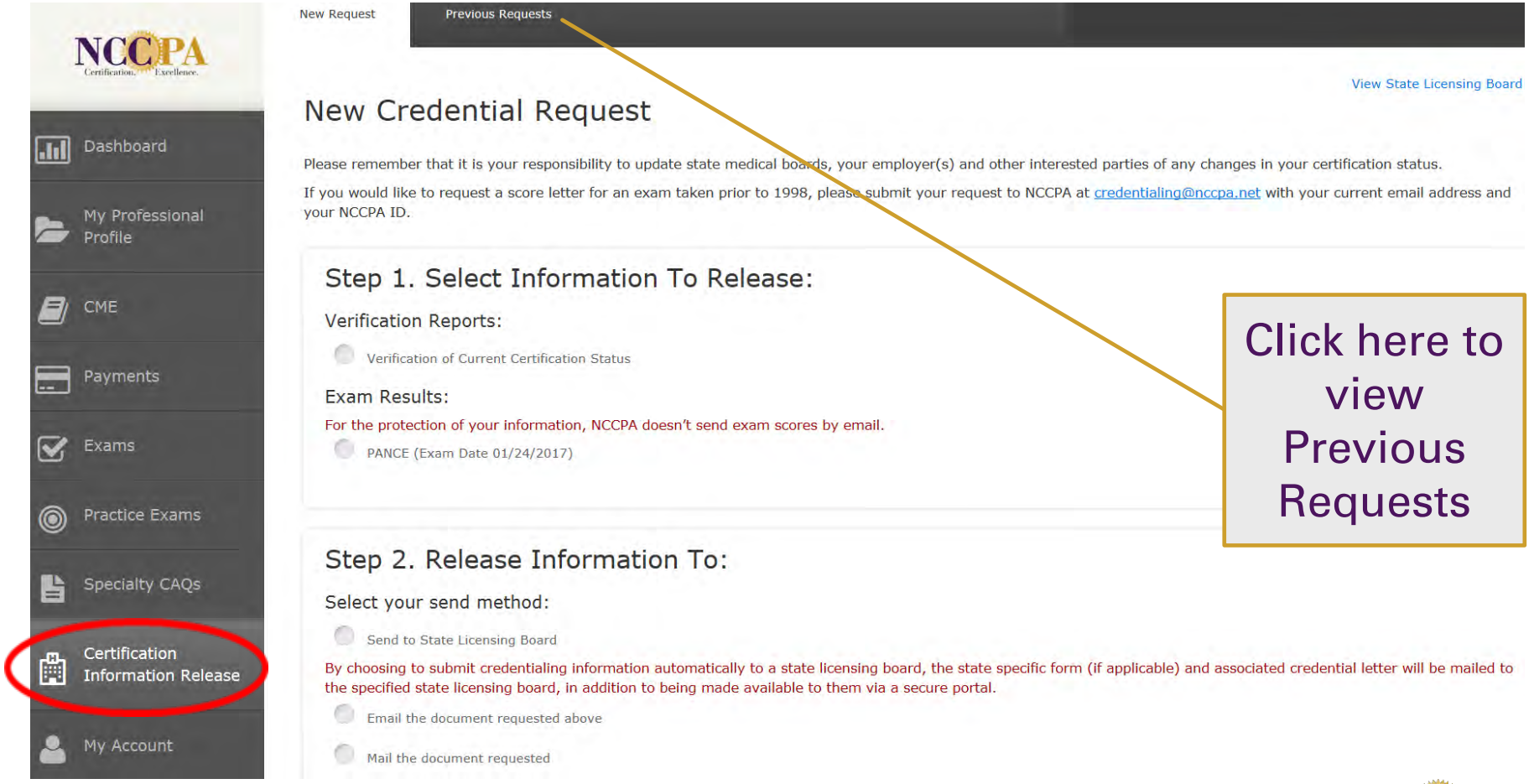
- You are limited to taking PANCE one time in any 90-day period or up to three times in a calendar year, whichever is fewer

- You may attempt PANCE up to six times within six years of your program completion

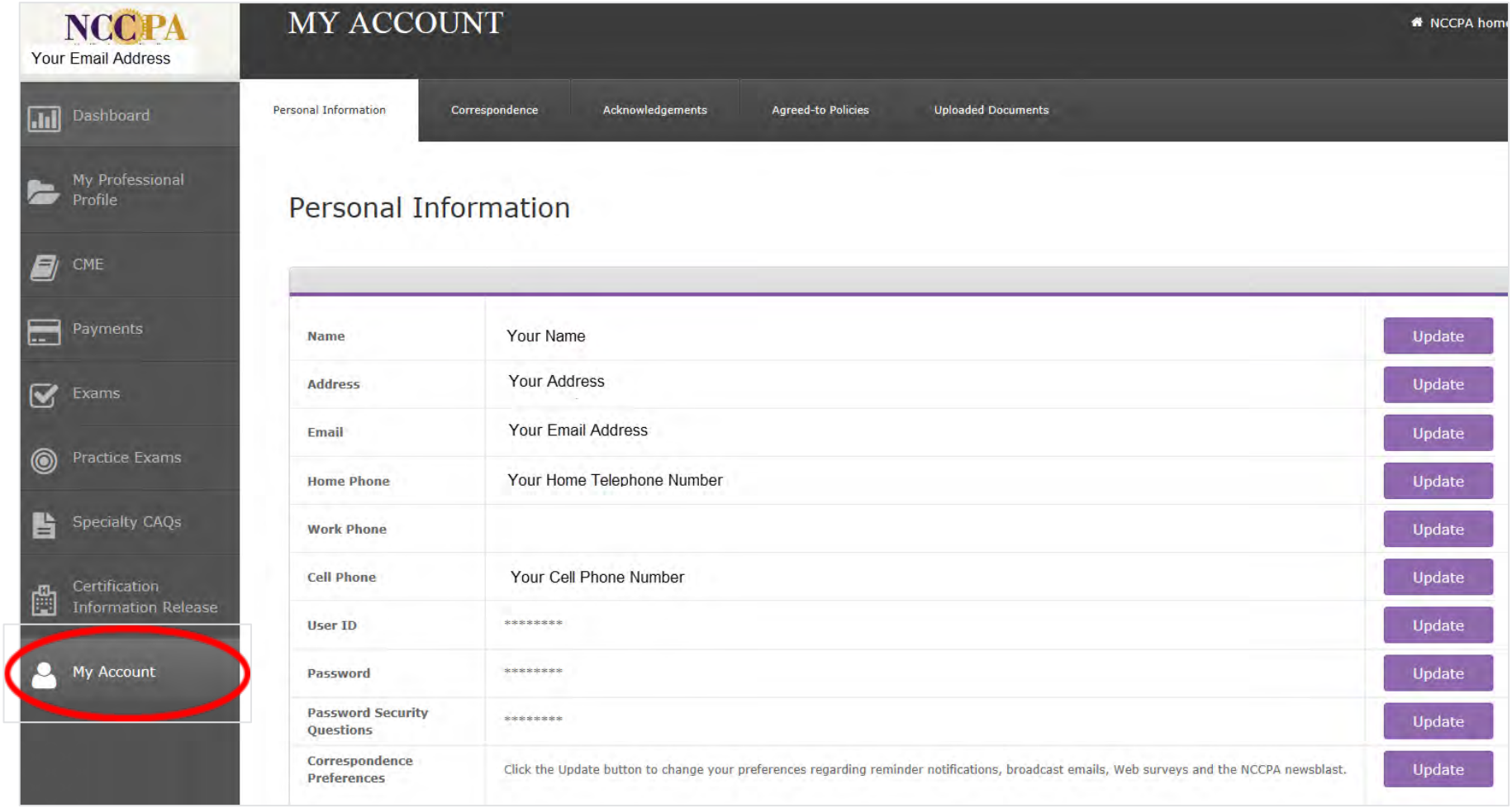
NCCPA

DASHBOARD – CREDENTIALING INFO RELEASE

Request certification status and score results be sent to Third Parties



DASHBOARD – MY PERSONAL ACCOUNT



NCCPA

YOUR PA CAREER:

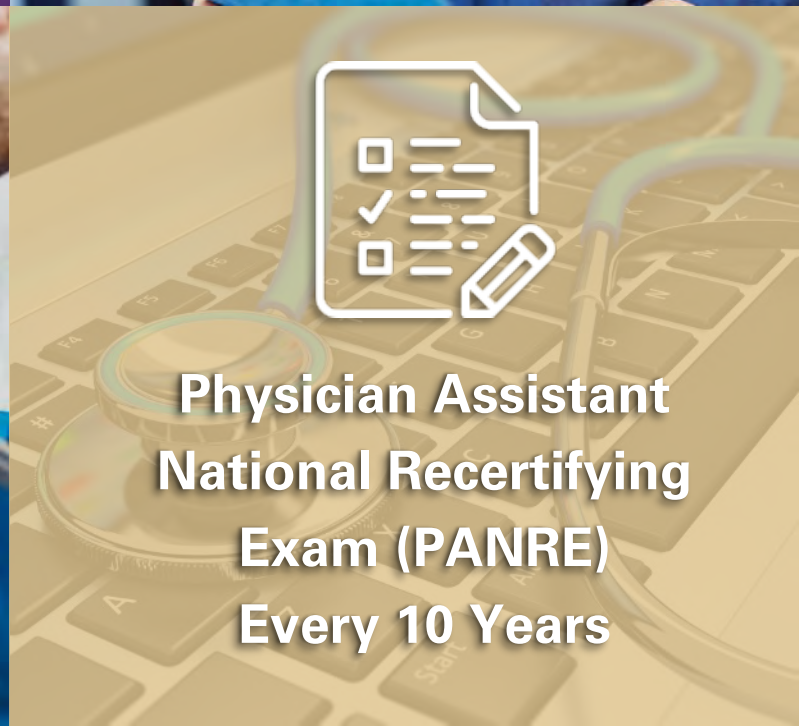
CME & Maintaining Your Certification

NCCPA

CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE PROCESS

100 CME Credits Every Two Years

- 50 Category 1 Credits
- Keep all Category 1 CME documentation for 4 years (2 cycles)



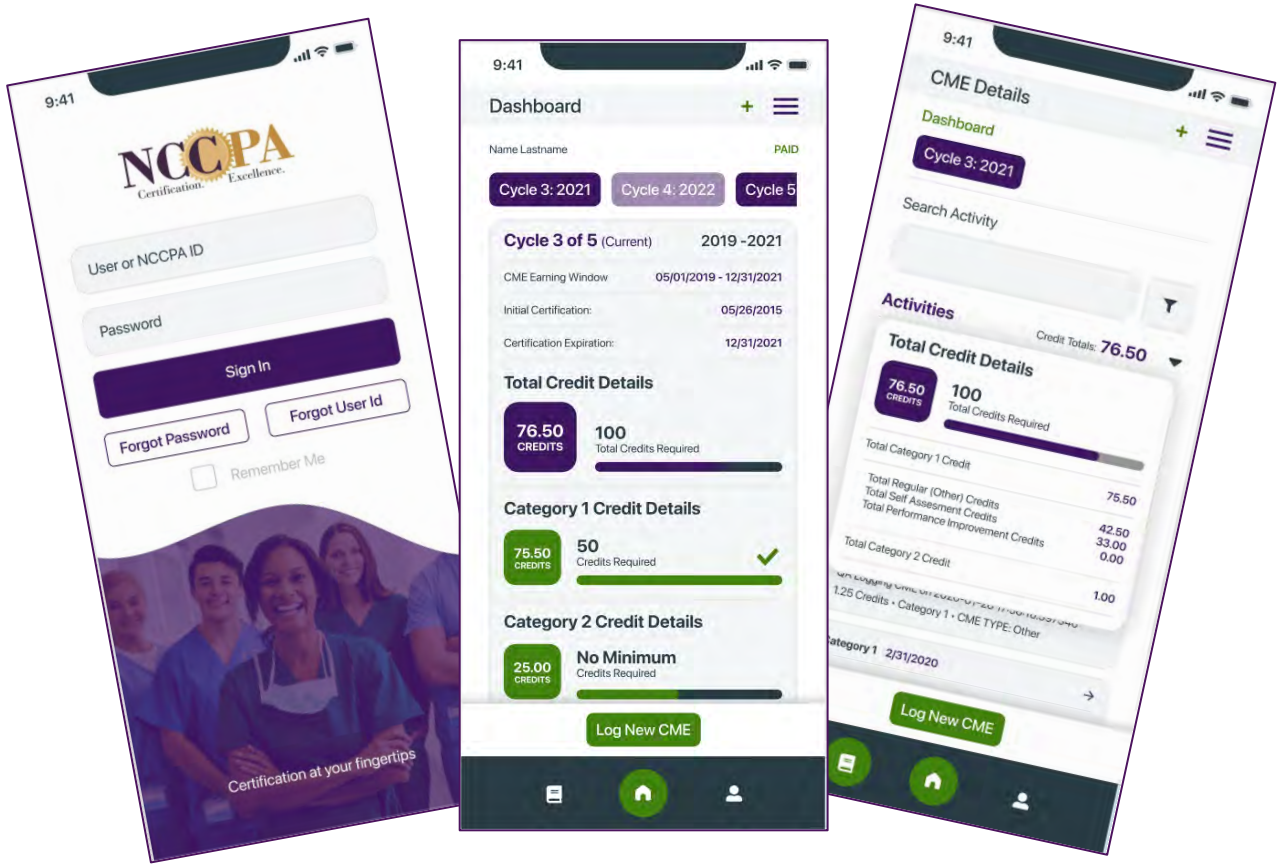
Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) Every 10 Years

NCCPA

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR CERTIFICATION

There's an app for that!

- Keep track of your certification status
- Log CME as you earn it



NCCPA

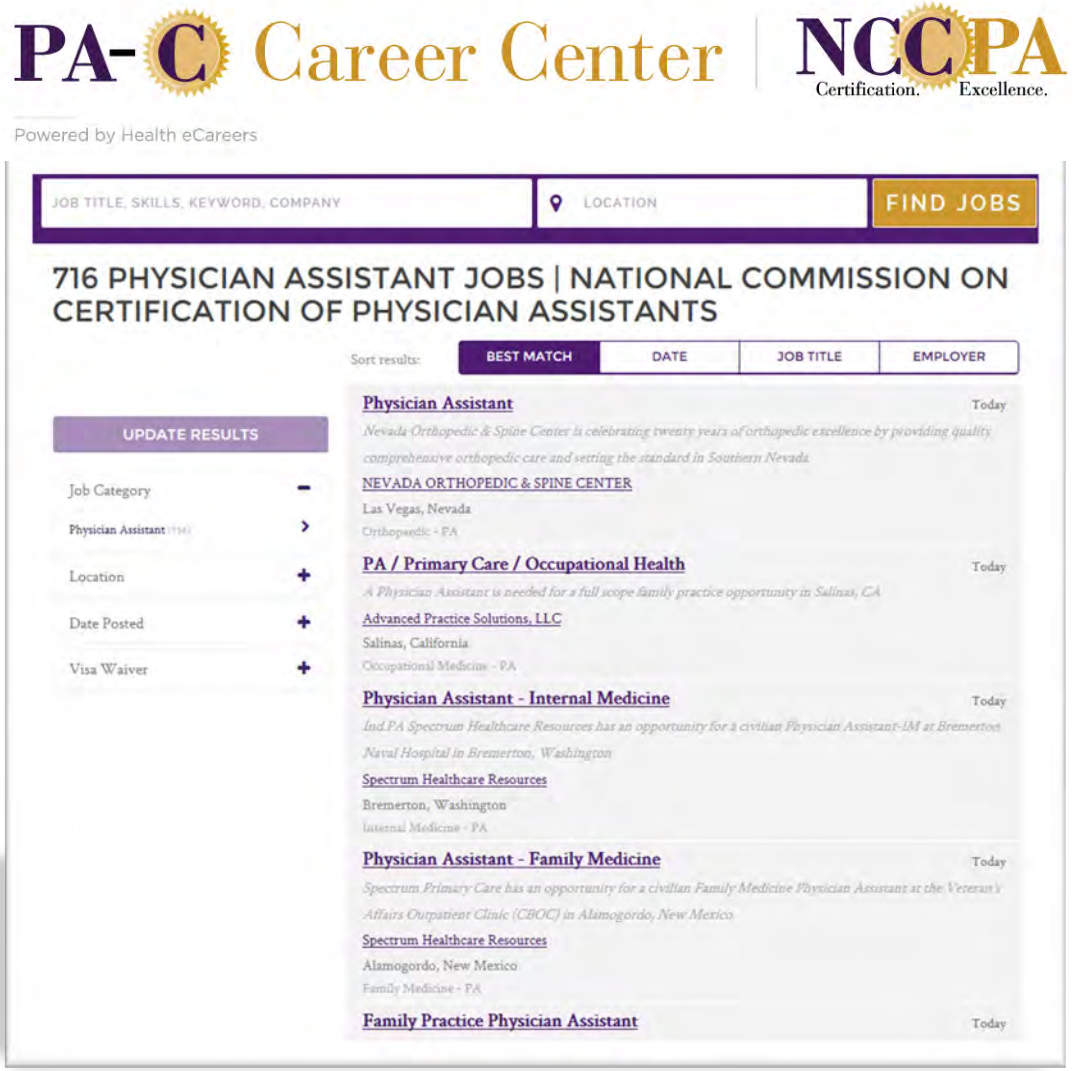
NCCPA

NCCPA

CAREER RESOURCES

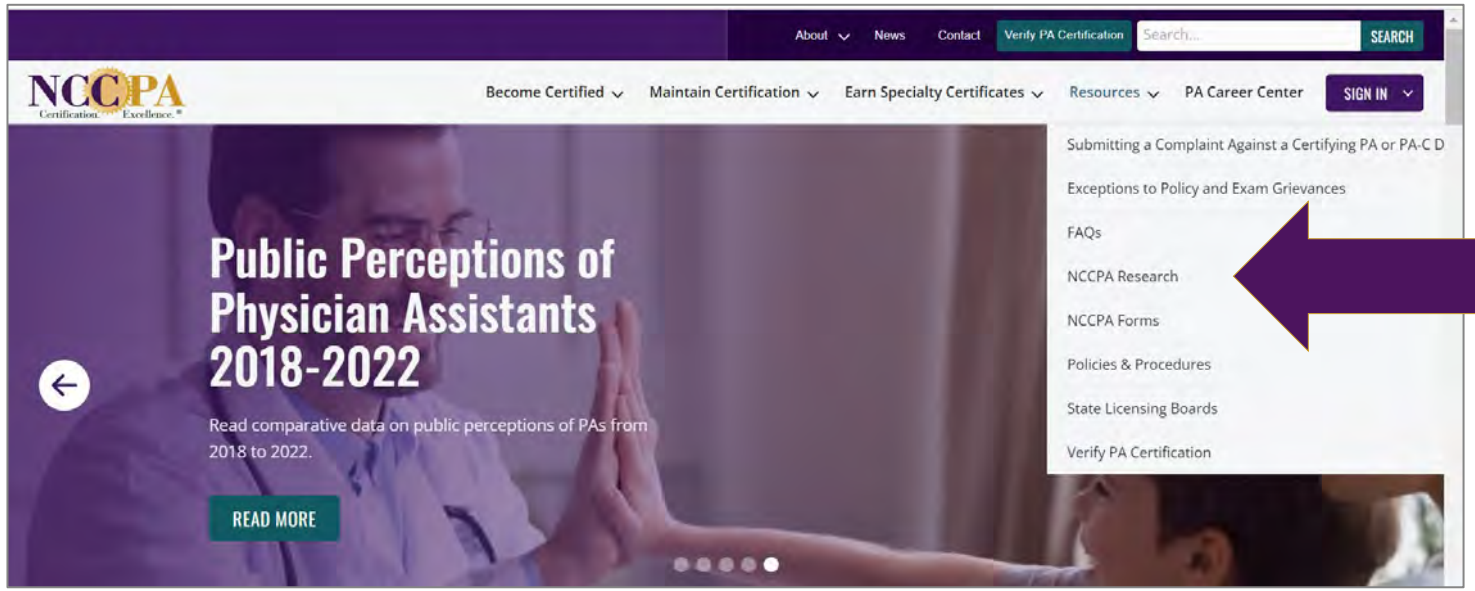
Connecting with Employers

- Search hundreds of jobs for Certified PAs
- Upload your résumé
- Set up alerts for new jobs



Click “Career Center” Link at www.nccpa.net

NCCPA RESEARCH



Statistical Report of Recently Certified PAs

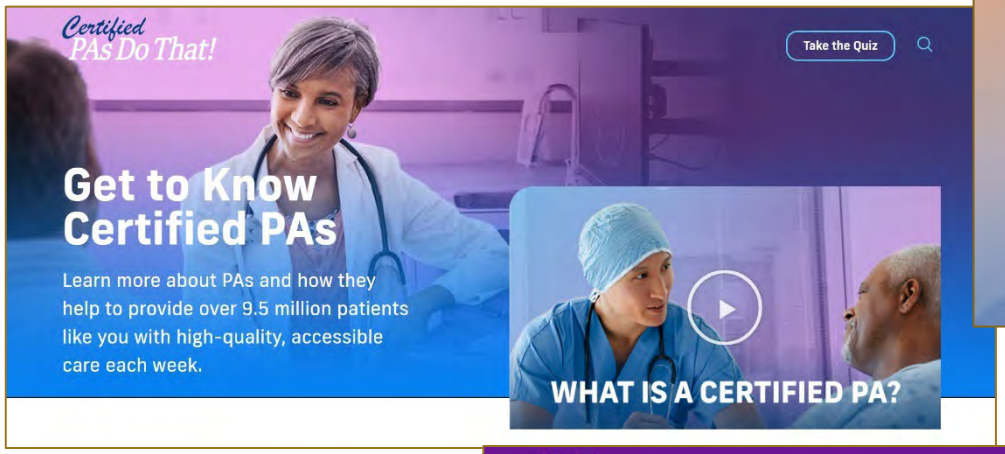
- Gender, Age, Race and Ethnicity
- Assessment of Job Opportunities
- Plans to Seek Additional Education or Training
- Educational Debt
- Practice Environment and Work Life Balance
- Job Search

Statistical Profile of Certified PAs

- Geographic Distribution
- Gender, Age, Race and Ethnicity
- Education (Highest Level Reached)
- Top PA Practice Areas (Principal Clinical Position)
- Practice Setting

www.PAsDoThat.net

An Online Overview of the PA Profession



NCCPA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook - @NCCPAcert

Twitter - @NCCPAcert

Instagram – nccpa_cert

YouTube – NCCPA

LinkedIn – National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

ALEXA PA SKILL & PODCAST TOO!

PA FACTS ALEXA SKILL

TO ENABLE THE SKILL:

- Say “Alexa, enable physician assistant facts”
- Type a search in the Alexa store for “Physician Assistant (PA) Facts”

TO HEAR FACTS ONCE SKILL IS ENABLED:

- Say “Alexa, open PA facts”

PA Insights with NCCPA

Listen on Apple Podcasts

Listen on Google Podcasts

- Drops quarterly
- Bite-sized segments
- Time-coded rundown so you can go straight to segments you want to hear
- Available on all major podcast platforms

QUESTIONS FOR NCCPA?

CALL: 678-417-8100
Information Service Representatives
available to answer your questions
Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST)

EMAIL:
NCCPA@nccpa.net

Explore our website at:
www.NCCPA.net

Check out and share the
newly re-designed
www.PAsDoThat.net

NCCPA

Certification. Excellence.

THANK YOU!