



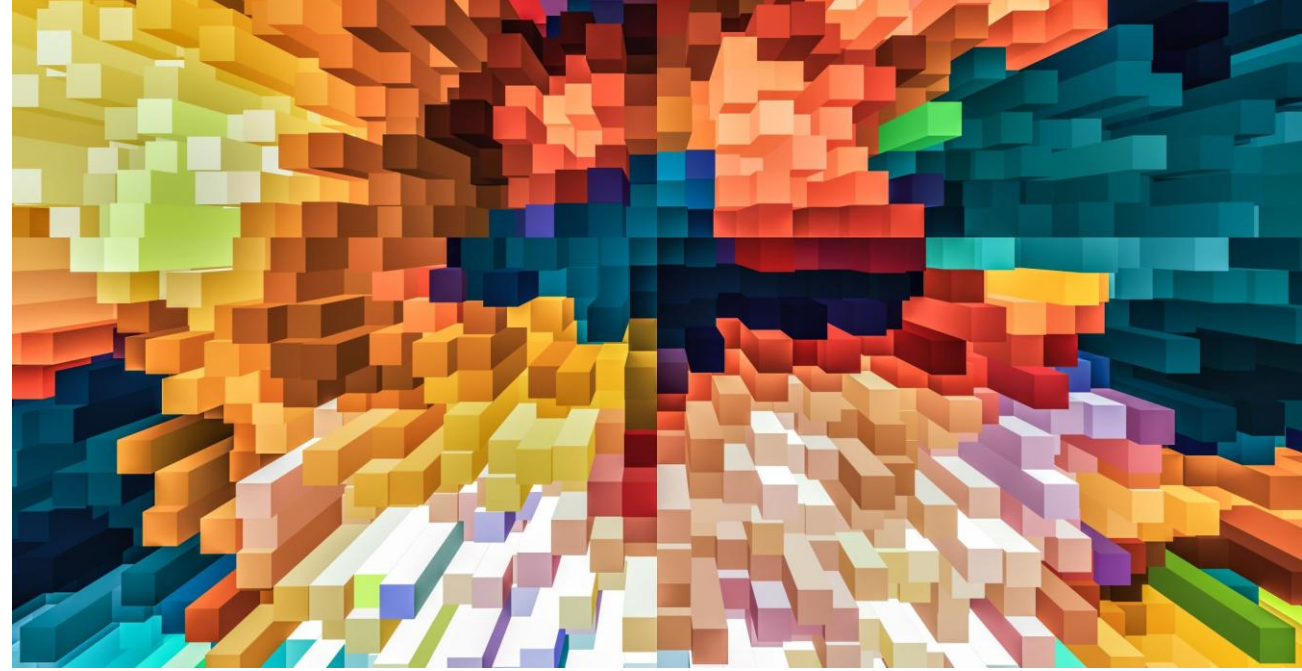
PANCE at a GLANCE

Cynthia Griffith, MPAS, PA-C
PA Outreach Specialist NCCPA

Navigating PANCE

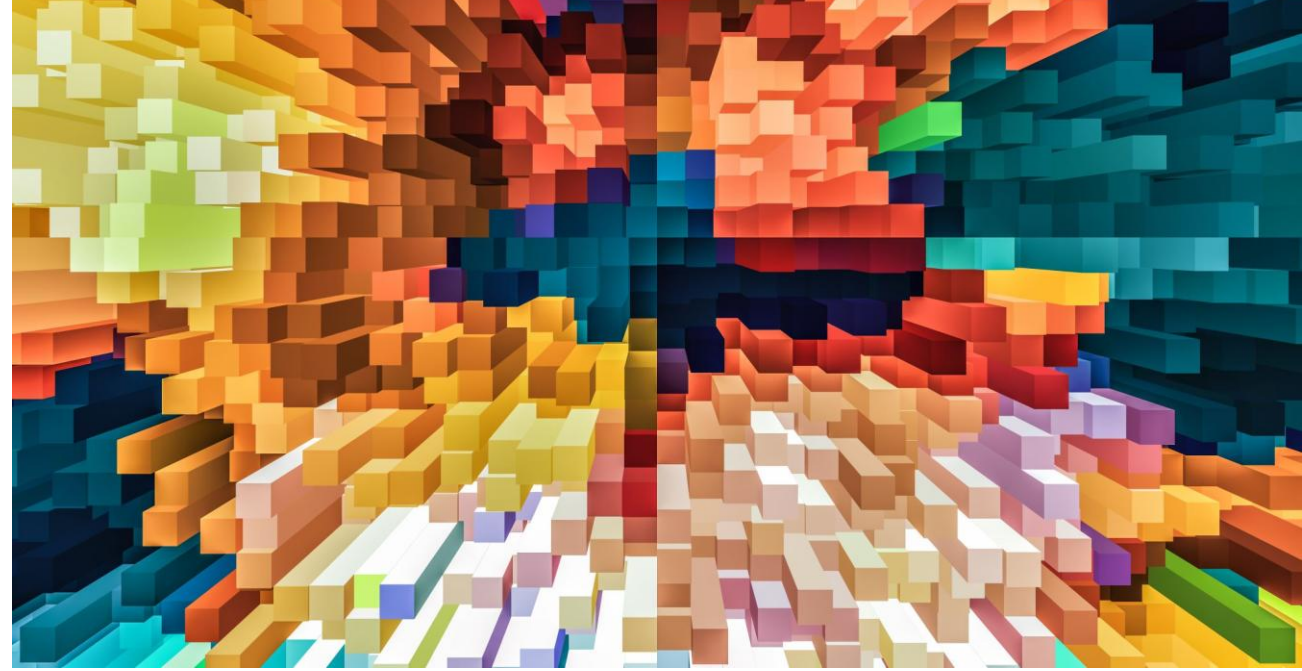
- How the exam is built
- How to read the blueprint
- The Pearson Vue Center
- Career Tools

PANCE



- 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

PANCE



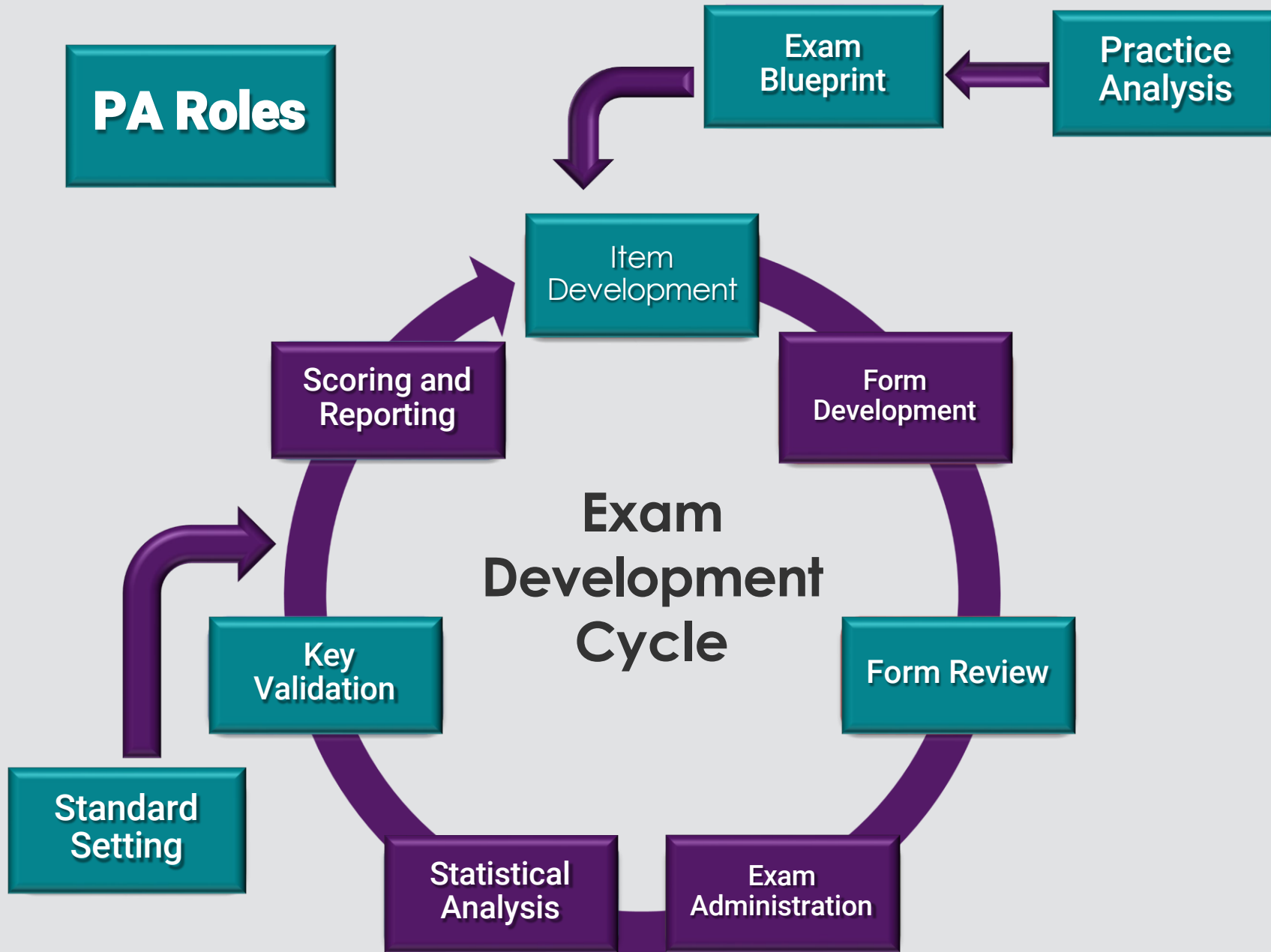
Five Hours:

15-minute tutorial at beginning of exam

5 blocks of 60 questions, 60 minutes each

45 minutes of break time for the entire day

PA Roles



PA INVOLVEMENT IN THE EXAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Registration Application

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Students

User ID or 7-Digit NCCPA ID

Password

Sign In

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[First Time? Register](#)

**Register at
nccpa.net**

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

EXAMS

Apply for an Exam

View Results

PANCE Registration

Please update any information that is incorrect prior to starting your Exam Application in [My Account](#)

Name <Your Name>

Address

Email <Your Email Address>

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

Updates needed? [Click here](#)

Click **Next** to apply for an exam.

Cancel

Next >

**Make sure
Name and Email
info is correct**

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




TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

- NCCPA policy requires medical documentation
<https://www.nccpa.net/become-certified/testing-accommodations/>
- PA program documentation is supportive
- A link to the list of comfort aids that do not require special accommodations can be found at:
www.nccpa.net/SpecialAccommodations



EXAM TUTORIAL VIDEO – www.pearsonvue.com/nccpa



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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](#)



PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM

PANCE/PANRE Tutorial

 [Flag for Review](#)

Item 7 of 11

Tutorial Section

Select the best answer to this question. Practice making and changing your answer selection using both the mouse and the keyboard.

Which of the following is the most common cause of nongonococcal urethritis in men under the age of 35 years?

- ☐ A. *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- ☐ B. *Escherichia coli*
- ☐ C. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- ☐ D. *Trichomonas vaginalis*
- ☐ E. *Ureaplasma urealyticum*

PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM

PANCE/PANRE Tutorial

 Flag for Review

Item 7 of 11

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PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM

PANCE/PANRE Tutorial

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- ☐ E. ~~*Ureaplasma urealyticum*~~



 Lab Values

 Previous

 Item Review

Next 

PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM

Select the best answer to this question.



Which of the following is the most appropriate treatment of the patient shown?

- ☐ A. Oral isotretinoin
- ☐ B. Topical beclomethasone
- ☐ C. Topical fluocinonide
- ☒ D. Topical metronidazole
- ☐ E. Topical selenium sulfide

PANCE TUTORIAL SAMPLE ITEM

A 41-year-old woman has a nine-month history of nausea, constipation, dyspepsia, general fatigue, arthralgia, and increasing memory loss. She has no history of illness other than her present complaints, and her menses have been regular. Physical examination shows no abnormalities.

Laboratory findings include the following levels:

Serum Albumin 4.9 g/dL

Calcium 13.0 mg/dL

Chloride 111 mEq/L

Creatinine 1.0 mg/dL

Phosphate 0.3 mg/dL

Blood urea nitrogen 17 mg/dL

Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Cushing syndrome
- B. Hyperparathyroidism
- C. Hypopituitarism
- D. Malabsorption
- E. Multiple myeloma



PANCE

**PREPARING
FOR
THE EXAM**



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:

www.nccpa.net/pance-content-blueprint

NCCPA.NET > BECOME CERTIFIED

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

- Cardiogenic
- Orthostatic
- Vasovagal

Lipid disorders

- Hyperlipidemia
- Hypolipidemia

Traumatic, infectious conditions

- Acute
- Chronic
- Cardiac
- Pericarditis

Valvular disorders

- Aortic
- Mitral
- Pulmonary
- Tricuspid

Vascular diseases

- Atherosclerosis
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Peripheral artery disease
- Varicose veins

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 physical examinations
- Eliciting patient information from other sources
- Identifying conditions requiring referral to or consultation with specialists
- Identifying pertinent patient and family historical information from patient and family
- Identifying pertinent physical examination information
- Triage of patients based on recognition of abnormal vital signs, examination observations

Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies (12%)

Knowledge of:

- Appropriate patient education relating to diagnostic and laboratory studies
- Indications for initial and subsequent diagnostic and laboratory studies
- 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 medical professionals
- Communicating risks, benefits, and results effectively to patients, families, and the community
- Reviewing and interpreting results of diagnostic and laboratory studies 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 to the patient's history and physical examination findings
- Significance of history as it relates to the differential diagnosis
- Significance of physical examination findings as they relate to the differential diagnosis

Skill in:

- Developing multiple differential diagnoses for complicated cases
- Formulating most likely differential diagnoses
- Incorporating history, physical examination findings, and diagnostic studies
- Recognizing the need for referral to a specialist
- Selecting the most likely diagnosis in light of presented data

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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.
- Medical/legal 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 satisfaction
- Providing patient advice and education regarding the informed consent and refusal process

Physician/PA relationship

Knowledge of:

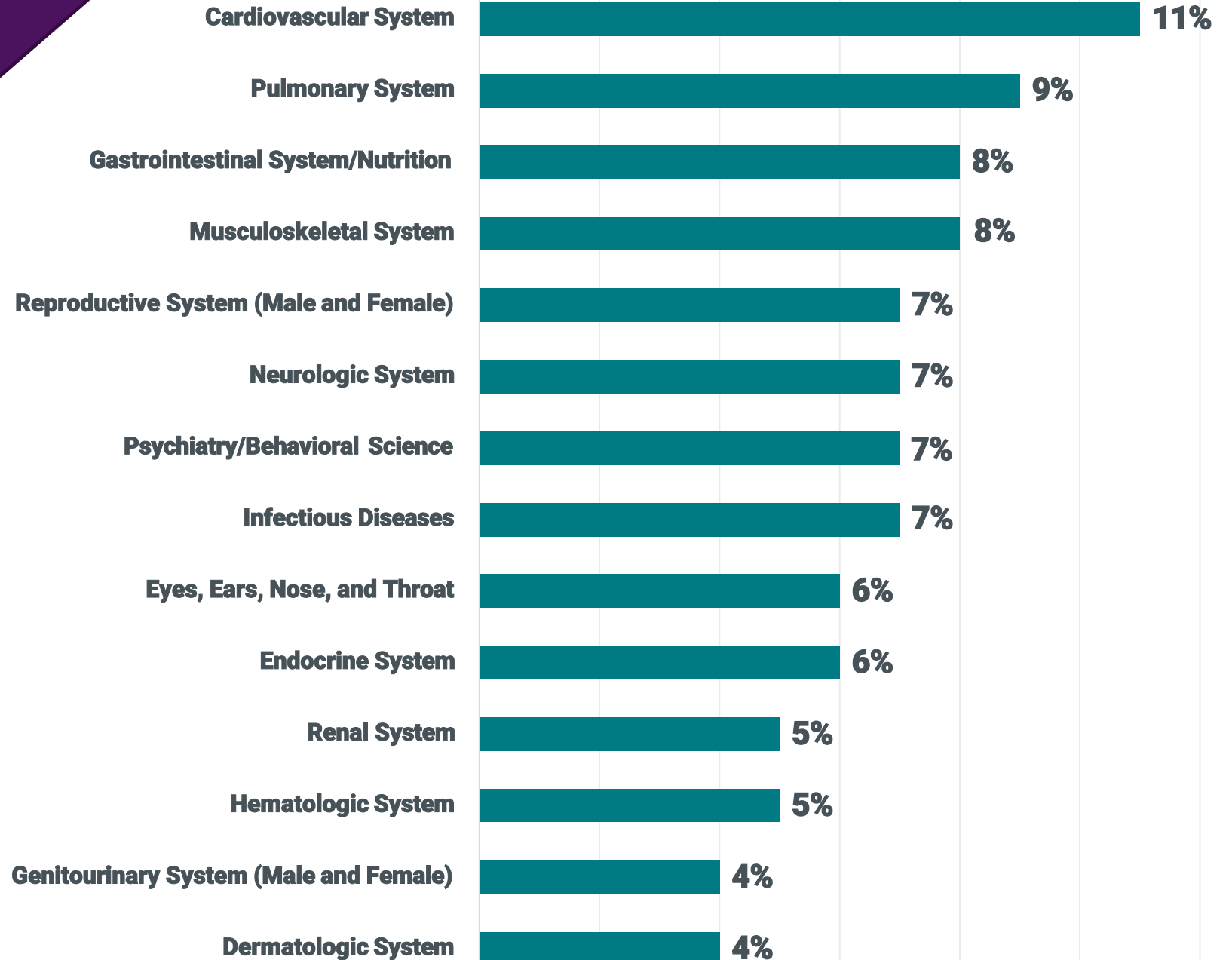
- Professional and clinical limitations, scope of practice, etc.
- Supervision parameters: malpractice, mandated reporting, conflict of interest, impaired provider, ethical principles

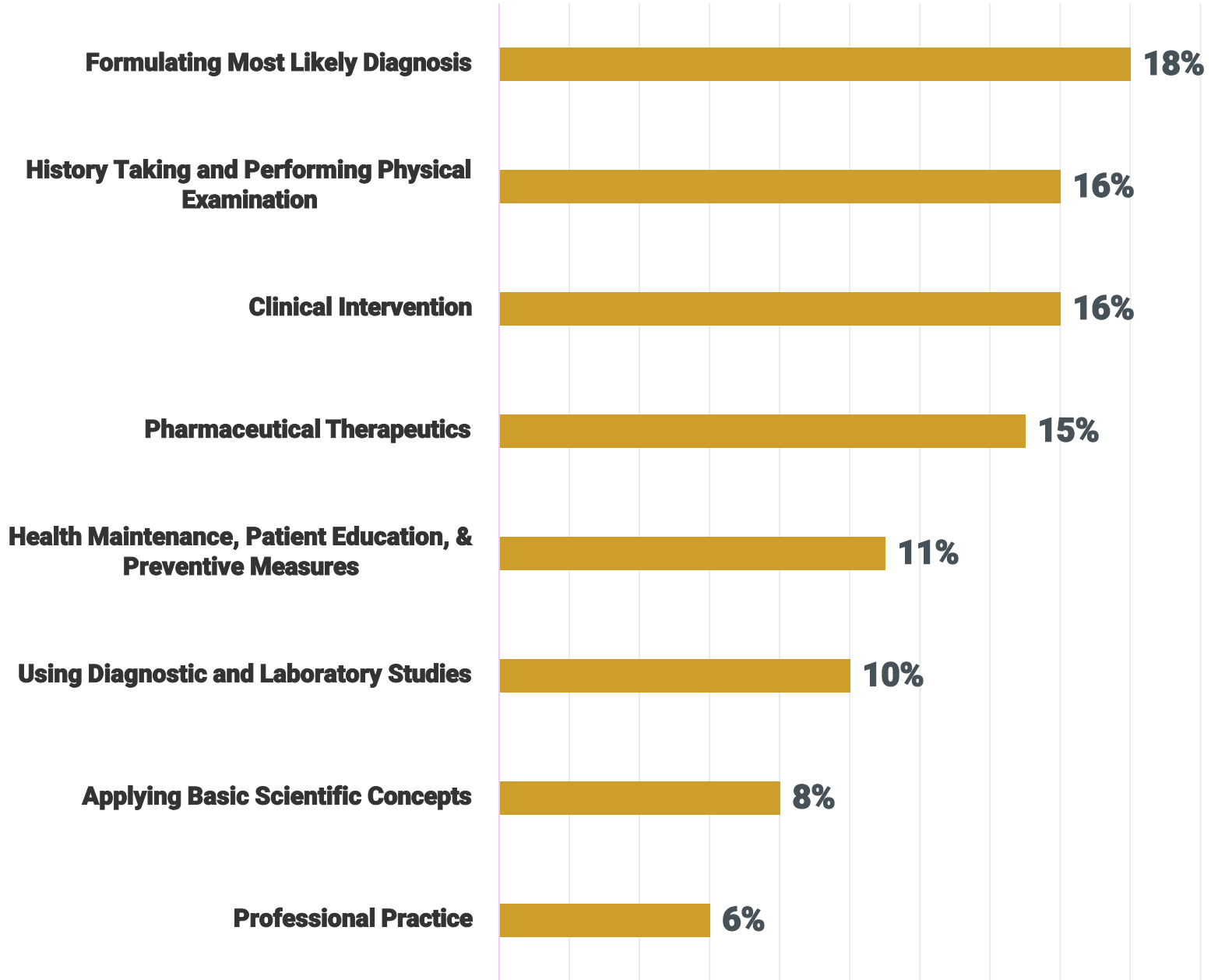
Skill in:

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

PANCE Content Blueprint – effective January 2019

NEW 2025 % DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT BY ORGAN SYSTEM





**NEW 2025
% DISTRIBUTION
OF CONTENT BY
KNOWLEDGE &
SKILL (TASK) AREAS**



2025 PANCE Content Blueprint

Updated Content Area Percentages

Content Categories	2019	2025	Increase/ Decrease
Cardiovascular System	13%	11%	-2%
Dermatologic System	5%	4%	-1%
Endocrine System	7%	6%	-1%
Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	7%	6%	-1%
Gastrointestinal System/Nutrition	9%	8%	-1%
Genitourinary System	5%	4%	-1%
Hematologic System	5%	5%	-
Infectious Diseases	6%	7%	+1%
Musculoskeletal System	8%	8%	-
Neurologic System	7%	7%	-
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science	6%	7%	+1%
Pulmonary System	10%	9%	-1%
Renal System	5%	5%	-
Reproductive System	7%	7%	-
Professional Practice*	5%	6%	+1%

2025 PANCE CONTENT BLUEPRINT

% Distribution of Content by
Organ System

Task Categories	2019	2025	Increase/ Decrease
History Taking and Performing Physical Examination	17%	16%	-1%
Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies	12%	10%	-2%
Formulating the Most Likely Diagnosis	18%	18%	-
Managing Patients			
Health Maintenance, Patient Education, and Preventive Measures	10%	11%	+1%
Clinical Intervention	14%	16%	+2%
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	14%	15%	+1%
Applying Foundational Scientific Concepts	10%	8%	-2%
Professional Practice*	5%	6%	+1%

2025 PANCE CONTENT BLUEPRINT

% Distribution of Content by
Knowledge & Skill (Task) Areas

PANCE

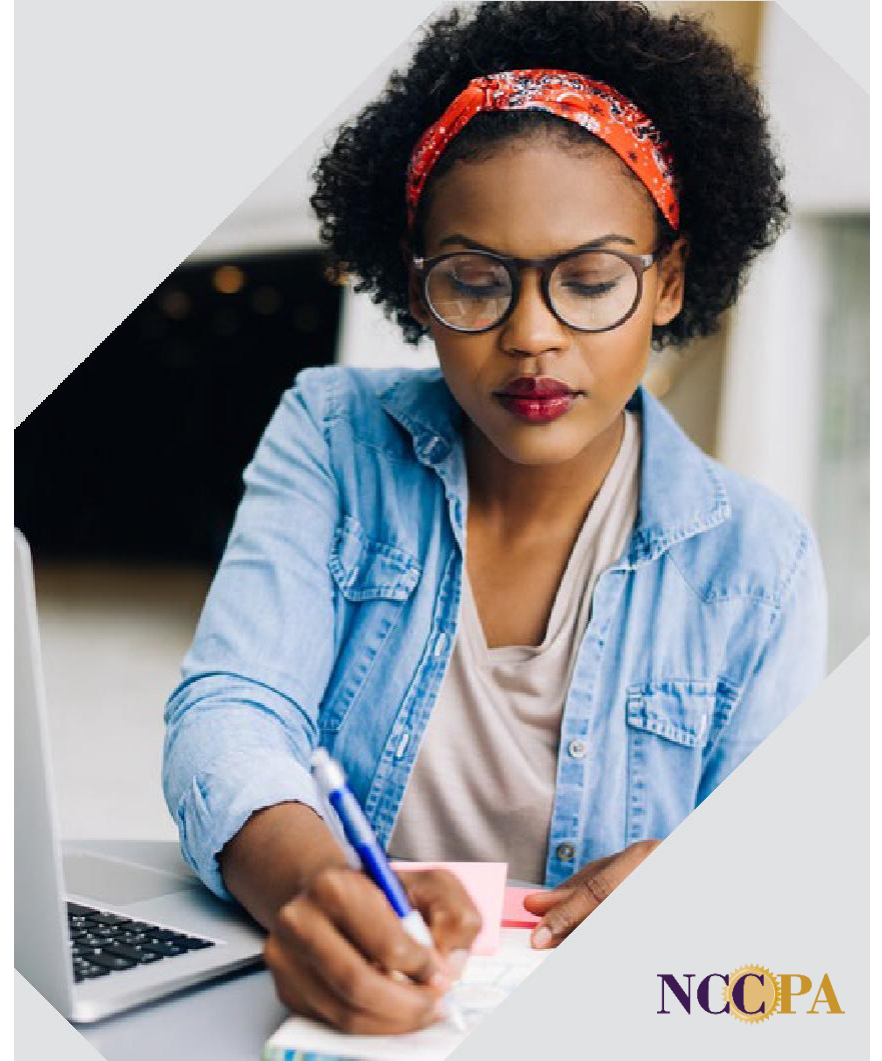
- You are preparing for PANCE every day through the way you are learning in your program
- The most difficult part of preparing for PANCE is sorting out the jam-packed vault of knowledge in your own head

**Preparing for
PANCE
Every Day**



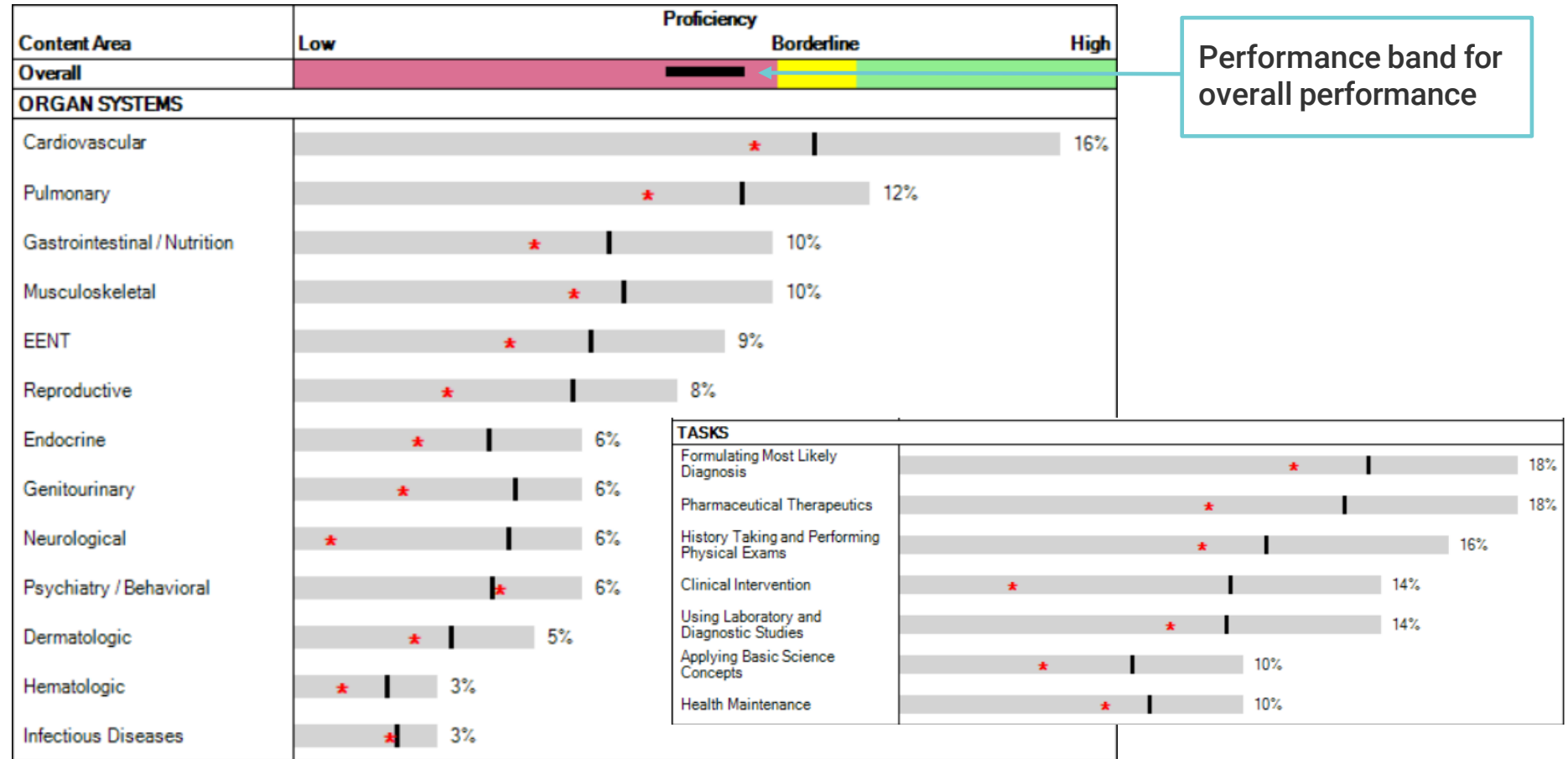
PRACTICE EXAMS

- 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




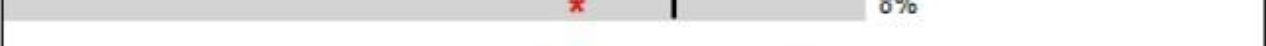










By Exam Content and Task Area









★ Your mean performance on the test questions in each content area

| Mean performance of test questions when last administered on exam

Content Area	Proficiency		
	Low	Borderline	High
Overall			


ORGAN SYSTEMS	
Cardiovascular System	 11%
Pulmonary System	 9%
Gastrointestinal System/Nutrition	 8%
Musculoskeletal System	 8%
Infectious Diseases	 7%
Neurologic System	 7%
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science	 7%
Reproductive System	 7%
Endocrine System	 6%
Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	 6%
Hematologic System	 5%
Renal System	 5%
Dermatologic System	 4%
Genitourinary System	 4%

TASKS	
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	 18%
Clinical Intervention	 16%
History Taking and Physical Examination	 16%
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	 15%
Health Maintenance	 11%
Using Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies	 10%
Applying Basic Scientific Concepts	8%
Professional Practice	6%

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





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Questions About PANRE-LA?

Learn more about PANRE-LA and get answers to your most frequently asked questions!

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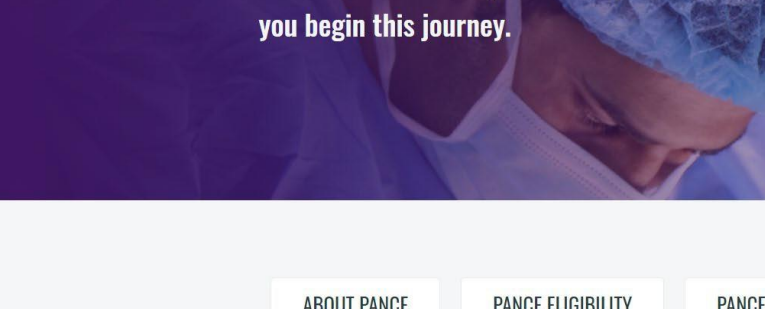
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[MORE INFORMATION](#)

- PANCE Blueprint
- Practice Exams
- Test Day
- Name Changes
- Testing

PANCE Requirements

When registering for PANCE, please consider the following requirements:

1

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REFERENCE RANGE

BLOOD, PLASMA, SERUM	
Alanine aminotransferase (ALT, GPT, SGPT)	8-20 U/L 20-70 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase	10-80 µg/dL 25-125 U/L
Ammonia	8-20 U/L ~50 pg/mL
Amylase	22-28 mEq/L
Aspartate aminotransferase (AST, GOT, SGOOT)	0.1-1.0 mg/dL // 0.0-0.3 mg/dL
Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP)	8.4-10.2 mg/dL
Bicarbonate	95-105 mEq/L
Bilirubin (Total // Direct)	<5 mg/L
Calcium	Low <1.0 mg/L
Chloride	Average 1.0-3.0 mg/L
C-reactive protein	High >3.0 mg/L
C-reactive protein, high sensitivity	Male: 25-90 U/L Female: 10-70 U/L
Creatine kinase	0.6-1.2 mg/dL 200-400 mg/dL
Creatinine	Male: 15-200 ng/mL Female: 12-150 ng/mL
Fibrinogen	3-20 mg/mL
Ferritin	Male 4-25 mIU/mL Female premenopause 4-30 mIU/mL midcycle peak 10-80 mIU/mL postmenopause 40-250 mIU/mL
Folate	<30 U/L
Follicle-stimulating hormone	7.35-7.45 33-45 mmHg 75-105 mmHg 22-28 mEq/L
Gamma-glutamyl transferase	Fasting 70-99 mg/dL
Gases, arterial blood (room air)	2-h postprandial <120 mg/dL
pH	Up to 8% of total hemoglobin
pCO ₂	50-170 µg/dL
pO ₂	0.5-2.0 mEq/L
HCO ₃ ⁻	45-80 U/L
Glucose	Female: follicular phase 1.18 mIU/mL luteal phase 0.4-20 mIU/mL midcycle 24-105 mIU/mL postmenopausal 15-62 mIU/mL
Hemoglobin A1c	0.160 U/L
Iron	
Lactate	
Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)	
Luteinizing hormone	
Lipase	
Lipids	
Total Cholesterol	<200 mg/dL
LDL Cholesterol	<130 mg/dL
HDL Cholesterol	>60 mg/dL
Triglycerides	<150 mg/dL
Desirable	200-239 mg/dL
Borderline	≥240 mg/dL
Undesirable	
Magnesium	1.5-2.0 mEq/L
Parathyroid hormone	11-54 pg/mL
Phosphate	3.0-4.5 mg/dL
Potassium	3.5-5.0 mEq/L
Procalcitonin (PCT)	<0.05 µg/L
Prolactin	<20 ng/mL
Protein	6.0-7.8 g/dL
Total	3.5-5.5 g/dL
Albumin	2.3-3.5 g/dL
Globulin	136-145 mEq/L
Sodium	0.5-5.0 µU/mL
Thyroid-stimulating hormone	5-12 µg/dL
Thyroxine (T ₄)	0.9-2.1 ng/dL
Free thyroxine (T ₄)	250-370 µg/dL
Total iron-binding capacity	

REFERENCE RANGE

	SERUM (continued)	
Free triiodothyronine (T_3)		
Triiodothyronine (T_3)		
Troponin I		
Troponin T		115-190 ng/dL
Urea nitrogen (BUN)		230-420 pg/dL
Uric acid		26-35%
Vitamin B ₁₂		0.0-4 µg/L
		0.0-1 µg/L
		7-18 mg/dL
		3.0-8.2 mg/dL
		200-600 pg/mL
CEREBROSPINAL FLUID		
Cell count		0-5 cells/mm ³
Chloride		118-132 mEq/L
Gamma globulin		3-12% total proteins
Glucose		40-70 mg/dL
Opening pressure		0-1 g/L
Protein, total		70-180 mmHg H ₂ O
		<40 g/dL
SYNOVIAL FLUID		
Appearance		Clear, light yellow
Glucose		Nearly equal to serum
HNA		<25%
Red blood cells		0/L
White blood cells		<200/L
/viscosity		High
HEMATOLOGIC		
red blood cell distribution width		
erythrocyte sedimentation rate (Westergren)		Male: 4.3-5.9 millim/h Female: 3.5-5.5 millim/h
reticulocyte		11.5-14.5%
hematocrit		Male: 0.15 mm/hr Female: 0.20 mm/hr
hemoglobin		Male: 41-53%
White blood cell count and differential		Female: 36-46%
White blood cell count		Male: 13.5-17.5 g/dL
Segmented neutrophils		Female: 12.0-16.0 g/dL
Bands		
Eosinophils		4500-11,000/mm ³
Basophils		54-62% (2430-6820/mm ³)
Lymphocytes		3-5% (135-550/mm ³)
Monocytes		1-3% (45-330/mm ³)
mean corpuscular hemoglobin		0.0-75% (125-360/mm ³)
mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration		25-33% (135-330/mm ³)
platelet volume		3.7% (135-770/mm ³)
thromboplastin time		25-34.8 pg/cell
retic count		32-36 g/dL
hematocrit		80-100 L/min
normal normalized ratio (INR)		25-40 seconds
platelet count		150,000-400,000/mm ³
prothrombin time		11-15 seconds
partial thromboplastin time		0.5-1.5% of red cells
activated partial thromboplastin time		7-12 seconds
bleeding time		
capillary refill time		0-35 mmol/L
serum iron		
total iron binding capacity		
transferrin saturation		
uric acid		Male: 97-137 mL/min
creatinine		Female: 88-128 mL/min
blood urea nitrogen		60-260 mEq/24 hr
glutathione S-transferase		1.002-1.028
aspartate aminotransferase		Male: 0-60 mg/day
alanine aminotransferase		Female: 0-90 mg/day

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PANCE Pass Rate

Exam Development and
Passing Standards The
content blueprints for
NCCPA's exams are based



PANCE Sample Questions

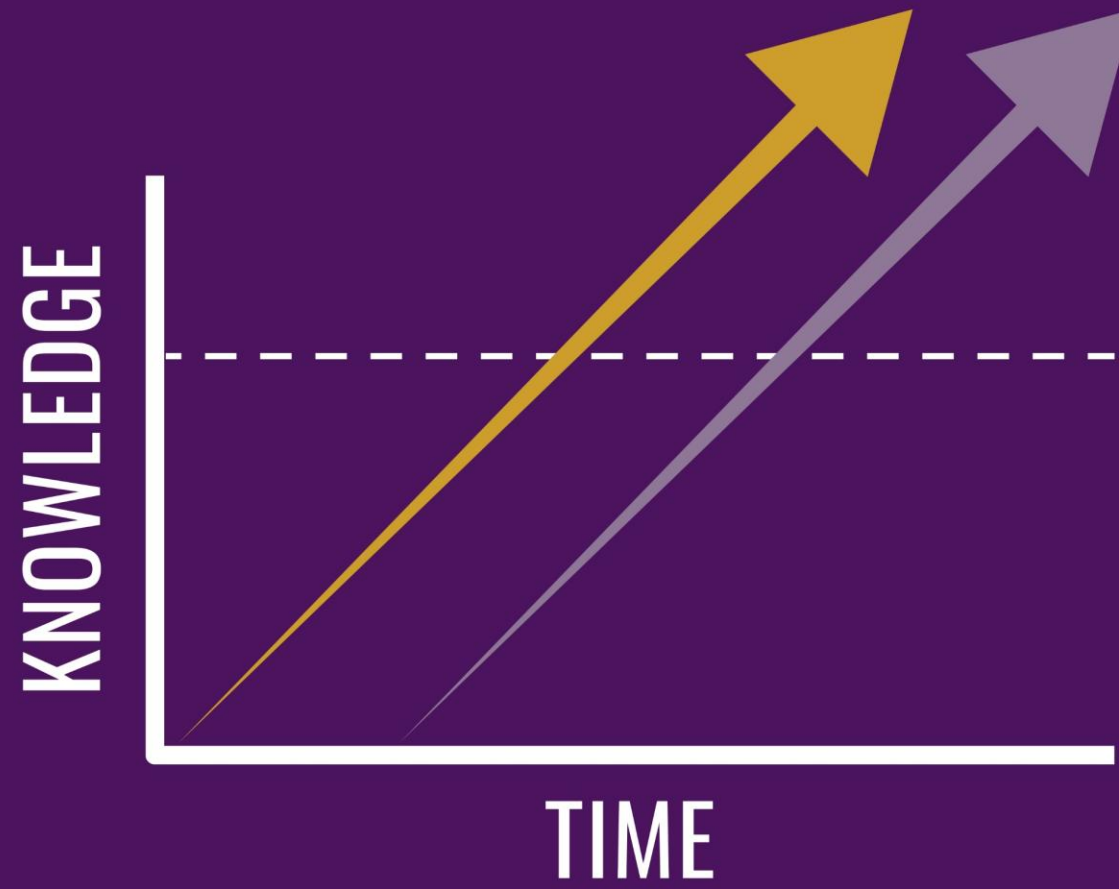
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What to Expect on Test Day

DOWNLOAD







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

The image shows a screenshot of the NCCPA website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Become Certified', 'Maintain Certification', 'Exam Specialty Certificates', 'Resources', 'News', 'About', and 'Contact'. A 'Sign In' button is visible in the top right corner. The main content area features a 'SIGN IN' form with fields for 'Students' (a dropdown menu), 'User ID or 7-Digit NCCPA ID', and 'Password'. Below these fields is a 'Sign In' button and links for 'Forgot user id or password?' and 'First Time? Register'. A blue hexagonal callout bubble with the text 'Register at nccpa.net' is positioned to the right of the login form. Below the login form, there is a section titled 'EXAMS' with two tabs: 'Apply for an Exam' and 'View Results'. The 'Apply for an Exam' tab is active, showing the 'PANCE Registration' form. This form includes a message: 'Please update any information that is incorrect prior to starting your Exam Application in [My Account](#)'. Below this message is a table with the following fields: 'Name' (with a placeholder '<Your Name>'), 'Address', 'Email' (with a placeholder '<Your Email Address>'), 'Home Phone', 'Work Phone', and 'Cell Phone'. At the bottom of the form, there is a link 'Updates needed? [Click here](#)' and a button 'Click Next to apply for an exam.' with 'Cancel' and 'Next >' buttons.

Register at nccpa.net

EXAMS

Apply for an Exam View Results

PANCE Registration

Please update any information that is incorrect prior to starting your Exam Application in [My Account](#)

Name	<Your Name>
Address	
Email	<Your Email Address>
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	

Updates needed? [Click here](#)

Click Next to apply for an exam. Cancel Next >

Make sure Name and Email info is correct

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

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

EXAM DAY PREPARE & PLAN

- Read ALL correspondence from NCCPA
- Go to nccpa.net/become-certified/test-day 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**
- **Electronics**
- **Hats, Outerwear jackets**
- **Food & Drink**
- **Notes**



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:
www.nccpa.net/SpecialAccommodations



COMFORT AIDS

- **Eyeglasses**
- **Inhaler**
- **Bandages**
- **Cast including slings**
- **Cochlear implant**
- **Neck, Back, Wrist Brace**

www.nccpa.net/SpecialAccommodations




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


PANCE TUTORIAL END OF SECTION & BREAK REQUEST

End Section ✕

 You have chosen to end the current section, but have 2 incomplete questions. If you click Yes, you will NOT be able to return to this section.

Are you sure you want to end this section?

End Section Confirmation ✕

 Please confirm that you want to end this section. If you click Yes, you will NOT be able to return to this section and answer the 2 questions you have not completed.

Are you sure you want to end this section?


You may now take an optional break of up to 45 minutes. You have 45 minutes of TOTAL break time to use for THIS break AND total breaks remaining are 3.

Time spent on this break WILL NOT decrease your available exam time. If you do not take this break, your exam will continue.

If you want to take this break, click Yes and raise your hand for assistance. Do you want to take this break?

“WHAT TO EXPECT” @ PEARSON VUE VIDEO –

www.pearsonvue.com/nccpa

[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](#)



What to expect during your exam

Banish those nerves! Learn about the check-in process and test experience so you're prepared on exam day.



In-person testing at a test center



Online testing with OnVUE

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



EXAMPLES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Issues with the ID presented for exam entry
- Computer issues
- The internal or external environment at the test center
- Issues with or interruption of the exam delivery

FAQ

- How do I get my 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 record




GETTING YOUR RESULTS



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

VIEWING YOUR RESULTS



Certification. Excellence.

- Dashboard
- My Professional Profile
- CME
- Payments
- Exams**
- Practice Exams
- Specialty CAQs
- Certification Information Release
- My Account
- Latest NCCPA News

EXAMS

[View Results](#)

You PASSED!!


Exam Results

Exam	Exam Date	Result	Score Report	Performance Interpretation Guidelines	Next Steps
PANCE (Exam Date 01/15/2021)	1/15/2021	Passed	View		Dashboard

You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view these documents. To download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader [click here](#).

If you would like a copy of the score report mailed to you, please contact us in writing at nccpa@nccpa.net. When requesting a score report, please include your name, certification number, and the specific exam administration for which you'd like a printed score report.

Score Report



FAQ

- What can I do if I don't pass?

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




FAQ

I'm a Board Certified PA... Now What?

DASHBOARD – CREDENTIALING INFO RELEASE

- Request certification status and score results be sent to Third Parties



NCCPA
Certification. Excellence.

Dashboard

My Professional Profile

CME

Payments

Exams

Practice Exams

Specialty CAQs

Certification Information Release

My Account

New Request

Previous Requests

[View State Licensing Board](#)

New Credential Request

Please remember that it is your responsibility to update state medical boards, your employer(s) and other interested parties of any changes in your certification status.

If you would like to request a score letter for an exam taken prior to 1998, please submit your request to NCCPA at credentialing@nccpa.net with your current email address and your NCCPA ID.

Step 1. Select Information To Release:

Verification Reports:

☐ Verification of Current Certification Status

Exam Results:

For the protection of your information, NCCPA doesn't send exam scores by email.

☐ PANCE (Exam Date 01/24/2017)

Step 2. Release Information To:

Select your send method:

☐ Send to State Licensing Board

By choosing to submit credentialing information automatically to a state licensing board, the state specific form (if applicable) and associated credential letter will be mailed to the specified state licensing board, in addition to being made available to them via a secure portal.

☐ Email the document requested above

☐ Mail the document requested

Click here to
view
Previous
Requests

I'M A BOARD CERTIFIED PA..NOW WHAT?

- 10-year certification maintenance process includes five two-year cycles during which all Board Certified PAs must earn and log 100 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits and submit a certification maintenance fee by December 31 of their certification expiration year.
 - [Step by Step CME logging](#)
 - 50 credits Category 1 CME (AAPA approved credit)- randomly audited
 - 50 credits Category 2 CME



Category 1 CME

- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- CPR
- Basic Life support (BLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

Category 2 CME

- Journal reading
- Precepting students
- Medical podcasts
- Any educational activity that relates to medicine, patient care or the role of a PA

And many more...

I'M A BOARD CERTIFIED PA..NOW WHAT?

- PAs must pass the Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam® (PANRE) or the Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam-Longitudinal Assessment (PANRE-LA®) by the end of the 10th year of their certification maintenance cycle.



PANRE v. PANRE-LA

Both assessments fulfill the exam requirement to maintain certification, share the same content blueprint and question format, and use a scale score to account for question difficulty.

PANRE

- Completed in one 5-hour session (4 hours of test time, 45 minutes of break time, and 15 minutes for tutorial)
- Administered throughout the year at Pearson VUE test centers
- Consists of 240 multiple-choice questions
- Scores available typically within 2 weeks
- Available for PAs in the 9th & 10th years of their certification maintenance cycle

PANRE-LA

- Administered in 12 quarters over a 3-year period, beginning in the 7th year of the certification maintenance cycle
- PAs log in/out on their own devices to complete questions at their convenience during each quarter
- 25 questions administered each quarter, with 5 minutes per question
- Immediate feedback provided to PAs as they answer each question
- Score is based on 8 quarters of questions
- Possible to pass after 8 quarters

CAQ Program

CAQs Available

- ✓ Cardiovascular/Thoracic Surgery
- ✓ Dermatology
- ✓ Emergency Medicine
- ✓ Hospital Medicine
- ✓ Nephrology
- ✓ Pediatrics
- ✓ Psychiatry
- ✓ OB/GYN
- ✓ Occupational Medicine
- ✓ Orthopaedic Surgery
- ✓ Palliative Medicine/Hospice Care

New in 2025:

- ✓ Geriatric Medicine



CAQ = Certificate of Added Qualifications



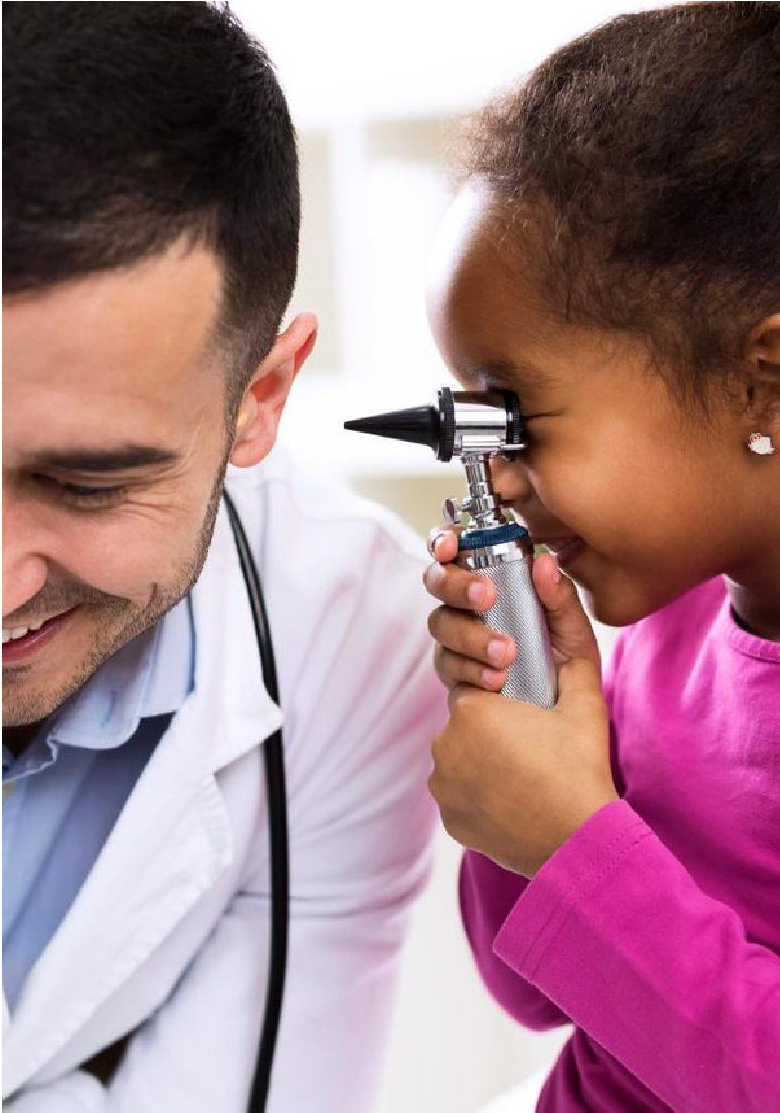
Currently offered in 11 specialties; 1 new one underway



First CAQs issued in 2011



Developed in response to requests from specialty PA organizations and external market pressures



PA-C is the **primary credential** for all PAs, giving PAs the credibility and flexibility to change specialties.



The CAQ program is **voluntary** and well suited for PAs committed to a particular specialty.



The program has been developed to be **inclusive**, recognizing differences among and within specialties.



The CAQ is an **added** credential that does not replace the PA-C, hence the name.

CAQ Components

- Prerequisites
 - Unrestricted license from state(s) and/or unrestricted privileges to practice for a government agency
 - Current PA-C
- Specialty-related CME (not in addition to certification maintenance CME requirement)
- Experience
- Attestation re specific procedures and/or cases
- Specialty CAQ exam (resources available)





Number of CAQs Issued

Total CAQs awarded as of 12/24

Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery	82
Dermatology	83
Emergency Medicine	1,417
Hospital Medicine	291
Nephrology	48
Obstetrics and Gynecology	21
Orthopaedic Surgery	343
Palliative Medicine and Hospice Care	37
Pediatrics	105
Psychiatry	1,219
Total	3,646

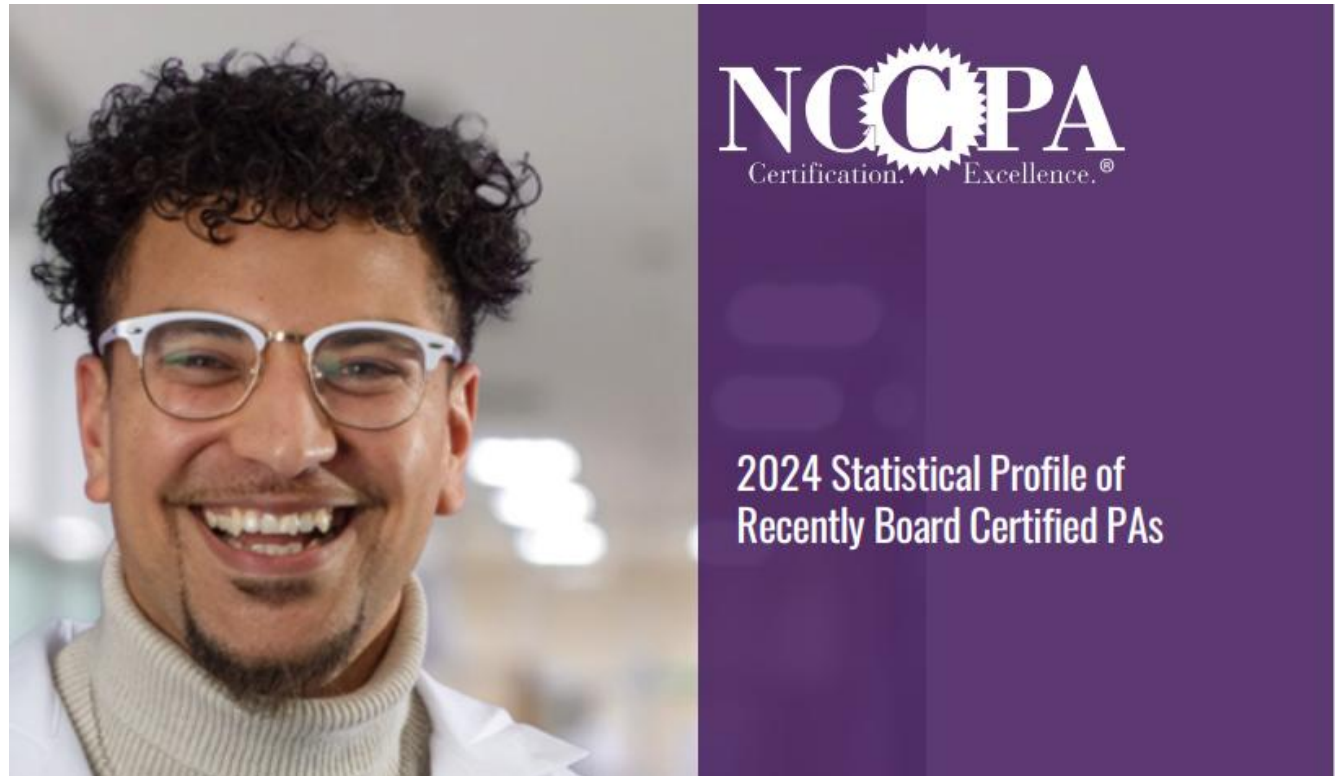
Example of designation for earning a CAQ:
Jane Doe, PA-C, CAQ-EM



HELPFUL RESOURCES

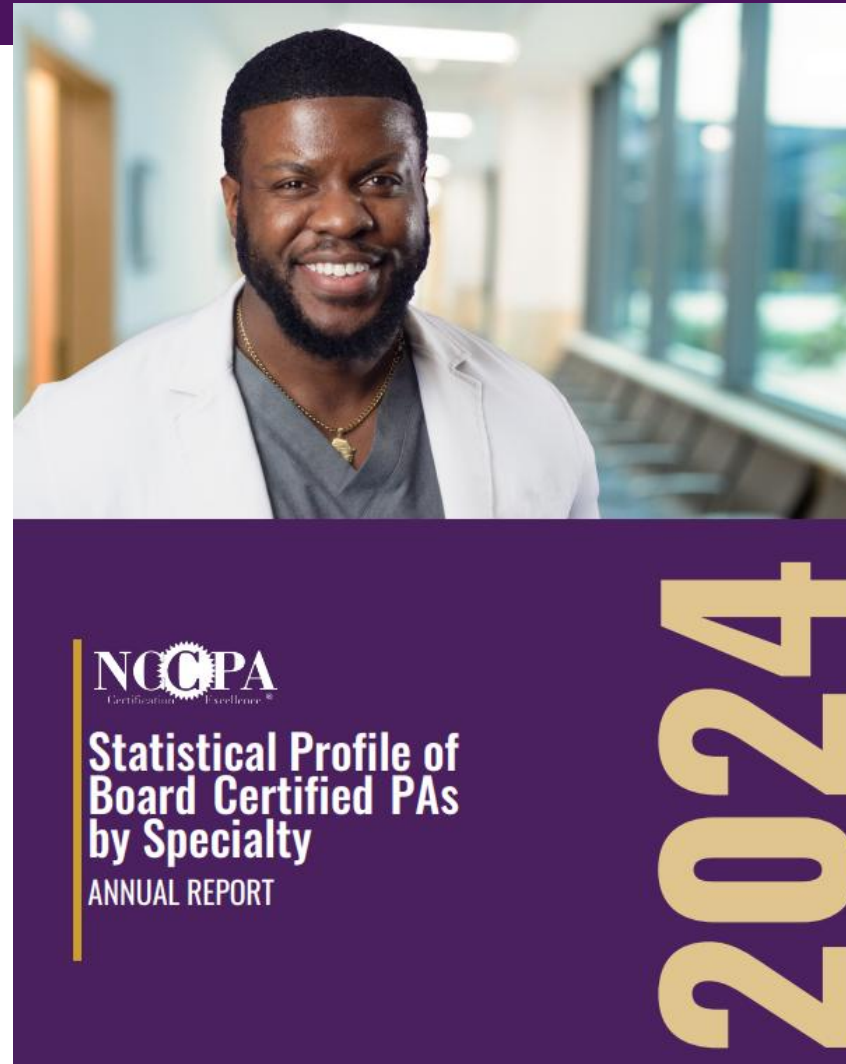
LATEST NCCPA RESEARCH

- NCCPA continues to provide the most robust and comprehensive data on the PA profession by publishing 4 research reports each year.
- Our latest data revealed the number of PAs has increased to over 189,000!
- PAs have 11.4 million patient interactions every week, which is 595 million patient visits a year



LATEST NCCPA RESEARCH

- NCCPA continues to provide the most robust and comprehensive data on the PA profession by publishing 4 research reports each year.
- Specialty report:
<https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2024-Statistical-Profile-of-Board-Certified-PAs-by-Specialty.pdf>



Connecting with Employers

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

PA-C Career Center

NCCPA
Certification. Excellence.

Powered by Health eCareers

716 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT JOBS | NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Sort results:

BEST MATCH

DATE

JOB TITLE

EMPLOYER

UPDATE RESULTS

Job Category

Physician Assistant (716)

Location

Date Posted

Visa Waiver

Physician Assistant Today

Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center is celebrating twenty years of orthopedic excellence by providing quality comprehensive orthopedic care and setting the standard in Southern Nevada.

[NEVADA ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE CENTER](#)

Las Vegas, Nevada

Orthopaedic - PA

PA / Primary Care / Occupational Health Today

A Physician Assistant is needed for a full scope family practice opportunity in Salinas, CA.

[Advanced Practice Solutions, LLC](#)

Salinas, California

Occupational Medicine - PA

Physician Assistant - Internal Medicine Today

Ind.PA Spectrum Healthcare Resources has an opportunity for a civilian Physician Assistant-IM at Bremerton Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington

[Spectrum Healthcare Resources](#)

Bremerton, Washington

Internal Medicine - PA

Physician Assistant - Family Medicine Today

Spectrum Primary Care has an opportunity for a civilian Family Medicine Physician Assistant at the Veteran's Affairs Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

[Spectrum Healthcare Resources](#)

Alamogordo, New Mexico

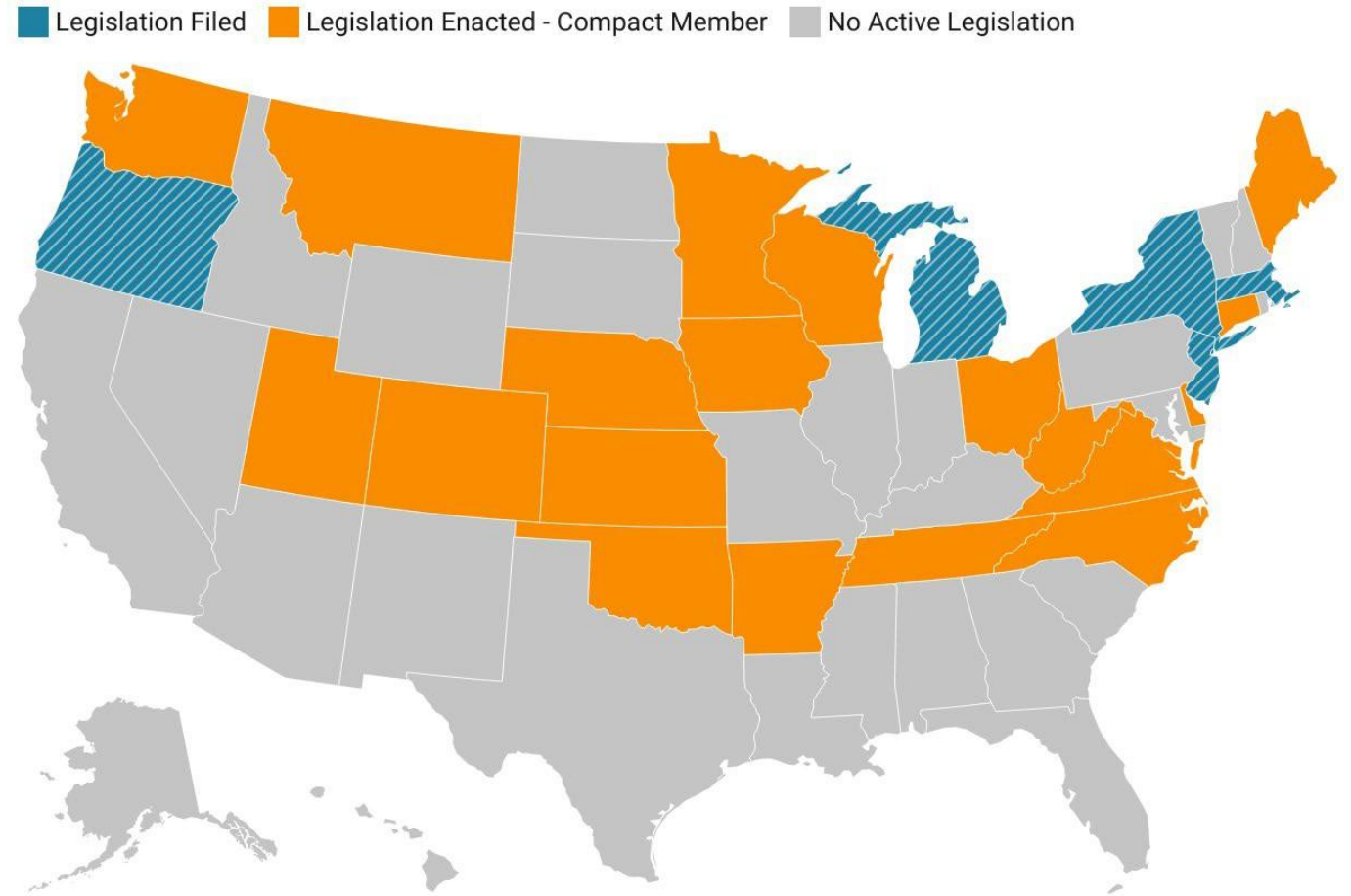
Family Medicine - PA

Family Practice Physician Assistant Today

Click "Career Center" Link at
www.nccpa.net

PA Licensure Compact Purpose

- Facilitates PA licensure portability
- Ensures PAs meet acceptable standards of practice
- Expands the availability of PA services
- **Supports military families**
- Promotes cooperation among PA member states in the areas of licensure and regulation
- Offers a high degree of patient protection across state lines



Created with Datawrapper

NEWS

PAs Can Join Provider Bridge to Aid Emergency Response

The NCCPA is a partner with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) in the launch of Provider Bridge, a service designed to streamline procedures and facilitate critical medical services across state lines during emergencies.

According to the NCCPA December (2024) Newsletter

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”



Facebook - @NCCPAcert

Twitter - @NCCPAcert

Instagram – nccpa_cert

YouTube – NCCPA

LinkedIn – National Commission on
Certification of Physician Assistants

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

ExamAdmin@nccpa.net

CynthiaG@nccpa.net

Explore our website at:

www.NCCPA.net

www.PAsDoThat.net



THANK YOU!