NBCRNA's ~~CPC~~ MAC Program Review

What you need to know

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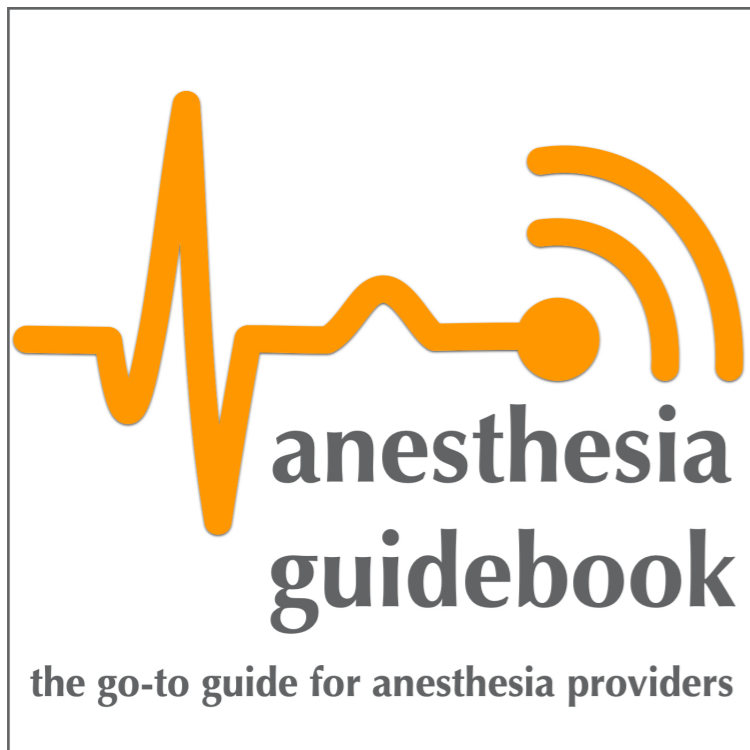**jon@anesthesiaguidebook.com**

Maine CRNAs

~~CPC~~ MAC Program Review Objectives

1. Review the NBCRNA CPC & MAC programs, exam structures and timelines.

2. Discuss exam preparation strategies in order to reduce stress & improve outcomes.

3. Provide recommendations for action related to the CPC & MAC programs.

#43 - CPC Program Overview with John Preston & Lisa Kamen

April 2019

#64: 10-min CPC Program Overview

#65: 1-hour CPC Program Overview

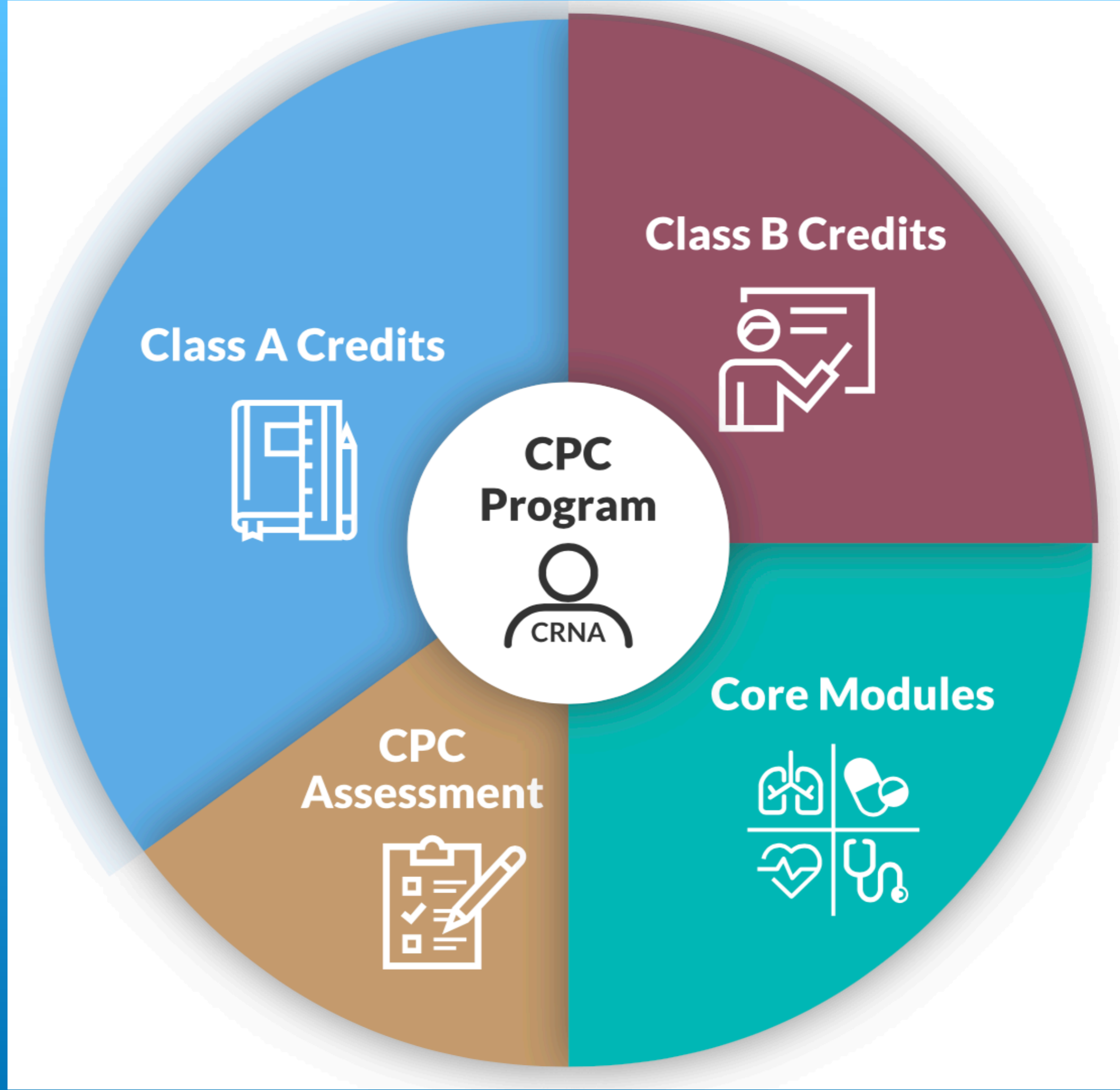#66: The CPC Assessment (Exam) Overview

#110: NBCRNA's MAC Program

60 Class A Credits	60 Class A Credits
40 Class B Credits	40 Class B Credits
4 Core Modules	4 Core Modules

CPC Assessment available

CPC Assessment

Years   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

Check-in

Renewal of Certification

Check-in

Renewal of Certification

1st 4-YEAR CYCLE
- 60 Class A Assessed CE Credits
- 40 Class B Credits
- 4 Core Modules
  (Optional in your first 4-year cycle if it's completed in 2020 or 2021)

2nd 4-YEAR CYCLE
- 60 Class A Assessed CE Credits
- 40 Class B Credits
- 4 Core Modules
- CPC Assessment

MAC Maintaining Anesthesia Certification

MAC Check (replaces CPCA)

Solidify core knowledge through a self-paced, dynamic platform.

MAC Check Overview →

MAC Ed (60 Class A Credits)

Earn continuing education credits via online courses and workshops.

MAC Ed Overview →

MAC Dev (40 Class B Credits)

Foster professional development through activities tailored to CRNAs.

MAC Dev Overview →

	CPC Program	What We Heard from You	MAC Program
Timeline	Renewal every four years, Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA) every eight years	*"Having two four-year cycles with different requirements to keep track of can be challenging."* *"The renewal process has become complicated, I don't know what I need to do next."*	Consistent, four-year cycle with the same requirements every four years
Components	Scheduled and proctored CPCA	*"I have to schedule my day around the CPCA. I'd prefer some more flexibility on where and when I take the assessment."* *"The CPCA provides limited feedback. I would like to know where to focus my continuing education."*	MAC Check will replace the CPCA! It's a quarterly knowledge check done on your own time, wherever you are – with real-time feedback to help you learn as you go
	Four Core Modules required per four-year cycle	*"Continuing education has always been a part of the continued certification process, but I'm not sure how Core Modules fit in to Class A and Class B credits."* *"The Core Module requirement is burdensome, I would like to select my own continuing education content."*	No longer required!
	60 Class A Credits per four-year cycle		Same requirement under a new name – MAC Ed
	40 Class B Credits per four-year cycle		Same requirement under a new name – MAC Dev

Key Changes

- CPC Assessment (exam) is now MAC Check

- No more Core Modules

- Class A Credits are now MAC Ed

- Class B Credits are now MAC Dev

- Simplified 4-year renewal cycle

What about cost?

MAC Maintaining Anesthesia Certification

Program Area Fee	Fee Description	CPC Program (Eight-Year cycle)	MAC Program (Four-Year cycle)
Renewal Application Fee	Covers the standard Certification Renewal process and ensures continued certification status and eligibility to practice	$285 for second four-year renewal application	$285 for four-year renewal application
Assessment Fee	Covers vendor/platform for checking CRNAs' skills and knowledge for ongoing excellence in nurse anesthesia care	$295 to complete CPCA at Pearson VUE test center or online through Pearson OnVue	$160 for the four-year cycle, to access MAC Check via Internet Testing Systems on your mobile device or personal computer
Yearly Average Cost		$104/year	$111/year
Additional Required Expenses	Class A & B Credits	Varies depending on provider for continuing education and professional development activities.	
	Core Modules	~$300 for Core Modules *Required*	$0 for Core Modules **Not Required**

MAC Program Overview

1. Programs at a glance (what's required when)

2. **Understand where you are & what you need to do**

3. Breakdown of MAC Ed & MAC Dev credits & reporting

4. CPC Assessment & MAC Check

5. Tips for mastering the CPC/MAC Programs & your continuing education

Where am I?

YOU ARE HERE

- MAC started 8/1/2024.

- If you passed boards after January 2024, you're in MAC.

- If you recertified after January 2024, you're in MAC.

- Still in a 4-year cycle? Finish this CPC cycle, then start MAC.

    - I'm due to recert between 1 March - 31 July 2025, then I'll start MAC.

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Class A Credits are now MAC Ed

- **60 Class A credit hours** required *per 4-year cycle*

- Must be **prior approved** by AANA, ANCC, ACCME

- Must include an **assessment**

- Extra Class A credits (>60) count as Class B credits

- **Class A credits are reported for you**

Class B Credits are now MAC Dev

- **40 Class B credit hours** required *per 4-year cycle*

- Professional activities = Class B credit

- ***Do NOT require prior approval or an assessment***

- AANA Members: report credits through AANA Learn

- Non-AANA Members: report credits directly to NBCRNA *if you're audited*

Class B Requirements

Professional Development Activities and their Values
Approved by the NBCRNA

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

Class B Credit Examples

Non-prior approved/not assessed: 1 hour = 1 credit (i.e. podcasts, grand rounds, mortality/morbidity conferences)

Academic credits: 1 credit hour = 3 Class B credits

Presentations: 1 hour of presenting = 3 credits

Book publication: 1 book = 10 credits

Chapter publication: 1 chapter = 7 credits

Peer reviewed publication: 1 article = 5 credits

Class B Credit Examples

Precepting (any learner): 1 day = 1 credit

Grant publication: 1 grant = 5 credits

Clinical Admin: 1 year = 5 credits
   (i.e. Chief CRNA, Clinical Coordinator, Subspecialty Leader)

Subspecialty/Austere Role: 1 year = 5 credits
   (i.e. specialty team, pain management, combat deployment)

Service - seated or elected: 1 year = 5 credits
   (i.e. international, national, state, facility boards, committees, task forces)

Service - mission/diplomatic: 1 trip = 5 credits

Class B Credit Examples

Advocacy/Public Relations: 1 day = 5 credits
(i.e. national/state legislative days, career days, etc.)

Research/Practice Inquiry: 1 project = 10 credits
(i.e. principal investigator, DNP/DNAP dissertation, thesis)

Research/Practice Inquiry: 1 project = 5 credits
(i.e. committee/team member)

Life Support Courses: 1 hour = 1 credit
(Up to 20 credits per cycle - may classify as Class A if prior approved.)

Quality Improvement Initiatives: 1 project = 5 credits
(i.e. committee/team involvement)

Class B Credit Examples

Discovery: 1 product = 10 credits
   (i.e. creation of tangible product related to anesthesia/health care)

Integration of new clinical technique: 1 skill = 3 credits
   (i.e. ultrasound, new blocks, OFA, etc.)

Any Class A credits (>60) count as Class B credits

How do I know what credits I have?

Log in
to AANA.com

You will see this:

Countdown to certification

00	09	09
Years	Months	Days

ⓘ

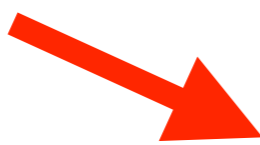| Class A (MAC Ed)	Class B (MAC Dev)
Credits earned	Credits earned
155.50	65.00
Credits to go	Credits to go
0.00	0.00

❓ FAQs

CE credits earned

220.50

0.00 to go

▬ *Elapsed certification period*

Certification period: August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2025

Click this →

💳 Access my member card	🏅 Access my transcripts	📋 Print my dues statement	✈ Submit CE
❓ Submit a question about my CE	Ⓐ Discover Class A CE	Ⓑ Learn about Class B CE	🛒 Payment history and receipts

What You Have

You have **220.50** continuing education credits.

155.50 are class A credits.

65.00 are class B credits.

0.00 of your total credits in this cycle for class A and class B combined are Life Support credits.

You may report up to a total of **20.00** Life Support credits per CPC cycle for class A and class B combined.

Your CPC cycle is from 8/1/2021 to 7/31/2025. Your CPC earn period is from 4/18/2021 to 7/31/2025.

What You Need

Required for CPC:

60.00 Class A = 0.00 remaining, requirement met.

40.00 Class B = 0.00 remaining, requirement met.

You have met the requirements for this CPC cycle.

CPC Core Modules in This Cycle

Core Module	Completion Status	Date Completed
Airway Management Techniques	Complete	09/16/2024
Anesthesia Equipment and Technology	Not yet complete	-
Applied Clinical Pharmacology	Not yet complete	-
Human Physiology and Pathophysiology	Not yet complete	-

Where to report Class B Credits:

AANA.com

Hover to Discover

Home / Continuing Education / Submit Class B credits

Click this

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) manages the certification of CRNAs/nurse anesthesiologists. All courses must meet NBCRNA requirements to count toward a CRNA's/nurse anesthesiologist's certification. This includes 100 credits of continuing education and professional development every 4-year cycle. At least 60 must be Class A credits and the remaining Class B.

AANA Members can report Class B credits.

Class B credits do not require prior approval or an assessment. Qualifying activities must do at least one of the following:

- Enhances knowledge of anesthesia practice
- Supports patient safety
- or Fosters an understanding of the broader healthcare environment

Learn more from the NBCRNA about what qualifies for a Class B Credit and review its Class B table ↗ .

If you do not see an activity you believe may qualify as a Class B activity, contact CPC@nbcrna.com to discuss whether that activity could be applied to the Class B requirement.

CE

My Courses ↗

CRNA Education Edge ↗

CPC Resources and Requirements

CRNAs – Apply for Class A Credit

Submit Class B Credits

CE Transcripts

Program Admin Portal ↗

AANA Meetings

Call for Abstracts

Calendar of Events

Educator Hub

Other Educational Opportunities

Class B Credits Summary

Member ID	107473	CE Cycle	4/18/2021 - 7/31/2025
Name	Jon Lowrance	Earned Class A Credits	155.50
		Earned Class B Credits	65.00

Credit Submissions

Click This

Add New Entry | Filter by Date Earned Between [10/21/2024] and [10/21/2024] | Apply | Clear Filter

Activity	Date Submitted	Date Earned ▼	Credit Value	
Class B - CE - Non Prior Approved and/or Non Assessed	10/01/2022	10/01/2022	50.00	✎ ✖
Class B - Service - Seated or Elected Activity	08/13/2021	08/13/2021	5.00	✎ ✖
Class B - Clinical Administration	08/13/2021	08/13/2021	5.00	✎ ✖
Class B - Subspecialty Clinical Practice Role	08/13/2021	08/13/2021	5.00	✎ ✖
Class B - Teaching in the Clinical Setting	04/30/2018	04/26/2018	1.00	👁
Class B - Presentations	04/30/2018	04/12/2018	3.00	👁
Class B - Teaching in the Clinical Setting	04/30/2018	04/12/2018	1.00	👁

AANA
American Association of
NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

CE   Advocacy   Practice   Membership   About Us   **Join/Renew**

Submit Class B Credit

Member ID	107473	**CE Cycle**	4/18/2021 - 7/31/2025
Name	Jon Lowrance	**Earned Class A Credits**	155.50
		Earned Class B Credits	65.00

New Entry

Activity *

Date Earned *   10 / 21 / 2024

Class B Credits *

Supporting Documentation   Use this section to upload attachments relevant to the requirements specified by activity type. Please refer to the NBCRNA Class B Requirements Activity Category Table for specific information on those requirements.

Allowed file types: .pdf, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .zip, .jpg and .png. Maximum allowed size of uploaded files: 100 MB.

File 1   Choose File   no file selected
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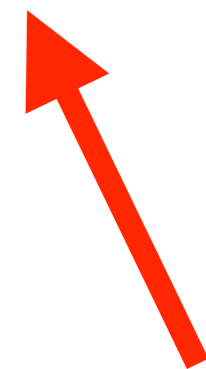
Submit New Entry

MAC Program Overview

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

1. Programs at a glance (what's required when)

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5. Tips for mastering the CPC/MAC Programs & your continuing education

CPC Assessment

- 150-question, 3-hour computerized, closed-book test

- Required once

- Covers four domains:
    1. Airway Management **(34%)**
    2. Applied Clinical Pharmacology **(24%)**
    3. Human Physiology and Pathophysiology **(24%)**
    4. Anesthesia Equipment and Technology **(18%)**

- Cost: $295

CPC Assessment

National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

- **Not PASS/FAIL**

- **Does NOT affect your credential**

- If you're deficient in a domain, you must take **1 additional Class A credit** pertaining to that domain as remediation *before the end of your CPC cycle*

- *Should be taken at least 6 months before the end of your CPC cycle*

- May be taken at home or at a Pearson testing center.

- If at taking home, begin logging in at least 30 minutes before your start time.

CPCA to MAC Check: Why?

- Point-in-time test (CPCA) versus longitudinal assessment

- NBCRNA listened to feedback from CRNAs

  - CPCA from PASS/FAIL to **NOT** PASS/FAIL

- NBCRNA conducted prospective RCT on assessment (Choudhry et al., 2024).

  - One-time test to on-the-go testing

- Assessment required by accreditors to have a credential (CRNA)

MAC Check: How?

- Longitudinal assessment

- App based platform

- 25 multiple choice questions in first quarter

- Immediate feedback + rationales

- Missed questions (up to 5) presented in subsequent quarters (25-30 questions in each subsequent quarter)

- Must participate in 13/16 quarters every 4 years

- Failure to meet performance standard in a domain will result in an additional 5 Class A credits

MAC Check: What?

MAC Check: What?

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
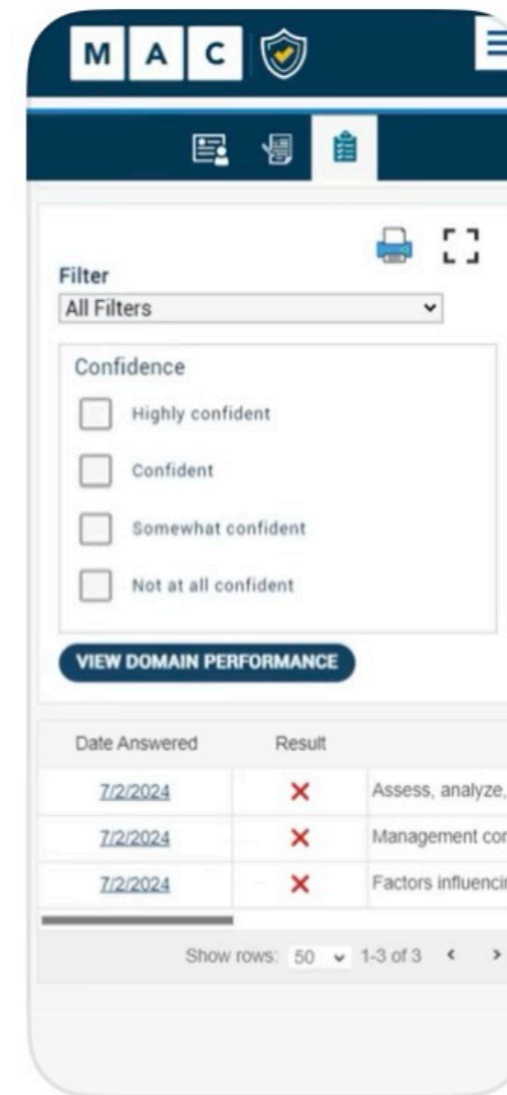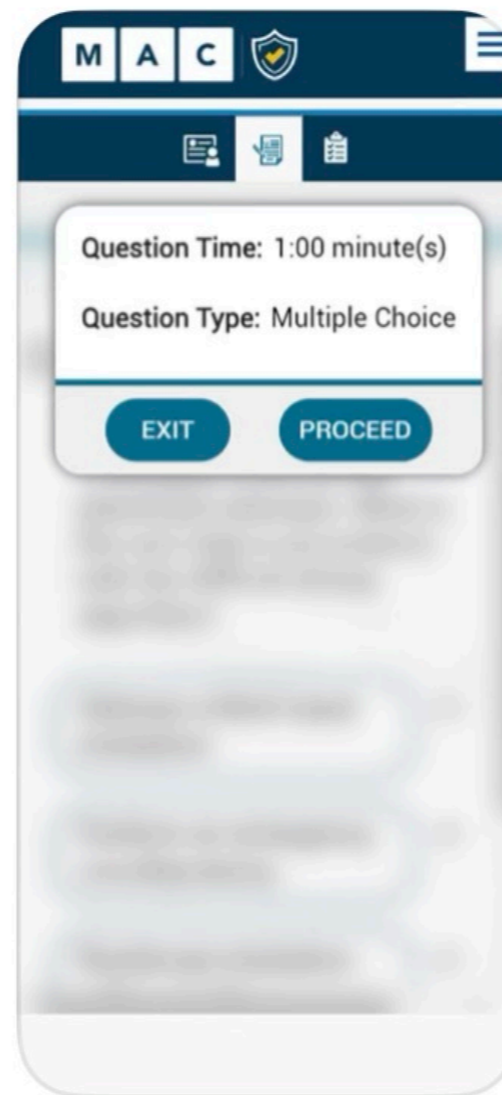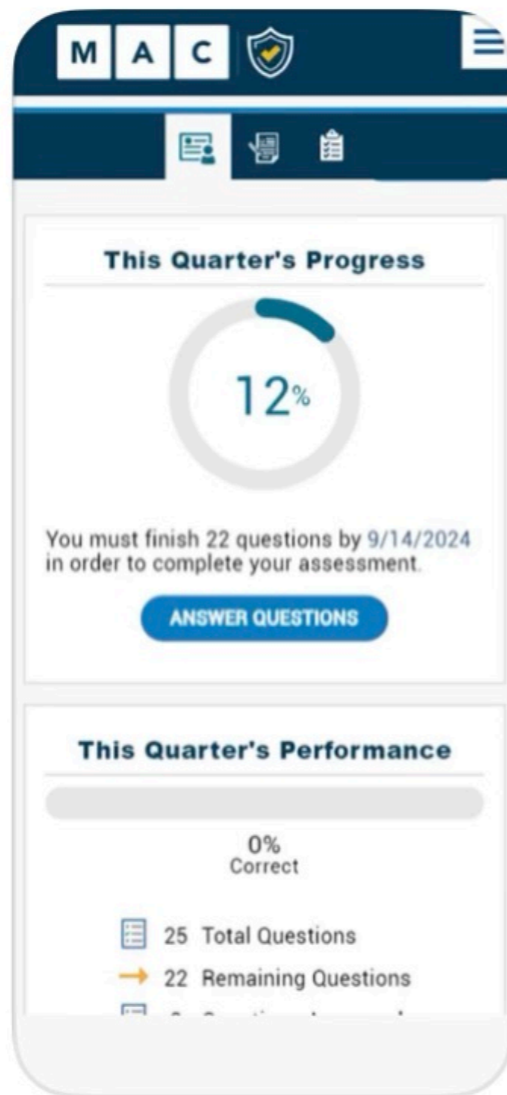
Get Familiar with MAC Check!

NBCRNA has created a MAC Check sample, designed to help you become familiar with the navigation and tools within MAC Check while answering quarterly questions.

MAC CHECK SAMPLE →

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How to master the CPC/MAC Programs

1. Log in to AANA to see where you're at

2. Do these 3 things early:
    1. Report your Class B credit
    2. CPC Assessment: take at least 6-months before the deadline
    3. MAC Check: download the app!

3. Be open minded about the process: master your craft!

Why do we have these programs?

Why is the CRNA credential valuable?

NBCRNA assures the value of "CRNA"

NBCRNA is required by their accreditors
to have a program to assess
CRNA continued competency.

"Most professionals reach a stable, average level of performance within a relatively short time frame and maintain this mediocre status for the rest of their careers."

- Anders Ericsson

What are other providers doing?

	Nurse Anesthetists	Anesthesiologist Assistants	Anesthesiologists (ABA-boarded)	Certified Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners (AANP)	Nurse Practitioners (ANCC)
Recertification Frequency	4 years	6 years	10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
Continuing Education	100 hours every four years **(250 in 10 years)**	40 hours every two years **(200 in 10 years)**	**250 hours every 10 years** MOCA Part 4 (25 points/5 years)	20 hours every 5 years **(40 in 10 years)** 3 Certificate Maintenance Modules	100 hours every 5 years **(200 in 10 years)**	75 hours every 5 years **(150 in 10 years)** +1 of 8 renewal activity
Exam Requirement	Yes, annually (100-115 questions)	Yes, every 6 years	Yes, annually (120 questions)	Optional	Optional	Optional
Practice Requirement	Yes	No	Yes	No	1000 hours every 5 years	Optional (1000 hours counts as a renewal activity)

But I'm still nervous about the
CPCA & MAC Check.

Tips for crushing CPCA/MAC Check

1. Take the CPCA early/MAC Check on-time

2. Don't sweat your score: it's not PASS/FAIL and doesn't directly effect your credential.

3. Relax. They're Celebrations of Knowledge!

Tips for crushing the CPCA

4. Decide to take it in-person or at-home

- In person:
  - Choose date/time/location carefully
  - Plan to drive by and walk in ahead of time

- At home:
  - Schedule it and READ ALL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY
  - Check WiFi, computer specs and block out space/time
  - **Sign in at least 30 minutes early**… it takes this long to set up your computer

Tips for crushing CPCA/MAC Check

5. NBCRNA Provides Practice Questions:

- CPCA: 160 questions

- MAC Check: 20 questions + format experience

Call to Action: *simple steps to get dialed in.*

1. Login to AANA Learn and see where you are.

2. Identify free Class B Activities and report your credits!

3. Take the practice questions at NBCRNA.com

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