



Certification Renewal

CNL renewal promotes lifelong learning to ensure continued competency, and to assure the public that the CNL has maintained current and relevant knowledge of the CNL skill set. CNL certification is valid for five (5) years and must be renewed on or before the expiration date of the CNL's certificate. Although re-examination is not required, CNLs must submit a Renewal Application along with supporting documents, and a renewal fee. Candidates for renewal must also complete at least 50 CEUs and demonstrate at least 2000 hours of work experience in the nursing field.

“CNL certification validates proficiency in a skill set that includes expertise in clinical leadership, management of clinical outcomes, and coordination of the care environment.”

Kris L'Ecuyer, PhD, RN, CNL
Coordinator, MSN-CNL and
Accelerated MSN Options
Saint Louis University School of Nursing

Web-Based Resources

Additional resources and information about the CNL credential and certification process can be obtained at AACNNursing.org/CNL-Certification. Resources include:

- +
- CNL Certification Guide
- +
- CNL Job Analysis Study
- +
- Personal Action Plan
- +
- Self-Assessment Examination
- +
- Multiple Choice Tutorial
- +
- AACN's CNL Certification Exam Review Course
- +
- Recommended Reading List
- +
- CNL Online Discussion Groups
- +
- AACN's Competencies and Curricular Expectations for Clinical Nurse Leader Education and Practice



About the CNC

The Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC) is the autonomous certifying body of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The mission of the CNC is to oversee Clinical Nurse LeaderSM (CNL[®]) certification activities to assure communities of interest that certificants have met accepted standards of practice. The CNL certification process is governed by the CNC Board of Commissioners (CNCBOC). The CNCBOC and staff are solely responsible for the policies and administration of the CNL Certification Program.

Additional Resources

- +
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
AACNNursing.org
- +
- Clinical Nurse Leader Association
www.CNLAssociation.org



Accreditation

CNC's Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).



COMMISSION ON NURSE CERTIFICATION

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Explore It!
Earn It!
Experience It!



Explore It!

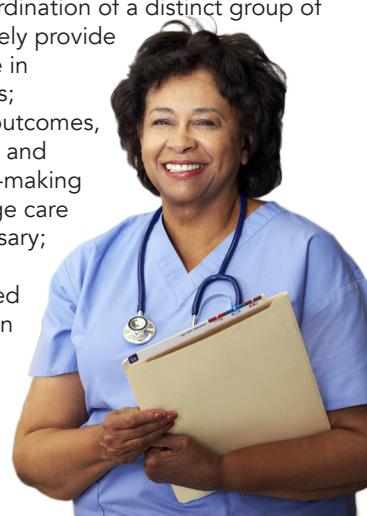
The Clinical Nurse LeaderSM (CNL[®]) is a master's educated nurse, prepared for practice across the continuum of care within any healthcare setting in today's changing healthcare environment. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) developed the CNL skill set in collaboration with leaders from academia and the practice arena. This unique credential recognizes CNL graduates who have demonstrated accepted standards of practice. The CNL mark of excellence promotes safe, quality practice through its ongoing requirements for professional development.

CNLs are at the front lines of the healthcare delivery system and are instrumental in providing the best evidence-based practice quality patient care available. Certification is based upon a national standard of requisite knowledge and experiences, thereby assisting employers, the public, and members of the health profession in the assessment of a CNL.

The CNL credential brings leadership, quality, and safety to the point of care!

Across practice settings, CNLs:

- + Are leaders in the healthcare delivery system with implementation roles that vary across settings;
- + Oversee care coordination of a distinct group of patients and actively provide direct patient care in complex situations;
- + Evaluate patient outcomes, assess cohort risk, and have the decision-making authority to change care plans when necessary; and
- + Put evidence-based practice into action to ensure that patients benefit from the latest innovations in care delivery.

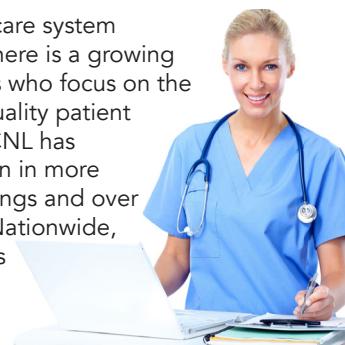


Earn It!

As our nation's healthcare system continues to evolve, there is a growing need for nurse leaders who focus on the delivery of safe and quality patient care. As a result, the CNL has become a vital function in more than 190 practice settings and over 130 nursing schools. Nationwide, more than 5000 nurses are CNL certified.

You can join this growing number of highly prepared nurse leaders by meeting the following eligibility requirements:

- + Possess Registered Nurse (RN) licensure (candidates are ineligible if currently being disciplined by a state nursing board);
- + Graduate from a CNL master's or postmaster's degree program, accredited by a nursing accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education; and
- + Successfully complete the CNL Certification Exam and submission of required application documents.



The Application Process

The certification application process includes completing the online CNL Certification Application, paying the registration fee, and submitting the Education Documentation Form.

The CNL Exam

To become CNL Certified, CNL graduates must successfully complete the CNL Certification Exam, a computer-based exam administered by the CNC. The exam, which is based upon the CNL Job Analysis Study, includes 140 multiple-choice questions. CNL partner schools serve as exam sites and, thereby, select testing dates within the testing period. Testing is also available through CNC's contracted testing agencies. To learn more about CNL testing sites, please visit www.AACNNursing.org/CNL-Certification.

Experience It!

As a CNL, you bring priceless value to your healthcare delivery system with a certification that prepares you to become a more engaged member of your interdisciplinary healthcare team.



Your CNL credential enables you to implement evidence-based practices ensuring that your patients benefit from the latest innovations in care delivery. Your skill set as a CNL gives you the leadership status needed to identify improvement opportunities and improve efficiency by targeting goals, performance measures and nursing sensitive indicators.

"CNL certification emphasizes leadership by example and collaborative/team approaches. Preparing for certification provides you with tools for evaluation of clinical problems."

Jean M. Roberts, DNP, RN, CNL, PHN
High-Risk Care Coordinator,
naviHealth

Certified CNLs Work in Many Different Settings!

- + Community Outpatient Centers
- + Healthcare Systems
- + Home Health Care
- + Homeless Shelters
- + Hospitals
- + Institutions of Higher Education
- + Non-Profit Organizations
- + Private Practice
- + Rehabilitation Centers and much more!