

To comply with standards, ensures that all employees receive training on blood borne pathogens.

- 6 months (written)
- 12 months (written)
- 18 months (written)
- 24 months (written)

## ANCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

# Make a Difference: Become an ANCC Item Writer

Volunteer your time and expertise by becoming an item writer for one of the ANCC certification exams.

Visit [www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org)  
for more information. >>

The **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**, the nation's largest nursing credentialing organization, actively seeks qualified nurses to serve as item writers for professional certification examinations across many nursing specialties.

ANCC provides professional certification of nurses who have proven themselves through education, experience, knowledge, testing, and professional conduct. ANCC offers a wide range of nursing certification examinations including those for nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and other specialty areas. Examinations are offered via computer nationwide and are designed to objectively assess entry-level competency in nursing specialties. More than a quarter million nurses have been certified by ANCC since 1990. More than 75,000 advanced practice nurses are currently certified by ANCC.

### What Is an Item?

"Item" is the term for a test question on an examination. To be included on an ANCC certification examination, items must meet specific, rigorous criteria. They must be psychometrically sound, they must be classified to an appropriate category on the examination's test content outline, and the correct answer must be referenced to a publication on the examination's reference list.

### Item Writer Responsibilities

All item writers participate in a two- or three-day training session at ANCC headquarters. This mandatory training session prepares item writers to write sound, high quality items which are later reviewed by a separate panel of content experts for possible inclusion on our examinations. Item writers are expected to write 35 items over a three-month period.

### Item Writer Expectations

Item writers are required to actively participate in the entire training session held at ANCC Headquarters. Item writers are expected to:

- 1) Sign an agreement to write 35 items within a three-month period.
- 2) Return all items via a specified electronic item submittal tool according to the deadlines established by ANCC staff.
- 3) Dedicate the time and effort necessary to produce high quality, psychometrically sound items and to apply the concepts presented during the training session to the development of each item. Each item requires an average of 1–1.5 hours of research, drafting, and revision.
- 4) Access the necessary reference materials to research, write, and document all items written.
- 5) Sign and agree to all terms outlined in the *ANCC Examination, Security, Confidentiality and No-Conflict of Interest Agreement*.

### Selection Criteria

You must be ANCC-certified in the area/specialty for which you wish to write items. If you hold more than one certification, you may apply to write items for each examination.

Membership in your state nurses association is preferred, but not required.

Item writing or test development experience is helpful, but not necessary.

Consideration is given to applicants from diverse ethnic backgrounds, geographical locations, and practice settings.

### Term of Appointment

Item writers are selected to serve a single three-month term during which they are expected to write 35 items.

### Travel/Accommodations for Training

Travel is paid for by ANCC. Airline and hotel reservations are directly charged to the ANCC account. Item writers are reimbursed after the workshop for meal and parking expenses.

### Benefits

Upon submission of all 35 items, item writers receive:

- 1) A 20 hour reduction in the number of continuing education contact hours required for ANCC recertification and
- 2) A specified number of continuing nursing education contact hours.

Item writers interact with colleagues from diverse geographic locations and practice settings.

Item writers support their profession by helping to ensure that nurses taking ANCC examinations receive sound, high quality examination items that reflect a broad range of practice.

### How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming an item writer, please submit the completed item writer application along with your resume or curriculum vitae to:

American Nurses Credentialing Center  
Attn: Measurement Services  
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

Applications are available at:

[www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/Volunteer/ItemWriters.aspx](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/Volunteer/ItemWriters.aspx)

### Questions?

If you have any questions about becoming an item writer, please e-mail: [ANCC.ItemWriter@ana.org](mailto:ANCC.ItemWriter@ana.org) or call: 1.800.284.2378 ext. 5278.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence® Program; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC's Institute for Credentialing Innovation® provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs.

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