

Item Writers: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need to have previous item writing training?

A. While previous item writing training or exam development experience is helpful it is not required. We train all our item writers in the characteristics of good test items and will assist in writing the first items.

Q. Where is the workshop held?

A. Training for item writers is held at ANCC headquarters in our new state-of-the-art facility in Silver Spring, Maryland. Silver Spring is 15 minutes from Washington, D.C., by way of the Metro subway.

Q. How long is the workshop?

A. The workshop is three days. Typically the first two days of the workshop runs from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and the third day from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. You are required to attend the entire time of the training.

Q. How many items will I need to complete?

A. You will be required to submit a total of 35 test items within a three-month period.

Q. Does ANCC cover my cost to attend the workshop?

A. Yes, if you are selected to attend the workshop, our travel consultant will assist you in making travel accommodations for your arrival and departure to and from the workshop. ANCC also provides three nights of accommodations at a neighboring hotel. Airline and hotel reservations are directly charged to ANCC's account. Reimbursements will be provided for meals, taxi, etc.

Q. How many nurses are usually at the Item Writer Workshop?

A. The workshops typically include from 8 to 12 participants representing approximately three different specialties.

Q. Are reference materials available during the training?

A. Yes, we maintain copies of the approved reference materials for each specialty. These materials are made available during the workshop. However, you must have access to the reference from home or office to write items.

For more information about becoming an Item Writer, send an email to ANCCItemWriter@ana.org or call at 1-800-284-2378, ext. 5278.