

The cover features a dark blue background with two large, sweeping arcs: a red one at the top and a blue one at the bottom. The text is centered and reads:

AANPCP

20th Anniversary

2013 Annual Report

About Us

The *American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP)* develops and provides psychometrically sound, legally defensible certification examinations for graduates of accredited masters, post-graduate, and doctoral level adult, family, and adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner programs. We work together with *Professional Examination Services (ProExam)* for exam development, psychometrics, and exam administration. Additionally, we provide the processes for recertification and for primary source verification of certification of nurse practitioners certified by AANPCP.

AANPCP's certification programs are accredited by the *Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC)*—formerly the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS)—and the *National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)*.

AANPCP Certificants have successfully completed the required certification process, which includes meeting certain educational requirements, passing a certification test verifying professional knowledge in the specialty, and maintaining continued competency in the profession through an established recertification process. Certificants of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program subscribe to the Scope and Standards of Practice initially established by the *American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)*, now officially the *American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)*.

Contents

Message from the Commission Chair	02
Greeting from the CEO	03
AANPCP at a Glance	04
2013 National Passing Rates	05
20 Years of Certification	06
Commission	07
Annual Aggregate Report	08
Looking Back	09
Staff	11
Looking Forward	12

AANPCP

VISION

Adhering to and upholding the highest standards for the certification of Nurse Practitioners.

MISSION

The mission of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner Certification Program is to provide excellence in testing and certification for Nurse Practitioners.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to provide a valid and reliable program for entry-level Nurse Practitioners to recognize their education, knowledge, and professional expertise and to provide a process for validation of an advanced practice registered nurse's qualifications and knowledge for practice as a Nurse Practitioner.

Message from the Commission Chair...



The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program has continued to grow rapidly over the last 5 years. Our primary responsibilities are to serve graduates from Family and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Programs and to protect the public by providing quality entry-into-practice exams based on standards of practice and evidence based national guidelines.

The last five years: During the last five years AANPCP has seen tremendous growth. We have doubled our staff and greatly increased the professional level involvement. In January of 2009, the certification program had 18,460 active certificants and by June of 2014, the number will approach or surpass 50,000 certificants. Our recertification rate in 2013 was 95%. Numerous changes have been made to improve our service. Some of these changes are computerized testing and online applications for new graduates as well as those individuals who are recertifying. Individuals know immediately after completing their test whether they passed or not. Official results are sent out promptly after receiving the final official transcript, assuming all other requirements have been met.

Excellence in service: Modifications in the program have led to much kudos from applicants. Comments received include: "I feel compelled to write on one of your extremely pleasant and competent co-workers. I had the pleasure of being assisted by ---, who couldn't have been nicer or more patient. A true professional", "I sincerely want to thank you for your exemplary customer service this morning", "Sincere thanks and gratitude for all you have done, which I know is above and beyond your usual day's work", and "My encounter with --- exemplifies the professionalism we all value in a colleague or employee." These are only a few of the many kudos we receive. The excellent staff we have are eager to help applicants with issues and problems.

In the last year, AANPCP's A-GNP certification was successfully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).

I would like to thank the Staff and Board of Commissioners for their excellence in service to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner Certification Program. It has been a pleasure to serve in such a progressive organization.

Lorna Schumann

Lorna Schumann, PhD, NP-C, ACNS-BC, ACNP-BC, CCRN-R, FAANP (Idaho)
Commission Chair, AANPCP

Greetings from the Chief Executive Officer...

I recently had the opportunity to hear Dr. Loretta Ford speak at the Leadership Breakfast during the NONPF National Conference. AANPCP was grateful to have the opportunity to sponsor the breakfast. One of her remarks regarding the qualities of a successful leader struck me as very appropriate for inclusion in my annual report. She reflected that successful leaders know how to surround themselves with competent, knowledgeable, and dedicated people. While she was addressing her comments to individuals, the same can be said of organizations. AANPCP is surrounded by a competent, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff as well as an extremely competent, knowledgeable, dedicated, and involved board of commissioners. The organization we have jointly worked so hard to bring to the current level of professional service is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished with a shared commitment to and passion for excellence.



We at AANPCP pride ourselves on the professionalism with which we approach national certification of Family Nurse Practitioners, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners, Adult Nurse Practitioners, and continue to serve those previously certified by us as Gerontologic Nurse Practitioners. While we are proud of our achievements with respect to the attainment of accreditation and reaccreditation of our certifications by both NCCA and ABSNC, we also realize that these reflect an ongoing commitment to the NPs we serve and we will continue to do all we can to ensure that this commitment is realized.

In this 20th anniversary annual report for AANPCP we are highlighting our roots, growth, and dedication to continuing to serve the NP community. Some of the milestones reached more recently include the recruitment and hiring of not only an outstanding Associate Director of Certification but also a Director of Certification. Kathryn M. Gomez, MSN, RN, FNP-C, FNP-BC came on board at the time we were needing additional assistance with the retirement of the GNP and the development of the A-GNP Primary Care Certification. She was instrumental in the smooth transition to the A-GNP as well as the dual accreditation of that certification. Diane Tyler, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FNP-BC, FAAN originally joined us to do the final professional review of applications and subsequently was promoted to Director of Certification. Her talents are proving to be invaluable as we move forward. I cannot say enough good things about the team we have at AANPCP.

The numbers reflected in other areas of this report reflect the tremendous growth we have had as a certification organization. They are also reflective of the professions' ability to step up and be the answer to the growing need for primary care providers. Nurse Practitioners have consistently shown that they provide high levels of competent and caring primary care.

To the more than 8,000 new Certificants in 2013, we say thank you for choosing AANPCP. We are committed to continue to provide you the best and most professional service available.

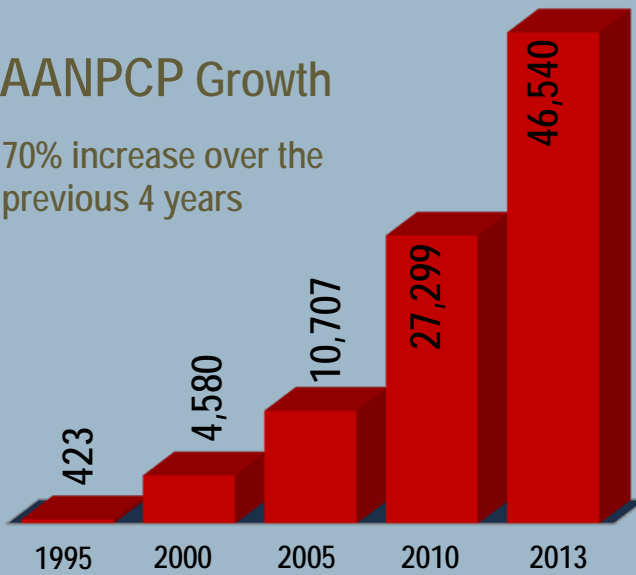
Richard F. Meadows

**Richard F. (Rick) Meadows, RN, MS, NP-C, FAANP (Colorado)
Chief Executive Officer, AANPCP**

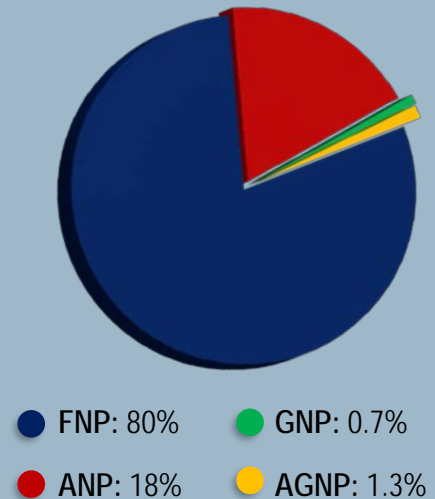
2013 At a Glance

AANPCP Growth

70% increase over the previous 4 years



Active AANPCP Certifications

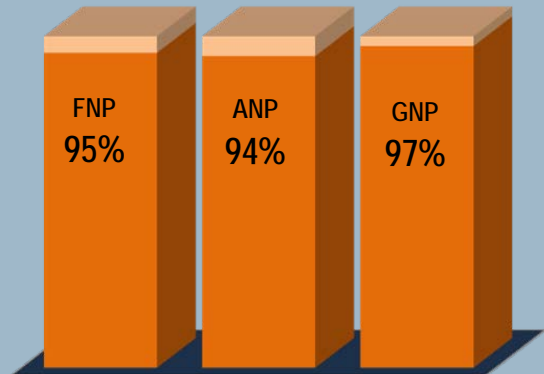


AANPCP administered 9,708 National Certification Examinations in 2013:

- 7,927 FNP
- 1,011 ANP
- 770 A-GNP

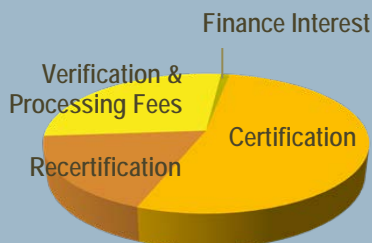
This number reflects a 19% increase over the numbers for 2012

The overall Passing Rate was 81.8%



2013 Recertification Rates

Revenues



Other
Finance Fees
BOC, Accreditation,
Professional dues, Travel
Operations



Expenses

Financial Report 2013

*This statement represents an un-audited income statement

*FY ending 12/31/2013

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program

2013 Passing Rate Report

For Exams Taken 01/01/2013 - 12/31/2013

ADULT NURSE PRACTITIONER		FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER		ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER	
Total Test in Standard Score	% of Examinees Group Scoring Lower	Total Test in Standard Score	% of Examinees Group Scoring Lower	Total Test in Standard Score	% of Examinees Group Scoring Lower
700 and above	96	700 and above	96	700 and above	98
680	92	680	92	680	93
660	87	660	84	660	88
640	78	640	73	640	81
620	70	620	64	620	71
600	62	600	54	600	61
580	55	580	44	580	49
560	46	560	35	560	40
540	40	540	27	540	33
520	32	520	21	520	26
500	24	500	14	500	17
480	18	480	10	480	12
Total ANP Pass Rate	75.8%	Total FNP Pass Rate	86.3%	Total A-GNP Pass Rate	83.2%
Initial Exam Pass Rate	81.7%	Initial Exam Pass Rate	88.0%	Initial Exam Pass Rate	83.3%

This **Score Report** indicates the standardized score performance for the 2013 **Adult, Family,** and **Adult-Gerontology** Nurse Practitioners National Certification Examination. Standard scores permit comparison of the performance among individuals taking the same certification examination.

2 Decades of Certification

The 1980's

- 1985** • The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Inc. (AANP) is established.

The 1990's

- 1993** • AANP forms the Certification Program under the direction of Dr. Jan Towers, Executive Director.
- 1994** • The 1st NP is certified by AANPCP.
 - AANPCP records 220 active certifications on December 31, 1994.
- 1996** • NCCA grants initial accreditation of the Adult and Family certification programs.
- 1999** • American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board, Inc. becomes incorporated as a nonprofit corporation October 1999.
 - NP-C becomes a registered trademark.
 - Estimated 60,000 NP's in the U.S.*

The 2000's

- 2002** • NCCA grants re-accreditation of the Adult and Family certification programs.
- 2003** • Estimated 97,000 NP's in the U.S.*
- 2004** • National Nurse Practitioner Week is recognized in a proclamation by U.S. Congress.*
- 2005** • Estimated 106,000 NP's in the U.S.*
- 2007** • AANPCP launches the Gerontologic NP certification examination.
 - NCCA grants initial accreditation of the Gerontologic certification program.
 - NCCA grants re-accreditation of the Adult and Family certification programs.
- 2008** • AANPCP endorses the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (LACE).

- 2009** • Richard F. Meadows, MS, NP-C, FAANP replaces Dr. Jan Towers as Executive Director.

The 2010's

- 2010** • AANPCP moves from testing-windows to computer-based testing year-round.
 - AANPCP creates new website where Certification, Recertification, and Verification processes can be offered on-line.
 - Estimated 140,000 NP's in the U.S.*
 - AANP celebrates their 25th Anniversary.*
- 2012** • Option for Certification by Endorsement is discontinued.
 - ABSNC grants accreditation of the Adult and Family NP certification programs.
 - GNP certification examination is retired at the end of December 2012.
- 2013** • The position of Executive Director is renamed Chief Executive Officer.
 - The Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP certification exam is launched January 2013.
 - ABSNC grants initial accreditation of the A-GNP Primary Care certification program.
 - AANP, the membership organization, and the American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) merges to form the new American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) – the largest, full-service national professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties.
 - AANPCP records 46,540 active AANPCP certifications.
- 2014** • NCCA grants initial accreditation of the A-GNP Primary Care certification program.

** Retrieved from American Association of Nurse Practitioners: www.aanp.org*



AANPCP Commission

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board, Inc. is overseen by a commission of talented, experienced nurse practitioners and an extremely dedicated and knowledgeable public member. The AANPCP Commission governs major AANPCP decisions, approves changes to the certification programs and processes, and offers input and guidance for organizational decisions.

As of January 1st, 2014

Lorna Schumann, PhD, NP-C, ACNS-BC, ACNP-BC, CCRN-R, FAANP (*Chair*); Idaho

Mona Counts, PhD, CRNP, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN (*Vice Chair*); Pennsylvania

Greg Holm, PhD, NP-C, FAANP (*Secretary*); Colorado

Mary Ellen Roberts, DNP, RN, APNC, FAAN, FAANP (*Treasurer*); New Jersey

Kathy Wheeler, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP (*Member at Large*); Kentucky

Lori Martin-Plank, PhD, MSN, MS, GNP-BC, NP-C, FNP-BC, FAANP (*Member at Large*); Pennsylvania

Marianne Hurley, MS, GNP-C, FNP-C (*Member at large*); Rhode Island

Barbara Safriet, JD, LLM, FAANP(H), FAAN (*Public Member*); Washington

Richard F. (Rick) Meadows, MS, ANP-C, FAANP, Chief Executive Officer (*ex officio*); Colorado

For all your hard work and dedication...

Thank you!



AANPCP extends its gratitude to Jan Towers and past Commissioners...

*Jan Towers, PhD, NP-C, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP
former Executive Director of AANPCP.*

- *Pat Brendenberg, PhD, FNP, ACNP, NP-C, FAANP*
- *Judith Lynch, MS, MA, APRN-BC, FNP, FAANP*
- *Vickie Anderson, MS, NP-C*
- *Leanne Busby, DNSc, FNP, NP-C, FAANP*
- *Madrean Schober, MSN, ARNP, ANP, FAANP*
- *Judith Dempster, DNSc, FNP, FAANP*
- *Joan Unger, ANP*
- *Tara Federici (Public Member)*



The Commissioners would like to thank Wendy Thon, MS, FNP-C, FAANP and Margaret Dean, MS, GNP-C, FAANP for their services as Commissioners up to December 2013.

Annual Aggregate Score Reports

AANPCP continues to provide annual aggregate performance data reports to universities and colleges to facilitate on-going curriculum evaluation and as a component of program accreditation. The Aggregate Score Report is considered a confidential record that is provided to NP faculty program directors and administrators. In the 2013 report a new section was added that provides aggregate program scores by year of student graduation, as well as for the year the exam was taken. To protect individual candidate confidentiality, pass/fail results are not provided to programs that have fewer than three candidates sitting for one of our certification examinations during the annual reporting period. The 2013 Aggregate Score Report was emailed to NP program representatives in February 2014.

Looking Back... 20 years of AANPCP

In the late 1980s, Dr. Jan Towers was asked by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) to start the process to provide a program that would recognize the education, knowledge and professional expertise of Nurse Practitioners. What was already developed and circulating were two documents from the AANP, *The Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners* and *The Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners*. These documents provided the framework and foundation for the education, knowledge and training for nurse practitioners.

Under Towers' leadership, multiple *Practice Analysis Workshops* were held throughout the late 1980s to establish the *Knowledge Areas* and *Testing Domains* used as the basis for test items and test construction. This was accomplished with the assistance of Professional Examination Services (ProExam) and many subject-matter experts.

The *Item Writing workshops* and building of the *Test Item Banks* seemed formidable. The process included reviewing the questions and domains, and constructing the tests, test reviews, and passing point scoring. Each phase took many months until finally, *the first national examinations were launched in 1993*. The certification program started with examinations for the Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult Nurse Practitioner, later evolved with addition of the Gerontologic exam, and now includes the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care examination.

The process was not without frustration, fatigue, jet lag, and brain freezes of many Nurse Practitioners from both academia and clinical practice. Many meetings were added onto other national meetings to ease costs and for convenience. Many of the early subject matter experts remember either presenting at conferences or participating for a 4-5 day conference, amidst other academic or clinical duties and staying on for an extra 2 days to work 10+ hour days at Practice Analysis, Item Writing, Test Construction, and Special Petitions. They gathered around Dr. Towers' kitchen table in Biglerville – which was not an easy destination for many of us. And, don't forget the conference calls that extended past midnight for the east coasters and the Saturday conference calls that were predawn to those of us in the west!!



Dr. Towers was, and continues to be, a dedicated champion of the Certification Program. Her determination and work ethic pushed the process forward. That process continues today under the leadership of Mr. Rick Meadows, AANPCP's CEO and Cynthia Kim, AANPCP's Program Director at ProExam.

Along with many of us who have been involved in this program for 20+ years, I feel very fortunate to have been along for the experience.

Wendy Thon

Wendy Thon, MSN, FNP-C, FAANP (Alaska)
AANPCP Commissioner 1996 - 2013

AANPCP Staff: Past to Present

2004. At that time there were only 6 employees, no departments, no specific responsibilities, no computer system. Everyone did everything, manually. When someone called about their application, we searched for their file and reviewed the notes handwritten on the inside cover. There were no templates for written letters; certificates were manually embossed, and wallet cards laminated individually. The poor fax machine was in constant use with communications to Dr. Jan Towers, our Executive Director, who worked in another office in another state. Candidates tested in "windows" offered only 3 times per year. It would take ≈2-3 months for AANPCP to receive scores from the testing vendor. Results were then mailed to the candidate. **Today**, the number of Approval Letters exported weekly is a testament to the product, services, and dedication of AANPCP. We have come a very long way in 10 years.



Yolanda V.

**Certification Coordinator
Started September 2004**

2006. The Certification Program was located in a small space in the offices of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). The room was packed with five desks, 40 filing cabinets, one typing table, and 10 people working shoulder- to-shoulder. The lucky ones got to use the computer. Employees worked sitting on the floor; some even sat working on top of filing cabinets!! Two employees processed orders for Eligibility and Verification of Certification, letters to state boards of nursing or credentialing offices in hospitals, medical offices, and insurance companies by hand and payments were recorded on a ledger. It was not a quick process by any means. Today, no longer does anyone have to sit on the floor to work, manual procedures have been streamlined and/or automated. Verification letters are emailed within minutes of receipt of an order and thousands of various orders and requests received monthly are efficiently completed.... Quite a contrast from recording orders manually and waiting for one's turn on the computer!!



Anita M.

**Verification & Finance Coordinator
Started July 2006**

The Recertification Department has seen a lot of changes over the years. Large amounts of paper applications, CE certificates, RN licenses, transcripts, 40+ tall legal-sized filing cabinets, and "snail" mail... AANPCP has since transitioned into a smooth running operation. Improved office space alleviated crowded areas; employees no longer need to do the "Certification Shuffle Dance" to avoid bumping into each other. Implementation of the online application process and electronic database certainly were the best decisions made by Certification Management. Watching the Department and AANPCP grow has been amazing, and it just keeps getting better due to the hard work and best intentions of all the employees. AANPCP is on the right path for our Certificants, and will continue to work hard so that all of our visions remain successful.



Linda M.

**Recertification Coordinator
Started September 2007**

The goal for the Data Entry Department and AANPCP continues to be: To ensure the smooth running of the application process. We know how important each step is, how much responsibility and attention-to-detail is required, and how much our candidates and Certificants depend on us. **2010** saw AANPCP morph to a completely electronic certification management database / filing system and to year-round computer-based testing. The tens of thousands of paper files we had in house have since been converted to electronic files. All new applications are immediately scanned and uploaded. Now that we are 100% electronic, the old file room has become a storage room. With the reduction of paper received (applications, transcripts, etc.) due to the online process and electronic transcript services, the overall application processing time has reduced significantly, contributing to the environment in a positive way.



Naomi M.

**Data Entry Coordinator
Started May 2009**



As the saying goes...

A company is only as good as its "People".

At AANPCP the work performed to complete the certification, recertification, and verification processes requires a tremendous amount of attention to detail. AANPCP receives hundreds of transcripts, documents, orders, and emails on a daily basis. Each day our staff continues to demonstrate their dedication to AANPCP by providing excellent customer service and seeking areas for continued improvement. They contribute to the success of this company through their actions, motivation, and experience. For that we are proud and grateful for we would not be where we are if not for our most valuable asset... our Employees.





Back Row: Paul Baca (AANPCP Certification Manager), Greg Holm (AANPCP Secretary)

Middle Row: Diane Tyler (AANPCP Director), Ken Miller (AANP Co-President), Angela Golden (AANP Co-President), Marianne Hurley (AANPCP Commissioner), Wendy Thon (AANPCP 2013 Commissioner), Mary Ellen Roberts (AANPCP Treasurer), Barbara Safriet (AANPCP Public Member), Margaret Dean (AANPCP 2013 Vice Chair)

Front Row: Richard F. (Rick) Meadows (AANPCP CEO), Lorna Schumann (AANPCP Chair), Mona Counts (AANPCP 2014 Vice Chair), Lori Martin-Plank (AANPCP 2014 Commissioner), Kathy Wheeler (AANPCP Commissioner), Kathryn Gomez (AANPCP Associate Director)

Looking Forward...

AANPCP will mark several milestones in the near future. There will soon be over 50,000 certified nurse practitioners who have earned the NP-C credential. Additionally, with the growth of NP programs, AANPCP anticipates the opportunity to certify more than 10,000 new NP's annually.



In response to the APRN Consensus Model, AANPCP developed and launched the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP certification program, and retired the Gerontologic NP certification by examination.

Currently, criteria for renewal of certification are under review. Proposed changes include requiring a minimum number of pharmacology continuing education credits. Certificants have requested recognition for mentoring NP students as a component of their ongoing professional development. Thus, including a credit option for being a preceptor is being considered. Revised Recertification criteria will be announced by 2015.

The Consensus Model recommendations also include subspecialty expertise should be built upon a general, broad-based education and national certification. Looking to the distant future, will AANPCP explore additional areas of certification? With the global expansion of advanced practice nurses, will AANPCP have opportunities to certify NP's internationally? What other opportunities will arise? We look forward to the next 20 years!

Diane Tyler

Diane O. Tyler, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FNP-BC, FAAN (Texas)
Director of Certification, AANPCP

American Academy
of
Nurse Practitioners

Certification Program

PO Box 12926
Austin, TX 78746

Main (512) 637-0500
Toll-Free (855) 822-6727
Fax (512) 637-0540

certification@aanpcert.org
www.aanpcert.org

