

I'm Emily Lane. I am a nurse practitioner, faculty member, and resume writer/career coach. I have worked for MinuteClinic, taught LPNs and RNs with USC Upstate and ECPI, and have been tutoring and counseling NPs for 5 years. Welcome!

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Click here for the free [NP Guide Grad School Survival Guide](#) full of tips and resources to get you through grad school.

Haven't found a grad school yet? Click [here](#) for the results of a public survey I completed at the end of 2022 regarding program quality based solely off student opinion.

FNP/AGNP Board Examination Master Guide		
	AANP https://www.aanpcert.org/certs/proces	ANCC https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/family-nurse-practitioner/
Questions	150 questions, 135 are graded and 15 are not. You will not know which 15.	175 questions, 150 are graded and 25 are not. You will not know which 25.
Breakdown	All Clinical	90% Clinical and 10% non-clinical
Question Format	All multiple choice	Mostly multiple choice, with some drop and drag, hot spot, and multiple response
Picture Questions (EKG, XRAY, SKIN, EYE)	No (theoretically yes there can be one, but it has been years since one was on there)	Yes: likely to have EKG strip, chest xray, or identify skin/eye condition
Do I need to memorize lab values?	No, normal ranges are provided	Yes: CBC with diff, BMP, thyroid panel, PSA, cholesterol, liver enzymes, diabetes, ESR, iron panel
Scoring	Immediate Pass/Fail. If you fail, your score report will be mailed to you. The score needed is 500/800. It is not a percentage as each question is weighted differently.	Immediate Pass/Fail. If you fail, your score report will be mailed to you. The score needed is 350/500. It is not a percentage as each question is weighted differently.
Test blueprint	https://www.aanpcert.org/certs/fnp	https://www.nursingworld.org/~496ce3/globalassets/certification/certification-specialty-pages/resources/test-content-outlines/ancc-22-fnp-tco-2021-final-for-webposting_updated-04112022.pdf
Test handbook	https://www.aanpcert.org/resource/documents/AGNP%20FNP%20Candidate%20Handbook.pdf	https://www.nursingworld.org/~4919b1/globalassets/certification/renewals/ancc-generaltestingrenewalrequirements.pdf

Cost	\$315	\$395
Discount	\$240 for AANP/AAENP Members	\$295 for ANA members, \$340 for AANP members, \$290 AANP Student Member
Pass Rate (2019) of first-time candidates	86%	87%
Pass Rate (2021)	84% (MSN); 91% (DNP)	
Pass Rate (2022)		86%
Testing Center	Prometric	Prometric
Authorization to test	Once you have received ATT, you have 120 days to schedule your exam	Once you have received ATT, you have 90 days to schedule your exam
Can I apply early?	Yes, MSN/PG candidates can apply 6 months prior to graduation; DNP candidates can apply 1 year prior to graduation (DNP may test early with a letter from NP director). Candidates may sit for an examination after they have completed all didactic courses and clinical practice hours required for their NP program.	Candidates may be authorized to sit for the examination after all coursework and faculty-supervised clinical practice hours for the degree are complete, prior to degree conferral and graduation, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.
Eligible to test	Degree conferred The NP program completion date and the graduation date is less than 30 days apart All required didactic and clinical coursework of the candidate's NP portion of their program is complete (in the case of DNP candidates).	Degree Conferred or all clinicals/coursework completed
Application time turnaround	3 to 6 weeks following complete application, required docs, and fees to get ATT; no expedition possible	3 to 4 weeks; To shorten normal processing time to 3 business days, complete the Certification Expedite Review Request Form [pdf] and include nonrefundable \$200 processing fee.
VOE Form	not used	The Validation of Education (VOE) form and official/unofficial transcripts detailing planning coursework and faculty-supervised clinical hour completion must be submitted before authorization to test (ATT) status will be issued. (completed by your school - can slow down the whole process)

GAP Form	not used	Needed for those with Post-Graduate Certificate and Post-Graduate Doctoral Degrees
When will my results be released to my requested BON?	If you test early (before official transcripts have been sent), your scores will not be released, even if you pass, until after your school sends official transcripts.	ANCC will retain exam results and issue certification only after all eligibility requirements are met, a passing exam result is on file, and on the date the final, degree-conferred official transcript is received.
Retake?	2 times per calendar year; must complete 15 CEs before retesting	3 times per 12 months; test must be 60 days apart; Please wait 5 days after examination to submit a retest application online; retest fee is \$270
Recertification	1000 practice hours every 5 years	Practice hours -or- CEs, publications, etc (This one is better for academics/researchers)
Recognized in other countries?	No	Yes, take ANCC if you plan to practice overseas (Canada, England, etc)
Total # of FNPs certified by AANP vs ANCC	118,223 as of 2019; around 19,000 tested in 2019	74,084 as of 2019; around 5,700 tested in 2019
Credentials	FNP-C	FNP-BC
References used to write the test	https://www.aanpcert.org/resource/documents/AGNP%20FNP%20Reference%20List.pdf	
Contact info	Website: https://www.aanpcert.org Email: Certification@aanpcert.org Email Official Transcripts to: Transcripts@aanpcert.org Certification Administration: (512) 637-0500	

For both exams, If a candidate chooses to withdraw an examination application, ANCC or AANP must receive a written request before the end of the candidate's testing window in order for the candidate to receive a refund minus the administrative fee (which I cannot find the amount but I believe it to be around \$100).