

Nurses should verify this information and all information regarding licensure requirements with their state licensing board. This information is offered as a summary and does not include specifics regarding content. Information may have changed since this information was last verified on August 31, 2005. Licenses are offered and renewed at the sole discretion of the state boards.

State	Term (Years)	Continuing Education Requirements (Number of contact hours)	
		RNs	APNs
Alabama	2	24	24 plus 6 contact hours in area of pharmacology for NPs, CNMs
Alaska	2	Before a license can be renewed, registered and practical nurse licensees must complete two of the following methods for maintaining continuing competency: 1.30 contact hours of CE 2.30 hours of participation in professional activities or 3.320 hours of employment	National Certification
Arizona	4	None	None
Arkansas	2	15 practice-focused contact hours from an approved provider	National certification; The APN is required to have a Certificate of Prescriptive Authority issued by the Board of Nursing in order to prescribe. Prescribing is limited to the APN's scope of practice which is defined by the APN's national certification. To obtain the certificate, the APN must complete an advanced pharmacology course with a preceptorship, work as an APN for a defined period and have a collaborative practice agreement with a physician
California	2	30 hours every 2 years from a provider approved by CBON or Courses Approved by Other Entities. Courses approved by appropriate state, regional and national health professional associations as well as other professional health and licensing boards in and out of California can be acceptable, so long as the content meets the Board's requirements as specified in Title 16, CCR, Section 1456. These courses must be developed for continuing education purposes. Courses taken in another state, so long as the course is acceptable by that state's Board of Nursing for continuing education. Courses approved by ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center) approved regional accrediting bodies when these courses are taken out-of-state. Courses offered in California by out-of-state organizations, associations, corporations, individuals, must have a BRN approved CEP number.	Same as for RN
Colorado	2	None	National certification

Connecticut	1	None	National certification
Delaware	2	30 contact hours	National certification
District of Columbia	2	The completion of twenty-four (24) contact hours of continuing education in the licensee's current area of practice is required commencing with the renewal period of 2006. Contact hours must be completed for the 2006 renewal period by June 30, 2006.	The completion of twenty-four (24) contact hours, contact hours of continuing education is required commencing with the renewal period of 2006. Contact hours must be completed for the 2006 renewal period by June 30, 2006. Fifteen (15) of the twenty-four (24) contact hours must include a Pharmacology component.
Florida	2	25 hours of appropriate continuing education every 2 years, including 1 hour on HIV/AIDS, 2 hours on Prevention of Medical Errors, 1 hour of Domestic Violence from a Florida-approved provider. In lieu of completing a courses in HIV/AIDS education or Domestic Violence, a licensee may complete a course in end-of-life care or palliative health care.	Same as for RN
Georgia	2	None	National certification
Hawaii	2	None	National certification
Idaho	2	None	National certification
Illinois	3	None	National certification
Indiana	2	None	Advanced Practice Nurses with Prescriptive Authority must obtain at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education, at least eight (8) hours of which must be in pharmacology. Applicants for renewal of Prescriptive Authority shall submit proof of completion of the mandatory continuing education at the time of renewal. Acceptable continuing education programs must be approved by a nationally approved sponsor of continuing education for nurses and approved by the Board and contained on a list at the Health Professions Bureau.
Iowa	1	12 credits/year. Also mandated that a person, who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats dependent adults or children in Iowa accurately document compliance with training requirements as outlined by the Iowa Department of Public Health Abuse Education Review Panel.	Same as for RN
Kansas	2	30 credits/2 years	Same as for RN
Kentucky	1	14 contact hours/year OR national certification. There are the following specific requirements: a one time requirement to earn 3 contact hours of approved domestic violence CE within 3 years of initial licensure; earn 2 hours of mandatory HIV/AIDS CE once every 10 years	14 contact hours/year OR national certification. 5 credits must be in the area of pharmacology
Louisiana	1	5 contact hours/year if employed full time;	Same as for RN

		10 if employed part time	
Maine	2	None	National certification
Maryland	2	None	National certification
Massachusetts	2	15 contact hours/every two years	National certification
Michigan	2	25 contact hours every two years	National certification
Minnesota	2	24 contact hours of continuing education during a 24 month period of registration	National certification
Mississippi	2	None	National certification
Missouri	2	None	National certification
Montana	2	None	National certification
Nebraska	2	20 contact hours within the last renewal period, 10 of which was peer reviewed and approved	40 contact hours of continuing education in appropriate clinical specialty area within the 2 years proceeding the renewal period. 10 of the 40 contact hours must be in pharmacotherapeutics.
Nevada	2	30 contact hours of continuing education during the 24 months which immediately precede the nurse's most recent birthday; four of the 30 continuing education credits must be earned in a bioterrorism course that meets state requirements.	Same as for RN
New Hampshire	2	30 contact hours in 2 years immediately preceding license application	In addition to 30 contact hours for RN licensure, 30 additional hours specific to ARNP specialty, 4 of which shall be pharmacology specific in 2 years immediately preceding application.
New Jersey	2	None	National certification
New Mexico	2	30 hours of approved CE within the 24 months immediately preceding expiration of license	50 hours of approved CE each renewal. Thirty (30) contact hours shall meet the requirements for licensure as an RN and an additional twenty (20) contact hours, fifteen (15) of which must be pharmacology and five (5) in the area of practice.
New York	2	None	National certification
North Carolina	2	North Carolina requirements will be changing effective July 1, 2006. For more information, click here .	National certification
North Dakota	2	Currently 4 contact hours per 24 month renewal period; will increase to 12 by 2007	National certification
Ohio	2	24 hours/2 year renewal period, 1 hour of which must be in Ohio nursing law	National certification
Oklahoma	2	None	National certification plus 45 hours in the area of pharmacotherapeutics at initial licensure
Oregon	2	None	100 contact hours/2 years
Pennsylvania	2	None	16 hours of State Board of Nursing approved continuing education in pharmacology in the two years prior to the biennial renewal date of the CRNP certification, as part of the requirement of 30 hours of continuing

			education biennially.
Rhode Island	2	Beginning in March 2006, 10 contact hours/2 year licensing period	National certification
South Carolina	2	30 contact hours per renewal period	National certification plus 45 hours in the area of pharmacotherapeutics at initial licensure (15 of which must be in controlled substance pharmacology for NPs wishing to prescribe these drugs)
South Dakota	2	None	National certification
Tennessee	2	None	National certification and 3 hours in pharmacology
Texas	2	20 contact hours every two years	20 contact hours every two years
Utah	2	No CE requirement if practiced at least 400 hours/2 years; 15 CE required if practiced 200-400 hours; 30 hours if no practice	National certification
Vermont	2	None	National certification
Virginia		None	National certification
Washington	2	None	30 hours every two years in area of specialty; additional 15 hours in pharmacotherapeutics if prescriptive authority
West Virginia	2	30 hours every 2 years	National certification
Wisconsin	2	None	National certification
Wyoming	2	No requirement for CE if 1600 hours of practice in last 5 years. If applicants do not meet practice requirement, they must demonstrate continued competence by one of 5 ways, one of which is 20 hours of completed CE	60 hours of CE plus 400 practice hours/2 years OR National certification including 30 hours of CE