Graduate Program Manual Operating Policy
and Procedure

SON OP 40.416 Eligibility to take APRN National Certification Examination

PURPOSE The Texas Board of Nursing and the certifying boards (American Academy of Nurse Practitioners [AANP], American Nurses Credentialing Center [ANCC], Pediatric Nursing Certification Board [PNCB], American Association of Critical-Care Nurses [AACN], and American Midwifery Certification Board [AMCB]) set the standards for determining eligibility for licensure and certification for advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) practice.

REVIEW All policies in the Graduate Program Manual shall be reviewed by the Graduate Program Associate Dean/Department Chairs by December 1 of even numbered years in collaboration with the Graduate Program Council. Final approval of the Graduate Program Manual is by the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE Students are eligible for licensure as an APRN and to take the national certification exam in a specific population focus area when the following criteria are met:

- In good academic standing
- Completion of a post-basic (Master’s degree or higher) advanced educational program of study appropriate for practice as an advanced specialty and role recognized by the Board of Nursing
- Completion of an APRN program accredited by a national accrediting body
- Completion of an APRN program at least one year in length and including a formal preceptorship
- Completion of documents required by the BON
- Completion of documents required by the national certifying bodies

The requirements to take a national certification exam are available at the following websites for national certifying bodies:

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC):

https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care
- Psychiatric-Mental Health

EM: 12.2014; Approved MSN Council: 01.2015; MSN Council12/2016; Graduate Program Council 11/26/2018; Graduate Program Council 11/30/2020
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP): 
https://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/index
  Family Nurse Practitioner

American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN): http://www.aacn.org/
  Adult Gerontology Acute Care

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB):
http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/index
  Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care
  Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care

American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB): http://www.amcbmidwife.org/
  Nurse Midwifery