

CRNA CERTIFICATION

Currently, nurses who administer anesthesia in this Commonwealth are licensed as RNs and are authorized to administer anesthesia under Section 21.17 of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code § 21.17, if they hold a graduate degree from an accredited nurse anesthesia program, are Nationally certified and the anesthesia is administered in cooperation with a surgeon or dentist. Act 60 of 2021 amended the Professional Nursing Law (RN Law) by adding Sections 8.8 and 8.9, 63 P.S. §§ 218.8 and 218.9, which authorized the State Board of Nursing (Board) to recognize and certify CRNAs. On October 10, 2026, the Board will publish CRNA certification regulations in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will begin accepting CRNA certification applications.

To qualify for certification, applicants must meet the following requirements set forth in Section 21.1010 of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code § 21.1010:

- (1) Registered nurse license. An applicant for certification shall hold a current, unrestricted license as a registered nurse in this Commonwealth (single state or multistate) or another Nurse Licensure Compact state.
- (2) Education. An applicant for certification shall have completed a board-approved master's, post-master's or doctorate nurse anesthesia program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA) or other board-approved program that awarded an advanced degree or a course of study considered by the Board to be equivalent to that required for certification in this Commonwealth at the time the course was completed. A list of board-approved programs will be maintained on the board's website.
- (3) National certification. An applicant for certification shall hold current National certification as a CRNA by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) or another board-recognized National certification organization. A list of board-recognized National certification organizations will be maintained on the board's website.

(4) Mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting. An applicant for certification shall have completed at least 3 hours of approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting under § 21.508(a) (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

Applicants will be required to provide the following information/documentation:

1. An Application for Certification.
2. RN license number.
3. Evidence of completion of a board-approved master's, post-master's or doctorate nurse anesthesia program. Applicants will be required to request that the Director of your nurse anesthesia program provide the following documents *directly* to the Board:
 - a. A Verification of Education Form. This form, that will be available on the Board's website, will request the following information:
 - i. The degree awarded.
 - ii. The date the Program was completed.
 - iii. The name of the Board-approved nurse anesthesia accrediting body accrediting the Program.
 - iv. An attestation that the Program's content meets the Board's educational requirements.
 - b. Educational transcripts. Like the education verification, the transcript must identify the degree awarded and the date the degree was conferred.
4. Evidence that the applicant holds current National certification as a CRNA. Applicants will be required to request verification of current National certification from their National certifying body.
5. Evidence that the applicant completed at least 3 hours of approved mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting. After completing the required training, the approved provider will electronically submit the name and date of attendance to the Board.
6. Evidence that applicant submitted fingerprints for a FBI criminal history record check.

- a. Applicants must pre-register for fingerprinting services through [IdentoGO](#) and use this service code to ensure the Board receives the results: 1KGFJV. Information about the IdentoGO process and the identification documentation required is available at: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dos/resources/professional-licensing/identification-documents-accepted-identogo.pdf>.
 - b. After being fingerprinted, applicants will receive a confirmation receipt that must be uploaded to the application before it can be submitted.
7. The \$103.00 application fee for Certification as a CRNA.
8. If licensed/certified as a CRNA in another state, letters of good standing from all states wherein the applicant holds/held licensure/certification.

Pursuant to Section 8.9(a) of the RN Law, 63 P.S. § 218.9(a), and Section 21.1020(a) of the Board's regulations, 49 Pa. Code § 21.1020(a), a currently certified CRNA may perform anesthesia services in cooperation with a physician, podiatrist or dentist involved in the procedure for which anesthesia is being provided if the anesthesia service is performed under the overall direction of one of the following:

- (1) A currently licensed medical or osteopathic physician who has completed an accredited residency training program in anesthesiology.
- (2) A currently licensed medical or osteopathic physician who is performing the procedure for which anesthesia is being provided.
- (3) A currently licensed podiatrist who is performing the procedure for which anesthesia is being provided.
- (4) A currently licensed dentist authorized to administer, supervise or direct the administration of anesthesia.

The physician, podiatrist or dentist must be present and available onsite but is not required to be present in the same procedure room as a CRNA performing anesthesia services for the duration of the services provided. However, a CRNA may provide brief periods of care in the event of an emergency that temporarily prevents or interferes with the required cooperation.

Effective October 10, 2027, CRNAs must possess Board certification in order to provide nurse anesthesia in this Commonwealth.