



Overview of Licensing and Certification Requirements for Selected Healthcare Professions

Only PAs are required by their certifying organization to pass a recertification exam on a periodic basis in order to satisfy state maintenance of license requirements.

Profession	License and Maintenance of License Requirements				Certification and Maintenance of Certification Requirements			
	Licensure Exam Required	Residency Required for Initial Licensure	Certification Required for Initial Licensure	Maintenance of License Requirement	Certifying/ Recertifying Organizations	Type of Certification Available	Initial Certification Exam	Recertification Requirements Set by Recertification Organization
PA	Yes	No	Yes	20 states: NCCPA Recertification (Test & CME) 3 states: NCCPA Recertification required for Rx Authority 25 states/DC: CME	NCCPA	General	License Exam	Test & CME
NP	Yes	No	Yes (except CA & NY)	CPD & Practice Hours or CPD & Test (if practice hours not completed)	ANCC AANPCP	Specialty	License Exam	CPD & Practice Hours or CPD & Test (if practice hours not completed)
PHARMACIST	Yes	No	No	CE	BPS	Specialty	Specialty Exam	Exam or CPD
PHYSICIANS	Yes	1 yr: 32 states 2 yrs: 16 states 3 yrs: 3 states	No	CME	Multiple; Varies by Specialty	Specialty	Varies by Specialty	Varies by specialty; test and/or CME

¹ Only PAs licensed by the NV Osteopathic Board must be recertified by NCCPA in order to maintain their license.

² PAs licensed in MN must be recertified by NCCPA in order to retain any prescribing authority; those licensed in OR must be recertified by NCCPA in order to retain their Schedule II prescribing authority.

³ In addition, PAs licensed by the WA Osteopathic Board must be recertified by NCCPA in order to maintain their Schedule II prescribing authority.

CPD is Continuing Professional Development, which may consist of continuing education, precepting, speaking, research and writing.