

Week One: Certification and Licensure Plan

A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse with advanced practice credentials authorized to provide health care to patients. NPs are accountable to the same legal and ethical standards as physicians and provide individualized, high-quality treatment to all patients. In addition, nurse practitioners are committed to overcoming healthcare gaps to better fulfill the public's needs. The State Board of Nursing in Maryland regulates the practice of APRNs (Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, 2021).

The America Nursing Credentialing Commission (ANCC) administers Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) accreditation. To be eligible for the ANCC exam, a candidate must possess a valid Registered Nurse license from a U.S. state or territory and a PMHNP degree from a recognized nursing education institution. The discussion paper will summarize the certification and licensing procedure in Maryland, my home state.

How do you get certified and licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in your State?

To become an advanced practice registered nurse in Maryland, nurses must complete a board-approved educational program for nurse practitioners and apply for a Board-approved national certifying examination. A registered nurse who has completed a board-approved educational program for nurse practitioners and has applied to take a Board-approved national certifying test may practice as a nurse practitioner graduate before certification in this State. First, the candidate will submit a completed application for a certificate as a nurse practitioner in line with the Board's rule requiring completion of an authorized nurse practitioner education program. Second, the candidate must produce proof of degree to take a national certification test approved by the Board.