

# Choosing Wound / Ostomy Certification?

Choose the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board: The Gold Standard for Certification®



	Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board WOCNCB®	National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy NAWCO®	American Board of Wound Management ABWM®
<b>HISTORY</b>			
<b><u>Credentialing Over 30 Years</u></b>	Est. 1978	Est. 2002	Est. 1995
Credentials for wound care	✓	✓	✓
Credentials for ostomy care	✓	✓	
Credentials for continence care	✓		
Credentials for foot care	✓		
Certifying only RNs (and higher)	✓ More than 8,000 RNs hold WOCNCB credentials	All healthcare professionals (# RNs unknown)	All healthcare professionals (# RNs unknown)
	CWOCN® - Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse CWON® – Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse CWCN® – Certified Wound Care Nurse CCCN® – Certified Continence Care Nurse COCN® – Certified Ostomy Care Nurse CFCN® – Certified Foot Care Nurse  Advanced Practice (AP) designations also available: CWOCN-AP, CWON-AP, CWCN-AP, COCN-AP, CCCN-AP  New for RN and LPN/LVN WTA-C Wound Treatment Associate Certification	WCC® - Wound Care Certified DWC® - Diabetic Wound Certified OMS – Ostomy Mgmt. Specialist LLE – Lymphodema Lower Extremity Certified	CWS® - Certified Wound Specialist CWSP® - Certified Wound Specialist Physician CWCA® - Certified Wound Care Associate
International Credentialing	✓Yes	No	No
<b>ACCREDITATION</b>			
ABSNC (Accreditation Board of Specialty Nursing Certification)	✓CWOCN ✓CWON ✓CWCN ✓CCCN ✓COCN	None	None
Accredited Certification Programs			
NCCA-Accredited Certification Programs	✓CWOCN ✓CWON ✓CWCN ✓CCCN ✓COCN	None	✓CWS ✓CWCA ✓CWSP
Education Programs	✓ WOC Education Programs accredited by the WOCN Society		

	WOCNCB®	NAWCO®	ABWM®
<b>ELIGIBILITY For Examination</b>			
Licensure Requirement	Licensed RN (minimum) CWOCN	Any licensed healthcare professional	Any licensed healthcare professional
Education and Experience Requirement	Any Bachelor's Degree and Complete WOC Education Program accredited by the WOCN Society includes precepted clinical hours through the WOC Education Program  WTA-C LPN/LVN or RN WOCN Society WTA Program and 16 clinical hours under direct supervision of wound care expert	Complete the Skin and Wound Management Course (or Ostomy Management Specialist course) from WCEI Plus active patient wound care or management, education or research while actively licensed for 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time within past 5 years	Bachelor's degree (or higher) and 3 years of direct clinical experience in wound care or 1 year fellowship certified by a credentialing organization (CWS)  Healthcare or sales/marketing professional with 3 years of wound care related experience (CWCA)  MD, DO, DPM and 3 years clinical wound care experience and direct patient care (CWSP)
Alternative Experiential Pathway	✓ 1500 clinical hours plus 50 CE credits in specialty in past 5 years	Wound Certification – ✓ Active in patient wound care, management, education or research directly related to wound care while actively licensed for 4 years full-time within past 5 years. Plus 60 contact hours in skin and wound care within past 5 years. Or, 120 precepted clinical hours	None
<b>RECERTIFICATION TERM</b>	5 years	5 years	10 years
Recertification by Professional Portfolio option	✓ Submission of demonstrated professional activities related to specialty	✓ 60 CEU's from approved/accredited program or WCEI training program (WCC, DWC, OMS only)	<i>Membership renewal requirement:</i> 6 CEUs in wound management annually  ✓ None Exam Only
<b>TEST DEVELOPMENT</b>	✓ Role Delineation Study of nurses RN or higher practicing in each specialty used by peer volunteers and professional psychometricians to create exam	✓ Job practice analysis	✓ Role delineation study
Test Development by Nursing Peers			
<b>APPLICATION / FEES</b>			
Online Application Processing	✓	No - paper application only	No - paper application only
Deadlines	✓ No application deadlines; up to 12 months' eligibility to sit for WOCNCB exam.	Four weeks prior to the date that you are requesting to test.	Fifteen business days prior to desired exam date. Up to six months eligibility to sit for exam.
Exam Fees	✓ \$375 one specialty exam  Plus \$115 for each additional specialty WOCNCB exam taken	\$300  Plus \$30 for processing	\$575 (CWS) \$375 (CWCA) \$995 (CWSP)
No Annual Maintenance Fees	✓	✓	\$150 (\$1500 for 10 year credential period)

Ref. : [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org); <http://www.abwmcertified.org/>; <http://www.nawccb.org>