




Choosing Wound/Ostomy Care Certification?

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

		National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy (NAWCO®)	American Board of Wound Management (ABWM®)
HISTORY			
Credentialing Over 40 Years	✓		
Credentials for wound care	✓ Since 1978	✓ Since 2002	✓ Since 1995
Credentials for ostomy care	✓ Since 1978	✓ Since 2012	
Credentials for continence care	✓ Since 1978		
Credentials for foot care	✓ Since 2005		
Certifying only RNs (and higher)	✓ Over 8600 RNs hold WOCNCB credentials	All healthcare professionals # RNs unknown	All healthcare professionals Approximately 800 RNs
International Credentialing	✓		
Credentials Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 are also available: CWOCN-AP®, CWON-AP®, CWCN-AP®, COCN-AP®, CCCN-AP® LPN/LVN level credential: WTA-C® (Wound Treatment Associate-Certified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WCC® – Wound Care Certified OMS® – Ostomy Management Specialist ✓ AWCC® – Advanced Wound Care Certified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CWS® – Certified Wound Specialist
ACCREDITATION			
ABSNC-Accredited Certification Programs	✓ CWOCN®; CWON®; CWCN®; CCCN®; COCN®		
NCCA-Accredited Certification Programs	✓ CWOCN®; CWON®; CWCN®; CCCN®; COCN®	✓ WCC®	✓ CWS®

WOCNCB® is the only certification for Wound, Ostomy, Continence and Foot Care nursing that is accredited by BOTH ABSNC and NCCA.

Accredited specialty nursing certification has become an important guidepost for healthcare facilities seeking Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Disclaimer: Content verified as of 1/2020 via website searches. Content is as accurate as possible, and subject to change at any time by the organizations referenced on this comparison chart.

v. January 2020



CHOOSING WOUND/OSTOMY CARE CERTIFICATION?

	WOCNCB®	NAWCO®	ABWM®
ELIGIBILITY For Exam			
Licensure Requirement	Licensed RN (minimum)	Any licensed healthcare professional	Any licensed healthcare professional
Education and Clinical Experience Requirement	Bachelor's Degree and complete WOC Education Program accredited by the WOCN Society Precepted through the WOC Education Programs	Complete Skin and Wound Management Course from WCEI and: Varies 1-2 years experience or WCC®120 precepted clinical hours AWCC® - no precepted hours required	3 years wound care experience
Alternative experiential pathway for nurses who cannot attend WOC Education Program	✓ 1500 clinical hours related to wound care within past 5 years plus 50 CE specialty credits	✓ 4 years full-time involvement in wound care plus 60 CE credits in past 5 years	
RECERTIFICATION			
Recertification Term	5 years	5 years	10 years
Recertify by Exam	✓	✓	✓
Alternative Recertification Pathway Offered	✓ Online submission of Professional Growth Portfolio (PGP)	✓	
APPLICATION/FEES			
Online Application Processing and Computer-Based Exams	✓		
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.	15 days prior to desired exam date.
Exam Fees	✓ \$395 Plus \$115 (or less) for additional WOCNCB exam taken WTA-C exam fee is \$250	\$350 Plus \$30 for processing	\$575
No Annual Maintenance Fees	✓	✓	\$150 (\$1500 for 10 year credential period)

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The Gold Standard for Certification®**



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