



# Options for practicum course completion & certification eligibility

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R.B. TURNBULL, JR. MD SCHOOL OF WOC NURSING EDUCATION

# Two pathways to WOC nursing certification

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## TRADITIONAL

- Successfully complete a WOCN® Accredited WOC Nursing Education Program
- Includes the selected didactic courses, the clinical practicum course, and comprehensive final exam
- For more information on WOCN® accredited schools, visit [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org)
- Successful completion is a direct path to certification exam eligibility

## EXPERIENTIAL

- Successfully complete a minimum of 50 continuing education credits for each exam desired
- Accumulate at least 1500 hours of direct patient care for each area desired
- Must be within the most recent 5\* years prior to testing (\*go to [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) for complete details on testing eligibility)
- Can bypass the practicum course and final exams

The Certification Board awards the credential, not the WOC school.

WOCN® refers the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society™ & should *never* be used in any other designation.

# WOCNCB Credentials

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- The Wound Ostomy Continence Certification Board (WOCNCB) offers testing for qualified candidates who have met one of the following criteria ([see the WOCNCB website for details](#))
  - Traditional
  - Experiential
- Available trademarked credentials include options for advanced practice nurses
  - CWOCN<sup>®</sup>, CWON<sup>®</sup>, CWCN<sup>®</sup>, COCN<sup>®</sup>, CCCN<sup>®</sup>
  - CWOCN-AP<sup>®</sup>, CWON-AP<sup>®</sup>, CWCN-AP<sup>®</sup>, COCN-AP<sup>®</sup>, CCCN-AP<sup>®</sup>

It is the **certification board** that determines certification eligibility. Graduates of a WOCN<sup>®</sup> Accredited program are automatically eligible. Those who wish to test via the experiential route should contact the WOCNCB for details

Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society™  
[www.WOCN.org](http://www.WOCN.org)

Wound Ostomy Continence Certification Board  
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# Practicum course completion

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- Carefully review the course syllabus so you are knowledgeable of the requirements of the course
- Peruse through the lessons and resources so you are familiar with how to complete each criteria
- The Practicum course instructor is there to monitor your progress through the course, assess your learning, send updates when deadlines approach, and provide added instruction when something is not clear
  - As always, contact the instructor with your questions when something is not clear
- Must complete the Practicum course by **90 days** after last didactic course – watch your time, this goes quickly. Best practice is to set aside 10-12 hours a week for practicum course work in order to pace yourself to successful completion.
  - If needed, up to two 30-day extensions may be added granted with a charge per 30-day extension. See the student handbook for the policy on extensions, and contact the school business office at [WOCschool@ccf.org](mailto:WOCschool@ccf.org) for more information.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to limitations on the availability of clinical sites, which, depending on the clinical site, may create a barrier to traditional preceptor led clinical experiences.

## Two options for Practicum course completion

Traditional preceptor supervised clinical experience. Select this option if your clinical site is available :

1. Complete a minimum of 40 preceptor supervised clinical hours per selected specialty
2. Complete 5 journals for each selected specialty. Each journal should have a different case study situation analyzed & planned.
3. Complete competencies located in the lessons area
4. Full scope students **only** – complete the complex plan of care

Virtual practicum experience. Select this option if your clinical site is closed to students:

1. Complete the competencies located in the lessons area for each selected specialty
2. Complete & submit a skill video for each selected specialty, located in lessons area
3. Complete competencies located in lessons area
4. Full scope students **only** – complete the complex plan of care using one of the two sample cases provided

# Take a number and wait

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- Do make sure you have all of your practicum course assignments, lessons, etc. completed by no later than two weeks prior to the end of the 90 days.
- This provides the practicum instructor time to review your work so you can test prior to the deadline.
- Keep in mind, the practicum course instructor is reviewing submissions from many students.
- Your work will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.



# Final Exams

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- On successful completion of practicum course you will be provided with password access to the final exams – follow the practicum course instructor communication for exams.
- Contact practicum course instructor for details
- Two attempts provided to pass the exams
- If 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> attempts result in failure (<80%), an essay exam based on testing identified knowledge gaps will be provided by the practicum course instructor
- If essay exam results in a failure (<80%), can still be eligible for certification exams via the experiential route (see [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) for complete and up to date details)
- On successful completion of the final exams, the WOC nursing certificate of successful completion will be awarded and can be used to show certification exam eligibility