



NCBTMB National Certification for Advanced Practice (NCAP): Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Many of the questions we've received cannot be answered at this time. That's because NCBTMB's National Certification for Advanced Practice (NCAP) is under development, with input provided from educators, practitioners and professionals in the massage therapy and bodywork field.

Q: Who is overseeing the development of this exam?

A: The development of the exam is being overseen and directed by a steering group comprised of test development specialists, psychometricians and NCBTMB representatives. In addition, volunteers from across the country were asked to submit letters of interest to serve on a task force. From those who applied, more than 20 individuals were selected to serve as the core body of industry experts. These volunteers were selected based on experience and expertise, with the intent of creating a diverse group of professionals representing various regions of the country, ethnicities, genders and cultures. A few nationally recognized individuals were asked to fill areas where specific expertise was needed.

Q: How can I be involved?

A: The task force relies on input from the profession throughout the credential development process. We want to make sure your voice is heard as part of this process. 6,883 individuals responded to the 2009 Advanced Certification Needs Assessment Survey; 9,817 responded to the NCAP Job Task Analysis; and numerous practitioners have reached out to the NCBTMB NCAP Task Force in person, through email or on the NCAP blog. NCBTMB's Advanced Certification Test Specifications Report will be released shortly, and will also be open for public comment before the test specifications are formally adopted.

Q: Do I have to get this new certification or will it be optional? Will this affect my existing NCTM or NCTMB certification?

A: National Certification for Advanced Practice will be entirely optional. Advanced certification is separate from the NCTM or NCTMB certifications. It will not affect your current credential in any way.

Q: Where and how will the exam be administered?

A: The exam will be administered via computer at Pearson VUE testing centers. These are the same testing centers that currently administer the National Certification Exams.

Q: Do I have to be nationally certified in order to take the Advanced Certification Exam?

A: Initial eligibility requirements will specify that applicants wishing to take the NCAP examination be NCB certified or provide proof of having passed a psychometrically valid exam for entry-level licensure; document at least 3000 hours of professional massage/bodywork experience and/or education; complete at least 100 hours of continuing education; and be free from sanction or permanent revocation from NCBTMB or any local, state or federal regulatory body.

Q: Where can I find more information or ask questions?

A: Visit www.ncbtmb.org regularly for updates. A dedicated section for Advanced Certification provides information. If you have a question, please email advanced@ncbtmb.org or share it on the Advanced Certification blog, which is accessible via the website.