

National RN Case Manager Certificate Program

The Difference Between Certificate Education and Specialty Certification

Understanding the difference between certificate education and becoming certified in a nursing specialty is important as you determine the course of study and practice necessary to achieve your career and employment objectives.

Certificate Programs

A certificate education program is a defined program of study that demonstrates a progression of learning and mastery of a specific body of knowledge. A certificate program is offered over a specified time period and upon successful completion results in a certificate of completion that builds on your nursing degree(s).

“Certificate education is a well-established nursing education strategy used when practicing nurses need to acquire specialized knowledge quickly and efficiently to better care for patients.”

Certificate programs differ from degree programs in that the curriculum focuses on one subject area, allowing you to effectively learn a specific skill or body of knowledge in a relatively short amount of time. Registered Nurses build professional success by regularly updating their knowledge base and because certificate education programs build on professional education and experiences, many nurses find them useful throughout their careers.

Graduates of the National RN Case Manager Certificate Program include the Certificate of Completion as part of their professional portfolio or resume and use it to inform potential and current employers that they have prepared for practice by acquiring specialized knowledge as demonstrated by the Certificate of Completion.



Specialty or Board Certification

Board Certification is a quality indicator for demonstrating knowledge, experience, and competence in a specific area of nursing practice.

“Board certification is awarded after successfully passing a national exam to acquire credentialing that reflects the specialty certification.”

Certification exams are offered through national certifying organizations with most requiring practice experience in the role as part of the eligibility criteria. Additional eligibility criteria vary by organization. More information related to board certification and the certifying organizations including eligibility criteria are included in the National RN Case Manager Certificate Program.

Graduates of the National RN Case Manager Certificate Program are board certification eligible meaning that upon meeting eligibility criteria, including required practice experience, you are eligible to sit for a national exam. In addition to your RN license, the specialty credentials that you achieve demonstrate your expertise to employers, members of the healthcare team and patients.

How This Comes Together

Registered Nurses preparing for RNCM roles complete the National RN Case Manager Certificate Program to:

- Acquire the essential knowledge needed to perform emerging roles in case management, care management and care coordination across healthcare settings.
- Utilize evidence based strategies consistent with national initiatives designed to ensure patient centered care delivery, address social determinants of health and support health equity.
- Gain confidence in their ability to implement RN Case Manager and Advanced Care Coordination role development into practice.
- Position themselves for specialty credentialing.

Completion of the National RN Case Manager Certificate Program positions RNs to meet CE eligibility requirements for specialty credentialing through ANCC the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and for recertification with both ANCC and CCMC, the Commission for Case Managers Certification.