FAQ

How did AONE choose the names for the two certifications examinations? And the accompanying credentials?

Selecting the certification name was done by the respective CENP & CNML Steering Committees, which have been established for each exam. The selection of the credentials required a search of all copyrighted credentials, not just within nursing but within the full field of certifications. Any credentials already in use and copyrighted were not available for use. After a lengthy review and deliberation, the CENP Steering Committee selected Certified Executive in Nursing Practice or CENP and the CNML Steering Committee selected Certified Nurse Manager and Leader or CNML.

Will the new credentials be confused with other Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Assistant credentials?

As the certification becomes well known in the field, there will be less confusion about the credentials.

How was the criterion for eligibility concerning the years experience and educational degree determined?

The Steering Committees determined the years of experience and educational degree requirements based on a review of the current state of executive nursing practice and review of educational & experience requirements for other certification examinations.

Is there a time limit on the experiential requirement as to when the experience occurred?

There is no defined time limit, but the practice should be recent enough that the applicant’s executive nursing practice was guided by the AONE Nurse Executive Competencies.

Will there be eligibility criteria for individuals in education who may not have had direct nursing administration experience?
The eligibility criteria remain unchanged. However, it is the intent of the criteria to include graduate level nurse leaders and nurse administrators in educational settings. Individuals in faculty and/or administrative roles in nursing education settings at the graduate level are considered to be in executive nursing practice by virtue of their pivotal role in preparing the nurse leaders, managers, administrators, and executives for the future. It is the intent of the eligibility criteria to be inclusive of nurse leaders in nursing education settings at the graduate level. Nurse faculty teaching at the graduate level and nurses in administrative positions within educational settings, if other stated criteria are met, are deemed eligible to sit for the exam.

**How do we advise students and the public to choose from 4 credentialing examination process offered by two organizations AONE and ANCC?**

The CENP examination was developed for nurses in executive practice roles, and the CNMP examination was developed for nurses in the nurse manager job description. The decision on which examination to take rests with the practitioner. Educators can assist students by advising them on what features they should consider when making a decision, e.g. practice role. The CENP exam is based on the AONE Executive Competencies, and the CNML is based on the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) job analysis that was performed for the nurse manager role. (Nurse Manager Skills Inventory.)

**How have the new examinations been developed to address the evolving role of nursing administrators at the manager and executive level?**

Both AONE certification examinations evolved from first an extensive review of the competencies needed by nurse executives & nurse managers. The next step was the role delineation studies to confirm existing practice within the two domains of practice. The role delineation studies confirmed that the competencies were those in use in the field. The templates for the development of the test questions for the two certification exams were based on the role delineation studies.

**How do the new certification examinations promote an educated nursing administration work force?**

The certification examinations validate the acquisition of the knowledge delineated in the core competencies & verified by the role delineation studies as competencies needed to function as a competent practitioner in the nurse executive role & the job of nurse manager.
What is the relationship between AONE and AHA in the development and the credentialing center in offering of the new certification examination process?

AONE has contracted with the AHA Credentialing Center (not AHA) as the testing company to provide guidance to the Committee in the development of the certification examinations and oversight of the administration of the certification examinations. The certification examinations are wholly owned by AONE. AHA has no role in the development, oversight, or ownership of the certification examinations.

How do the new certification examinations help to advance the discipline of nursing administration as a practice and a science?

The certification examinations, as with any certification examination, provide validation of the acquisition of a body of knowledge about a specific area of practice and assurance within the field and to the public that those who hold those credentials are competent practitioners.

The Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (CENP) is geared to nurse leaders who are engaged in executive nursing practice”. Does this definition include individuals in Academic administration?

Yes, the focus of the CENP is executive nursing practice.