Enriching the NNAAP® & MACE® Examinations Through the Expertise of Nursing Professionals
Test Development Program

Benefits of Participating in NNAAP® & MACE® Test Development Activities

NCSBN depends on the expertise of nursing professionals to assist in test development workshops for the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP®) and the Medication Aide Certification Examination (MACE®). Nurses may be selected to participate in item writing and review, job analysis, standard setting and other workshops related to test development for NNAAP and MACE. If you are selected to participate you will:

- Earn continuing education credits;
- Contribute to continued excellence in the nursing profession;
- Have an opportunity to network on a national level; and
- Build new skills for professional growth.

NCSBN and the Test Development Program

NCSBN develops the NNAAP and MACE examinations; promotes uniformity in the regulation of nurse aide/nursing assistant (NA) and medication aide/assistant (MA) authorized duties; disseminates data related to these certification programs; conducts research pertinent to its mission; and serves as a forum for information exchange between its members and other agencies. The Test Development Program is an essential component to maintaining high-quality test development processes for NNAAP and MACE.

Test Development Qualifications

To participate in a test development workshop, you must:

- Be a registered nurse (RN) in good standing with your regulatory agency/state board of nursing (BON);
Possess a minimum of two years of nursing experience with at least one of those years providing care in long-term care facilities;

- Have current content expertise and experience in teaching adults;

- Be a supervisor for NAs or MAs, or an educator for facility-based NA or MA programs; and

- Be approved by your regulatory agency/BON.

Item Writers and Reviewers Meetings

Item writers and reviewers create new exam items (questions) for NNAAP and MACE that are administered after rigorous pretesting procedures, while also reviewing existing exam items to make sure they are current.

Job Analysis Meetings

Job analysis participants review the existing job-related activities and required knowledge of the work performed by certified entry-level NAs and MAs. The outcomes from the job analysis studies, along with the expert participants, help determine whether the existing list of activities/tasks are reflective of current knowledge, skills and abilities required of NAs and MAs.

Standard-Setting Meetings

Standard-setting participants review current passing standards/cut scores and recommend potential passing standards for NNAAP and MACE.

Application Process

For those with an interest in test development who meet the qualifications for participation for either NNAAP or MACE, please complete an online application at www.ncsbn.org/1930.htm.

After an Examinations department employee reviews the application and determines that the qualifications have been met, approval from the applicant’s regulatory agency or BON will be obtained prior to participating in a test development workshop. Applicants will receive a notification via e-mail when they are being considered for participation in the Test Development Program.

Applications remain active for a two-year period from the date of initial submission. The applicant will receive a reminder notice to update their application at the end of this period.

For More Information

If you have any questions about participating in the NNAAP® & MACE® Test Development Program, contact the NCSBN Examinations department.

NNAAP & MACE Test Development: nnaap_maceitemdev@ncsbn.org

NNAAP & MACE General Information: nnaap_maceinfo@ncsbn.org