

Test Content Outline
Effective Date: March 14, 2019

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
Board Certification Examination

There are 175 questions on this examination. Of these, 150 are scored questions and 25 are pretest questions that are not scored. Pretest questions are included to determine how well these questions will perform before they are used on the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that will be scored, so it is important for a candidate to answer all questions. A candidate's score, however, is based solely on the 150 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

This Test Content Outline identifies the areas that are included on the examination. The percentage and number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are also shown. *Note: The examples in parentheses are not all-inclusive and do not indicate importance.*

Category	Content Domain	Number of Questions	Percentage
I	Assessment and Diagnosis	42	28%
II	Planning and Implementation	66	44%
III	Evaluation	42	28%
TOTAL		150	100%

This examination will be developed in consideration of the below secondary classifications, whenever applicable.

Body Systems	Drug Agents	Age Group
1. Cardiovascular	1. Analgesic	1. Adolescent
2. Endocrine	2. Anti-Infective	2. Young Adult (including late adolescent and emancipated minors)
3. Gastrointestinal	3. Antineoplastic	3. Adult
4. Genitourinary and Renal	4. Cardiovascular	4. Older Adult
5. Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	5. Endocrine	5. Frail Elderly
6. Hematopoietic	6. Eye, Ear, and Skin	
7. Immune	7. Gastrointestinal	
8. Integumentary	8. Genitourologic	
9. Musculoskeletal	9. Immunologic	
10. Neurological	10. Musculoskeletal	
11. Psychiatric	11. Neurological	
12. Reproductive	12. Psychiatric	
13. Respiratory	13. Respiratory	

I Assessment and Diagnosis

A. Patient Direct Care

Knowledge of:

1. Normal age-related changes
2. Pathophysiology across the lifespan (e.g., etiology, presentation, risk factors)
3. Individual Determinants of Health (e.g., aging, genetics, developmental, stress)
4. Environmental determinants of health (e.g., socioeconomic, cultural, geographic)
5. Abuse and neglect

Skill in:

6. Comprehensive assessment
7. Problem-focused assessment
8. Diagnostic testing (e.g., laboratory, radiographic, physical, psychological)
9. Differential diagnoses

B. Nursing and Organizational Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Nursing theories

Skill in:

2. Ethical health care practice (e.g., confidentiality, capacity, futility, consent, assent)

II Planning and Implementation

A. Patient Direct Care

Knowledge of:

1. Pharmacotherapeutics
2. Polypharmacy
3. Substance use disorders
4. Family and caregiver roles
5. Palliative and end-of-life care
6. Care transition and coordination

Skill in:

7. Pharmacologic interventions
8. Non-pharmacologic interventions
9. Complementary and alternative therapies
10. Patient, family, and caregiver education, coaching, and advocacy

B. Nursing and Organizational Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Adult learning theories
2. Information technology (e.g., informatics, telehealth, patient portals)
3. Change management (e.g., communication planning, stakeholder buy-in, resource access)
4. Educational initiatives (e.g., design, development, delivery, evaluation)

Skill in:

5. Coordination of nursing and health care resources
6. Health promotion (e.g., community-based education, disease screening, wellness programs)
7. Evidence-based practice
8. Nursing and health care advocacy

III Evaluation

A. Patient Direct Care

Skill in:

1. Patient response to interventions
2. Family and caregiver response to interventions
3. Care plan modification

B. Nursing and Organizational Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Scope and standards of health care practice (e.g., prescriptive authority, licensure, certification, credentialing, liability)
2. Patient outcomes (e.g., nursing-sensitive indicators, NDNQI, HEDIS)
3. System outcomes (e.g., length of stay, readmission rate, patient satisfaction)
4. Research methodology and statistical analysis
5. Quality and process improvement (e.g., failure modes and effects analysis, root cause analysis, gap analysis, just culture)
6. Regulatory compliance (e.g., policies and procedures, clinical practice guidelines, accreditation and regulatory standards)

Skill in:

7. Organization and systems leadership
8. Health care business and finance
9. Professional development of health care team members (e.g., continuing education, role-modeling, mentorship, coaching, preceptorship)