

Magnet Recognition Program® Criteria for Inclusion of National Certifications in the Demographic Data Collection Tool® (DDCT)

The following eligibility criteria are used by the Magnet Recognition Program® to assess whether a specific credential is a professional certification that will be included in the Demographic Data Collection Tool® (DDCT) and may be used to represent improvement goals for professional certification in responses submitted to the Magnet Program's application criteria. ANCC reserves the right to periodically revise these criteria.

The credential is eligible for inclusion in the DDCT if:

- The certification is developed to reflect a professional body of knowledge and skills,¹ which typically have been defined in a scope and standards of practice.²
- The credential is professional rather than technical or skill-based.³
- Development of the certification relies on:
 - a national role delineation study or logical job analysis that is periodically revised at least every 7 years to reflect current knowledge and skills required of the profession;
 - generally accepted test development and psychometric principles.
- A time-limited recertification interval is defined.
- The certification is national in scope (i.e., it is not a state-based or system-based certification).
- The certification is independent of (a) a specific class, course, or other education/training program and (b) any provider of classes, courses, or programs. Certificate programs are not eligible for inclusion.⁴
- The assessment administration environment is standardized and follows industry standards for security.
- A credential is issued to the individuals who successfully complete a certification assessment.

¹ A professional body of knowledge and skills is acquired through a protracted period of formal education, orientation, training, and socialization to the requisites of the profession, including the profession's unifying purpose, defined and distinct service or practice, concepts, theories, evidence base, jurisdiction, and code of ethics and principles.

² A scope of practice defines the roles and functions of a profession. Standards are authoritative statements describing expectations for competent practice and by which practice can be evaluated. A scope of practice and standards form the foundation of the professional's decision-making. Both scope of practice statements and standards are subject to periodic formal review and revision.

³ A skills-based or technical certification reflects the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and competencies associated with a defined skill or skill set; it is narrower and more limited in scope than a professional specialty certification.

⁴ Certificate programs assess whether the participants in a specific class, course, or other education/training program have achieved the intended learning outcomes for that education or training program (Institute for Credentialing Excellence, 2009, *ICE 1100 Standard: 2010(3) – Standard for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs*. Available at <http://www.credentialingexcellence.org/p/cm/ld/fid=99>).

Suggested citation: American Nurses Credentialing Center. 2017. *Magnet Recognition Program®: Criteria for Inclusion of National Certifications in the Demographic Data Collection Tool®*. Available at <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Magnet/Magnet-CertificationForms>.