

Achieve recognition for your specialty experience, skills and knowledge:

NCCPA Certificate of Added Qualifications

Now is your chance to **set yourself apart from others in your field.**

What is an NCCPA CAQ?

A Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) is a voluntary credential that allows you to be **recognized for your commitment to the specialty.** This designation is a way to document and publicly share your specialty experience, skills and knowledge. Earning a CAQ requires specialty experience and CME, an attestation, and passing the specialty exam. CAQs are available in these specialties:

- Cardiovascular/Thoracic Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine (Coming Soon)
- Hospital Medicine
- Nephrology
- OBGYN
- Occupational Medicine
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Palliative Medicine and Hospice Care
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry

Earning my CAQ is a testament to my years of hard work, continued education and growth in my field of practice. Furthermore, it **validates my knowledge and skills** to my peers and patients, while **increasing my self-confidence on the job.**

- Kate Westfield, PA-C
CAQ recipient in Orthopaedic Surgery

Why would I pursue a CAQ?

Surveys of CAQ recipients tell us that they earn the CAQ for many reasons. **Some do it for their own satisfaction** - to prove to themselves they are at the top of their clinical knowledge, while others do it to **boost their recognition and compensation** or to increase their responsibilities or reimbursement. For PAs in the CAQ specialties, the credential **adds practice-related credibility to your CV.**

CAQ practice exams are available!

Sign into your NCCPA Professional Profile to order the 60-question practice exam, which can help direct your study efforts.

How Do I Earn My CAQ?

After initiating the CAQ process by submitting the requirements for one of the non-exam components and the \$100 administrative fee, PAs will have six years within which to complete all four components for the CAQ, including passing the specialty exam.

Basic Prerequisites:

- Current PA-C certification
- Possession of a valid, unrestricted license to practice as a Certified PA, or unrestricted privileges to practice as a Certified PA for a government agency

Experience Requirement:

- Depending on the specialty, at least 2,000-4,000 hours of experience (the equivalent of 1-2 years of full-time practice) working as a Board Certified PA in the specialty

CME Requirement:

- At least 75 credits of Category 1 CME focused on the specialty area for which you have registered with at least 25 of these credits earned within two years of your exam application

CME earned towards your CAQ may also be used to maintain your PA-C credential.

Procedures/Patient Case Requirement:

- Attestation indicating that you have performed the procedures and patient management relevant to the practice setting and/or understand how and when the procedures should be performed or the appropriate techniques and methods should be applied

NEW: This requirement can be completed before taking the exam or within 90 days of receiving a passing score.

Specialty Exam:

- 120 multiple-choice questions related to nephrology
- Content blueprint, sample exam questions, and practice exam available on nccpa.net

Cost:

- \$100 registration fee
- \$250 exam fee

Maintaining Your CAQ:

The CAQ is valid for 10 years. To maintain the CAQ beyond that time frame, you must:

- Continue to meet PA-C and licensure requirements
- Pass the specialty Exam before the expiration of the current CAQ
- Earn and log at least 125 credits of Category 1 CME focused on nephrology during the 10-year CAQ cycle (may also be used to satisfy the CME requirements for maintenance of the PA-C credential)



**Start earning
your CAQ today:**



Questions? NCCPA is here to help.

- Call: **678-417-8100**
- Email us: nccpa@nccpa.net
- Text: **678 -417-8101**