

Oncology Nursing Competencies and ONCC Certifications

ONCC continues to maintain the highest standards for all its certification programs. All programs are updated every four years via a Role Delineation Study. That work uses many sources to create a survey of the practitioner community to determine emerging, continuing, and diminishing practice for the role.

ONCC has enhanced its commitment to the profession and alignment with the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) to advance the profession by partnering to update/create competency models for FOUR roles:

- Generalist Oncology Nurse
- Advanced Oncology Nurse
- Oncology Nurse Navigator
- Oncology Clinical Research Nurse

Grounding ONCC certifications in competency models ensures:

- **Enhanced Credibility and Recognition** – Competency-based certifications provide a clear indication that the individual possesses the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the role.
- **Improved Skill Development** – By closely aligning to the publicly available competencies, nurses can more easily guide their professional development toward certification requirements.
- **Better Job Performance** – By focusing on competencies, certifications ensure that individuals are well-prepared to perform their job roles effectively. With the competency models available publicly, academic programs, job descriptions, and professional development plans can be aligned to the same criteria as the certification programs.
- **Employer Confidence** – Employers can have greater confidence in the abilities of ONCC certified nurses - leading to better hiring decisions and more effective workplace planning.
- **Career Advancement** – Both the competency model and the aligned certification provide structured ways to demonstrate expertise and readiness for advanced roles.

All competency models are available on the ONS website to both members and non-members. You must register with ONS to access the competencies, but membership is not required.

Visit www.ons.org/career-development/competencies to download today!



Updated Competency Models to Guide Practice and Preparation

ONCC and ONS have developed these updated competencies to define and guide the practice by identifying the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for each role. The competencies reflect the cancer-specific knowledge base and clinical expertise needed while defining the nuances and implications that make each role unique and distinct from other roles in oncology nursing.



The competencies for APPs in oncology will be updated in 2025. New programs from ONCC will leverage competencies, as well. Watch for news in Certification Insider later this year!

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We're here to help.