

Advanced Certified Oncology Nurse (ACON™)

Coming Soon

The **Advanced Certified Oncology Nurse (ACON™)** certification is for registered nurses in oncology with advanced nursing degrees (master's or higher) – whether in clinical practice, nursing administration, education, research, or consultation.

Since the retirement of the Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN®) in 2005 (available for renewal only), the practice has continued to evolve. While the AOCNP® program continues to serve the role-specific oncology Nurse Practitioners, the evolution of the practice and growth of Master's, PhD, and DNP prepared oncology nurses created the need for a new certification that validates the higher-level practice. This need, coupled with the completion of the 2024 Advanced Oncology Nurse Competencies fuels the creation of this new ONCC certification program.

PROPOSED ELIGIBILITY FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION

- A current, active, unencumbered RN license as a registered nurse in the U.S., its territories, or Canada at the time of application and examination, and
- A master's degree, PhD, or DNP in nursing, preferably with a focus in oncology, and
- A minimum of three years (36 months) of experience as an RN within the five years (60 months) prior to application, and
- A minimum of 1,000 hours of oncology nursing practice within the four years (48 months) prior to application, and
- One graduate level oncology course of at least two (2) credits or 30 hours of oncology continuing education within the past five years. The contact hours must have been provided or formally approved by an acceptable accredited provider or approver of continuing nursing education (CNE) or nursing professional development (NCPD).

General information and the test content outline will be available on oncc.org later in 2025. Application information will be emailed to the target audience for this certification program in fall 2025.

Certification Examination Availability and Cost

This new program will first be offered via a BETA exam. This process will include post-exam administration analysis of item performance for all test questions and determination of the passing score. Therefore, BETA candidates will not receive immediate test results. A discounted application fee will be offered for BETA candidates.

Beta Examination: *Tentatively Available 2026*

- Initial version of the exam; Available in PSI testing centers in a limited-time window.
- Delayed exam pass/fail results due to required analysis of beta test form.
- Discounted Beta Application Fee: ONS/APHON Member: \$150; Non-member: \$210
- Not available via FreeTake® or with DoubleTake.
- Not available for candidates outside the U.S., its territories, or Canada.

Regular Examination: *Tentatively Available 2026*

- Standard version of the exam; Available in PSI testing centers year-round.
- Instant exam pass/fail results.
- Application Fee: ONS/APHON Member: \$300; Non-member: \$420
- Available via FreeTake® or with DoubleTake.
- Available for candidates outside the U.S., its territories, or Canada on a limited basis.

2022 SURVEY

93%

of respondents agreed that certification increased their depth of knowledge

96%

agreed that certification enhances the feeling of personal accomplishment

BENEFITS

Certification means feeling more confident knowing you're providing your patients the best care possible with the latest body of knowledge in cancer-care treatment.

Certification means you are seen as an important member of the cancer-care team.

Certification means the potential to earn more and have greater appeal to employers.

Certification is waiting for you at **oncc.org**

*This program will not be eligible for accreditation until one year of testing is completed.

877.769.ONCC | oncc@oncc.org | oncc.org

We're here to help.