



CRITERIA for Accreditation, Certification and Recertification Entities

As required by the AANA Bylaws, Article XXI, Section 1, the following are criteria which the Board of Directors will utilize in evaluating whether or not to recognize any particular entity for the purposes of providing certification/recertification of nurse anesthetists or accreditation of nurse anesthesia educational programs. The identified criteria are not absolute requirements, but rather reflect guidelines to be utilized to ensure the best interests of CRNAs and the public are being promoted by any entity performing these functions. It is envisioned this will be a living document which will be periodically edited or updated to reflect the evolving needs of our profession. The Board is not prohibited from considering other principles not explicitly reflected in these criteria.

Certification/Recertification Entity Criteria:

1. Entity possesses a signed formal recognition agreement with the professional membership association (AANA).
2. Entity is accredited by the appropriate national accrediting body(ies) [i.e., National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), American Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC)] for certifying organizations.
3. Entity has memorialized both a formal and informal communication plan with the professional membership association (AANA).
4. Appropriate participation and communication between entities as may be reflected by:
 - (a) Entity has one seat on their Board of Directors dedicated to act as a liaison as appointed by the professional membership organization (AANA); and/or
 - (b) Entity has two seats on their Board of Directors dedicated for voting members as appointed by the professional membership organization (AANA).
5. Entity provides one or more of the following functions:
 - (a) CRNA certification;
 - (b) CRNA recertification.
6. The functions of the entity incorporate and reflect industry best practices and are developed through the utilization of research and benchmarking.
7. Entity provides their communities of interest with high level customer services and maintains a dedication to the provision of cost conscious/cost sensitive services consistent with the provisions of the mutually agreed upon formal recognition agreement.
8. Entity provides yearly certified auditor's reports for the professional membership association (AANA).
9. While ensuring autonomy relative to financial decisions and certification and/or recertification decisions, the entity demonstrates an ongoing commitment to maintaining a collaborative relationship with the professional association (AANA) so that the best interests of the members of the profession and the public are protected and advanced.

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

10. Entity commits to appropriate collaboration with the professional membership association (AANA) regarding the criteria and process for initial certification as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).
11. Entity commits to ongoing collaboration with the AANA Continuing Education Committee regarding the criteria for eligibility for recertification of nurse anesthetists.

Educational Accreditation Entity Criteria:

1. Entity possesses a signed formal recognition agreement with the professional membership association (AANA).
2. Entity possesses a signed formal service and business agreement with the professional membership association (AANA).
3. Entity is accredited by the appropriate national accrediting body(ies) [i.e., United States Department of Education (USDE), Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)] for educational accreditation organizations.
4. Entity has memorialized both a formal and informal communication plan with the professional membership association (AANA).
5. Appropriate participation and communication between entities as may be reflected by:
 - (a) Entity has one seat on their Board of Directors dedicated to act as a liaison as appointed by the professional membership organization (AANA); and/or
 - (b) Entity has two seats on their Board of Directors dedicated for voting members as appointed by the professional membership organization (AANA).
6. Entity provides the following functions:
 - (a) CRNA educational accreditation.
7. The functions of the entity incorporate and reflect industry best practices and are developed through the utilization of research and benchmarking.
8. Entity provides their communities of interest with high level customer services and maintains a dedication to the provision of cost conscious/cost sensitive services consistent with the provisions of the mutually agreed upon formal recognition agreement.
9. Entity provides yearly certified auditor's reports for the professional membership association (AANA).
10. While ensuring autonomy relative to financial decisions and educational accreditation decisions, the entity demonstrates an ongoing commitment to maintaining a collaborative relationship with the professional association (AANA) so that the best interests of the members of the profession and the public are protected and advanced.
11. Entity commits to appropriate collaboration with the professional membership association (AANA) regarding the standards of accreditation for nurse anesthesia programs.
12. Entity commits to continual collaboration with the AANA Education Committee regarding issues pertaining to the educational preparation of nurse anesthetist.

*Approved: AANA Board of Directors
September 2013*