American Nurses Credentialing Center

Cardiac-Vascular Nursing
Board Certification Examination

Test Content Outline
Effective Date: December 5, 2025

There are 150 questions on this examination. Of these, 125 are scored questions and 25 are pretest questions that are not scored. Pretest questions are used to determine how well these questions will perform before they are used on the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that will be scored, so it is important for a candidate to answer all questions. A candidate's score, however, is based solely on the 125 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

This test content outline identifies the areas that are included on the examination. The percentage and number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are also shown. *Note: The examples in parentheses are not all inclusive and do not indicate importance.*

Category	Content Domain	Number of Questions	Percentage
I	Assessment and Diagnosis	27	22%
II	Planning and Implementation	44	35%
III	Evaluation and Modification	23	18%
IV	Patient and Community Education	31	25%
	TOTAL	**125**	**100%**

I Assessment and Diagnosis

A. Knowledge

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Pathophysiology
3. Nursing diagnosis identification

B. Skill

1. Patient Interview (eg, history, chief complaint, social determinants of health)
2. Cardiac-vascular assessment techniques and tools (eg, Doppler, stroke scale)
3. Data collection and interpretation (eg, diagnostic tests, laboratory results, cardiac rhythms)

II Planning and Implementation

A. Knowledge

1. Evidence-based practice guidelines (eg, ACC/AHA guidelines, quality measures)
2. Scope and standards of practice (eg, cardiovascular nursing)
3. Legal and ethical considerations (eg, informed consent, advance directives)
4. Invasive/non-invasive procedures (eg, peripheral, cardiac, structural)
5. Surgeries (eg, coronary/vascular bypass, transplant
6. Pharmacologic therapies
7. Non-pharmacologic and complementary therapies
8. Risk-reduction measures (eg, venous thromboembolism prophylaxis, infection prevention)

B. Skill

1. Prioritization and care coordination (eg, interdisciplinary teams, discharge planning)
2. Interventions (eg, targeted temperature management, cardioversion)

III Evaluation and Modification

A. Knowledge

1. Expected Outcomes
2. Drug Interactions (eg, drug-drug, drug-food)

B. Skill

1. Recognition and treatment of adverse reactions and events (eg, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, hypotension)
2. Recognition and treatment of urgent conditions (eg, pseudoaneurysm, hypertensive crisis)
3. Recognition and treatment of emergent conditions (eg, pulmonary emboli, stroke)

IV	Patient and Community Education

A. Knowledge

1. Cardiac-vascular risk factors (eg, ethnicity, smoking)
2. Chronic disease management
3. Cardiac-vascular education topics (eg, procedures, medications)
4. Self-management strategies (eg, daily weights, blood pressure logs)
5. Community resources (eg, cardiac rehabilitation, anticoagulation clinic)

B. Skill

1. Individualized education planning and implementation (eg, addressing barriers, health literacy)
2. Outpatient monitoring (eg, remote telemetry, point-of-care testing)
3. Health promotion (eg, wellness counseling, health fairs)

Updated: 08/29/2025