

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-BC™) Board Certification Examination Test Content Outline

Effective Date: October 30, 2026

This test content outline lists the knowledge and skills identified as being important for the role, as determined by the most recent role delineation study. The number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are shown below.

Note: The examples in parentheses are not all-inclusive and do not indicate importance but are simply to provide clarification and guidance for studying.

There are **175 questions** on the examination. Of these, **150 are scored questions** and **25 are pretest questions** that are not scored. Performance of pretest questions is evaluated and used to determine if they will be used in 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 150 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

CONTENT DOMAIN	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGE
I. Assessment	26	17%
II. Diagnosis	25	17%
III. Planning	29	19%
IV. Implementation	50	33%
V. Evaluation	20	13%
TOTAL	150	100%*

**Total does not come to 100 because of rounding*

In accordance with the APRN Consensus Model, this examination will be developed in consideration of the below secondary classifications, whenever applicable.

BODY SYSTEMS	DRUG AGENTS	AGE GROUP
1. Cardiovascular	1. Analgesic	1. Infant
2. Endocrine	2. Anti-Infective	2. Preschool
3. Gastrointestinal	3. Cardiovascular	3. School-Age
4. Genitourinary and Renal	4. Endocrine	4. Adolescent
5. Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	5. Eye, Ear, Nose, and Skin	5. Young Adult (including late adolescent and emancipated minors)
6. Hematopoietic	6. Gastrointestinal	6. Adult
7. Immune	7. Genitourologic	7. Older Adult
8. Integumentary	8. Musculoskeletal	8. Frail Elderly
9. Musculoskeletal	9. Neurological	
10. Neurological	10. Psychiatric	
11. Psychiatric	11. Reproductive	
12. Reproductive	12. Respiratory	
13. Respiratory		

26 questions; 17%

I. Assessment

A. Knowledge

1. Evidence-based health promotion and screening of the population

B. Skill

1. Comprehensive history and physical assessment
2. Focused history and physical assessment
3. Functional assessment (e.g., cognitive, developmental, physical capacity, family and caregiver roles)
4. Risk assessment (e.g., genetic, behavioral, sexual, lifestyle, cultural, social determinants of health)

25 questions; 17%

II. Diagnosis

A. Knowledge

1. Pathogenesis and pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and implications of disease states

B. Skill

1. Selecting appropriate diagnostic test(s) and/or procedures
2. Interpreting results of diagnostic test(s) and/or procedures
3. Differentiating between normal and abnormal overall health
4. Formulating differential diagnoses

29 questions; 19%

III. Planning

A. Knowledge

1. Age-appropriate primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
2. Anticipatory guidance (e.g., developmental, behavioral, disease progression, crisis management, end-of-life care)
3. Evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards of care
4. Pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenetics

B. Skill

1. Ethnically and culturally sensitive practice
2. Evidence-based research appraisal (e.g., design, results, clinical applicability)

50 questions; 33%

IV. Implementation

A. Knowledge

1. Legal and ethical implications for healthcare (e.g., Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, confidentiality, accessibility, technology)
2. Regulatory guidelines (e.g., reportable diseases, abuse reporting)
3. Scope and Standards for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
4. Responsible and ethical use of information technology (e.g., voice recognition software, artificial intelligence, electronic health recording)

B. Skill

1. Comprehensive documentation
2. Patient-specific education
3. Resource management (e.g., accessibility, coordination, cost-effectiveness)
4. Therapeutic communication (e.g., motivational interviewing, shared decision making)
5. Non-pharmacologic intervention and treatment (e.g., procedures, splinting, biopsies, sutures, imaging)
6. Pharmacotherapeutic intervention (e.g., interactions, contraindications)

20 questions; 13%

V. Evaluation

A. Knowledge

1. Ethical and legal principles and issues for patients, populations, and systems (eg, justice, consent, guardianship, bioethics)
2. Non-pharmacologic intervention and treatment outcomes (eg, monitoring, side/adverse effects, patient outcomes)
3. Pharmacotherapeutic intervention and treatment outcomes (eg, monitoring, side/adverse effects, patient outcomes)

B. Skill

1. Analyze clinical data and patient reported outcomes to assess treatment efficacy

Updated: April 6, 2026