



American Board *of* Nursing Specialties

---

*Promoting Excellence in Nursing Certification*

---

---

ABNS AWARD FOR  
NURSING CERTIFICATION  
ADVOCACY

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization of nursing organizations that certify RNs and APRNs.

The mission of ABNS -to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders- is aimed at achieving its vision that specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognizes quality nursing care.

The ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy has been developed as a means to publicly recognize organizations that advocate for or promote specialty nursing certification. Organizations providing patient/client care that employ certified nurses are eligible to apply for this award. Organizations include but are not limited to hospitals, health systems, hospices, visiting nurses associations, ambulatory care clinics, occupational health and school settings, and free standing facilities. A unit or division of a larger organization is eligible to apply.

ABNS believes that such advocacy ultimately leads to quality patient care.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATION ELECTRONICALLY

**This document is presented as a Word document which you must complete electronically and then convert to PDF format. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.**

**Each nomination submission must include:**

- Completed Application Form – one application form per nomination (self nominations are accepted);
- Documentation of examples of achievement to support award criteria;
- One letter signed by both the organization’s CEO and CNO affirming the organization’s support of specialty nursing certification.

**Please organize the nomination materials, converted to PDF documents, in the following order:**

1. Application Form (counts toward the maximum of 15 pages);
2. Copy of criteria checklist as found on pages 5 - 6 with check marks indicating which criteria are met. Type your responses directly under each relevant criteria – attach documentation in an attachment format as described below. You may include only the criteria you are providing narrative and documentation for, rather than all the criteria, if applicable.
3. Documentation of meeting the award criteria must be organized in order, i.e., 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, etc.;
4. A single letter from organization’s CEO and CNO as noted above.

**Limit the pages of the application to no more than 15 pages. Applications longer than 15 pages will not be considered. You may include only the criteria you are providing narrative and documentation for, if applicable, rather than all the criteria.**

**Nominations must be emailed to [abns@nursingcertification.org](mailto:abns@nursingcertification.org) and are due no later than January 15 of the year you are applying.**

The award recipient will be selected by ABNS in February of each year. The recipient will be announced on March 19, National Certified Nurses Day. Arrangements will be made with the recipient organization for the ABNS President or member of the Board of Directors to personally present the Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy in a ceremony held at the recipient organization, usually during Nurses Week. The Award consists of beautifully engraved statuary. The recipient organization will also receive a press release to distribute at their choosing.

**ABNS member organizations are not eligible to receive this award.**

**For more information, call ABNS at 978-364-5129 or email [abns@nursingcertification.org](mailto:abns@nursingcertification.org).**

**APPLICATION FORM**  
**(This page does not count as one of the 15 pages)**

Name of Organization (e.g., hospital, health system, hospice, VNA, ambulatory care clinic, occupational health and school settings, free standing facilities, units or divisions within a larger organization), being Nominated:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zipcode:

Name of Individual Submitting Nomination (will be point of contact for ABNS)

Name:

Organization:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zipcode:

Business Phone:

Email Address:

Signature:

## CRITERIA FOR ABNS AWARD FOR NURSING CERTIFICATION ADVOCACY

Evidence must be provided that shows that the following criteria, which advance the cause of specialty nursing certification, are met. Organizations that have been nominated for the ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy will be judged on how they meet the following criteria. It is not expected that ALL criteria will be met. Any information that is required is so noted in italics.

Documentation of meeting the award criteria must be organized in order, i.e., 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, etc.

### Criterion 1

Activities as related to certification benefit the public by promoting quality patient care and ensuring safety. Provide documentation or description as noted below, following each criteria, if applicable. All documentation or descriptions must be contained within this application. Do not reference to external information, such as a website.

1. The total number of direct patient care RNs in the organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) and the number and percentage of those direct patient care RNs eligible to be certified who are certified in specialty nursing. (REQUIRED)
2. The total number of nursing managers in the organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) and the number and percentage of those nursing managers eligible to be certified who are certified. (REQUIRED)
3. Specialty nursing certification as a criterion on the clinical ladder.
4. A job advertisement for a nursing role within your organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) that requires or recommends specialty nursing certification.
5. A job description for a nursing role within your organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) that requires or recommends specialty nursing certification.
6. How your organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) supports those nurses interested in seeking certification as follows:
  - a. Provides reimbursement of certification examination fees.
  - b. Provides certification examination review courses or reimbursing for attendance at a review course.
  - c. Provides paid time off to take certification examination or review course.
  - d. Other
7. How your organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) supports/recognizes those nurses who are certified as follows:
  - a. Provides reimbursement of recertification fees.
  - b. Provides continuing education programs or reimburses for attendance at continuing education programs.
  - c. Provides paid time off to attend continuing education programs.
  - d. Pay differential or bonus, etc.
  - e. Event (i.e., luncheon) held in their honor
  - f. Publishing names of certified nurses in the organization's newsletter
  - g. Other
8. How certified nursing staff is utilized as compared to noncertified nursing staff, i.e., as speakers, job and career fairs, in obtaining grants, providing training for other employees, etc.

### **Criterion 2**

Activities as related to certification have influence beyond the organization or unit level (whichever is appropriate) – impact is felt community-wide, state-wide, nationally and/or internationally. Provide documentation/description of:

1. Grants written to seek support for specialty nursing certification.
2. Any partnerships with other organizations or agencies related to specialty nursing certification.
3. Magnet Status, if applicable, including date awarded.
4. Other

### **Criterion 3**

Activities as related to certification inform the public about specialty nursing certification and its value. Provide documentation/description of:

1. How nursing specialty certification is documented in the organization's or unit's (whichever is appropriate) annual report, conveying the support, recognition, and value placed on it.
2. Plaques listing the names of certified nurses are placed where the public can view them.
3. Certification credentials are displayed on nametags, etc., where the public can view them.
4. Whether certified nurses introduce themselves as being certified to patients and those in their support system.
5. Other activities to promote certified nurses to the public.

### **Criterion 4**

Activities as related to certification influence the process, standards, and legal mandates relevant to specialty nursing certification specifically and/or certification in general. Provide documentation/description of:

1. How the organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) supports certified nurses in relation to local/national activities, i.e., paid time off for attending professional meetings, participating on boards and committees, etc.
2. How certified nurses influence patient care decisions within the organization, i.e., serving on decision-making bodies of organization.
3. How physicians within the organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) support nursing certification.
4. Any activities in which the organization and/or its certified nurses influenced legislation and/or regulation related to patient care, and/or specialty nursing certification.
5. Any research done within the organization or unit (whichever is appropriate) that describes the value of specialty nursing certification, impact of certification on patient outcomes, etc.
6. Other

### **Criterion 5**

Activities as related to certification advance the cause of specialty nursing certification.

1. Provide documentation of any other activities or initiatives not previously described.