

PANCE Pass Rates

Total # of Certified PAs as of 12/31/2019: 139,688

Total # of PAs That Passed PANCE in 2019: 9,554

Recent PANCE Pass Rates

Year	Number of Exams*	Percent Passing	Number of First Time Takers**	Percent of First Time Takers
2019	10,471	91%	9,775	93%
2018	9,573	97%	9,220	98%
2017	9,250	95%	8,732	97%
2016	8,631	93%	8,082	96%
2015	8,651	91%	7,784	96%

*Represents total number of exams, not number of examinees.

**Represents total number taking the exam for the first time.

Exam Development and Passing Standards

The NCCPA content blueprint is based on a scientific analysis of PA practice conducted approximately every five years. Test questions are written and reviewed by committees of certified PAs and physicians who have experience working with PAs. The questions are professionally edited, and then pre-tested for validity on live exams prior to becoming scored questions on the exams. The passing standard is approved by the NCCPA Board of Directors based on the recommendation of a committee comprising a representative group of Certified PAs who are recruited expressly for the purpose of engaging in the most prevalently used standard setting methodology for credentialing exams¹. NCCPA’s team of professionals, with doctoral training in measurement, utilize state of the art statistical models to ensure NCCPA’s exams meet high standards of reliability and validity and comport with industry standards.

¹ Lane, S., Raymond, M., & Haladyna, T. (2016) *Handbook of Test Development: 2nd Edition*. New York. Routledge.