

General Eligibility Criteria

Board Certification: Applicants must be a diplomate in good standing of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPSC) in neurology, neurological surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology, surgery, emergency medicine, or pediatrics. Candidates who have qualified for examination by the ABMS, AOA, or the RCPSC, but have not yet been certified, may sit for the Neurocritical Care (NCC) examination but may not receive notification of the results until passing of the ABMS, AOA, or RCPSC Boards has been confirmed. Candidates must sit for the ABMS, AOA, or RCPSC examination in the same year as the NCC examination.

Licensure: Applicants must hold a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada, and in each jurisdiction in which they practice. A license to practice medicine is not “current, active, valid, unrestricted and unqualified” if, in any manner to any extent whatsoever, one or more of the following applies. The license is:

- a. under probation;
- b. conditioned, i.e., the physician is required to practice under supervision or with modification, or to obtain continuing education;
- c. limited, e.g., to specific practice settings;
- d. institutional, temporary, or educational; or
- e. inactive as a result of an action taken by or a request made by a medical licensing board.

If any license currently held by an applicant participating in the application process is restricted or qualified in any way, full details must be provided to the UCNS. The UCNS may, at its sole discretion, determine whether to investigate the license and the information provided. The UCNS reserves the right to determine if the license fulfills this policy. Licenses that have been revoked, suspended, surrendered, or not renewed in order to terminate or settle disciplinary proceedings do not qualify as meeting the requirements for medical licensure, and all such licenses must be reported for review and consideration. The UCNS will determine if the situation is cause to deny an applicant’s certification application, deny a candidate access to an examination, or revoke a diplomate’s certificate.

Application Pathways

Applicants must have completed **one** of the following eligibility pathways:

1. UCNS-Accredited Fellowship
2. Practice Track

UCNS-Accredited Fellowship

Applicants must have successfully completed a **UCNS-accredited fellowship in NCC**. The fellowship must be 12 or more months in length. The applicant must satisfactorily complete the fellowship training by the date of the application. The applicant must apply within 48 months of completing the fellowship. Verification by the appropriate fellowship program director must be provided.

Applicants currently in a fellowship that will not be completed prior to the application deadline may still apply. **The applicant must have successfully completed the fellowship training a minimum of 25 days prior to the examination week. Confirmation from the fellowship program director stating that the applicant has successfully completed the UCNS accredited fellowship program must be received within 20 days of the fellowship program completion date.**

Neurocritical Care

Practice Track

Practice Time: The application must contain documentation of a 48-month period of time* in which the applicant has spent a minimum of 25% of their time, a 36-month period of time* in which the applicant has spent a minimum of 33% of their time, or a 24-month period of time in which the applicant has spent a minimum of 50% of their time in the practice of NCC, which has occurred after the completion of a formal residency program in neurology, neurological surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology, surgery, pediatrics, or emergency medicine. The practice must:

- i. Include the direct diagnosis and management of the critically ill neurologic patient.
- ii. Have occurred in the United States, its territories, or Canada.
- iii. Have occurred in the 60-month interval immediately preceding the application deadline, but it need not be continuous.

The application must contain letters from **two** physicians who are familiar with the applicant's practice pattern during the practice time submitted in the application. The letters together must address an entire 48, 36, or 24-month period of time.

*If the applicant has completed unaccredited subspecialty training, this may count towards the required 48 or 36 months of practice time. For example, if an applicant completed 24 months of unaccredited training in NCC, the UCNS will count those 24 months towards the required 48 or 36 months of practice time. Documentation of an additional 24 or 12 months of practice time would then be required.

Eligibility Pathway: In addition to meeting the practice time requirements, practice track applicants must submit documentation for **one** of the following areas in NCC:

1. Satisfactory completion of 24 months of formal training (non-accredited) in NCC that has taken place after the completion of formal residency training in neurology, neurological surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology, surgery, pediatrics, or emergency medicine. Training or exposure to NCC given to residents as part of their standard residency curriculum will not count toward the 24 months of training. The applicant must provide documentation from the appropriate program director at each institution where training occurred.
2. At least 100 hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* specifically related to NCC over the 60 months prior to the application deadline. **Specific titles for each CME activity must be provided.**
3. An active, full-time academic appointment in which teaching responsibilities include instructing one or more of the following in NCC: medical students, residents, and/or fellows. A letter from the applicant's department chair must accompany the application.

Template Letters

All applicants must use the template letters provided by UCNS. The templates can be found on the [Certification](#) page of the UCNS website.

Questions?

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