

# WOCNCB® Comparison of Wound Certification Programs\*

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	WOCNCB®	NAWC®	AAWM	
	Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board	National Alliance of Wound Care	American Academy of Wound Management	
<b>Credential(s) Offered</b>	<b>CWCN® – Certified Wound Care Nurse</b> <b>CWOCN®, COCN®, CCCN®, CWON™</b> , plus Advanced Practice credentialing in wound, ostomy, and/or continence nursing. Foot care certification offered for RNs at all levels (CFCN®).	<b>WCC® – Wound Care Certified</b>	<b>CWS® - Certified Wound Specialist</b>	<b>CWCA™ - Certified Wound Care Associate</b>
<b>To Whom</b>	Registered Nurses with a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree	Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists, Physicians, or Physician's Assistants	Any licensed healthcare professional with a Bachelors, Doctoral or Master's degree in life sciences related field.	Any licensed healthcare professional with at least 3 years clinical experience.
<b>Accreditation</b>	<b>American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS)</b> , the only national body to independently accredit nursing specialty certification programs. (CWOCN®, CWCN®, COCN®, CCCN®) <b>National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)</b> , an administratively independent resource recognized as the authority on accreditation standards for professional certification organizations/programs. (CWOCN®, CWCN®, COCN®, CCCN®)	<b>National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)</b> , an administratively independent resource re-cognized as the authority on accreditation standards for professional certification organizations/programs.	<b>National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)</b> , an administratively independent resource re-cognized as the authority on accreditation standards for professional certification organizations/programs.	No independent accreditation of certification program.
<b>Required clinical training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40 hours of precepted clinical practice in a WOCN Society-accredited tri-specialty or single specialty wound care program.</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate/ experiential pathways are available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active in the care of wound care patients, or in management, education or research directly related to wound care while actively licensed for at least two years full-time/four years part-time within the past five years.</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current certification through AAWM or WOCNCB.</li> <li>Experiential Option is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have three (3) years of clinical experience in wound care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have three (3) years of clinical experience in wound care.</li> </ul>
<b>Required education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelors Degree or higher</li> </ul> AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 80 hours of didactic wound specialty education in a WOCN Society-accredited tri-specialty care program, or, 40 hours of didactic wound specialty education in a WOCN Society-accredited single specialty wound care program; with 20 additional hours dedicated to meet student learning needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-day training program consisting of classroom training and lab practice.</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current certification through AAWM or WOCNCB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a Bachelors Degree or higher in a life sciences related field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional didactic education required.</li> </ul>
<b>Length of Certification</b>	5 Years	5 Years	10 years	10 years
<b>Fees</b>	\$300 for the wound specialty certification plus \$50 for each additional specialty certification.	Course registration fee of \$2,497 includes training and examination.	\$550 initial exam fee with \$150 annual fee to maintain certification. (\$2,050 total)	\$300 initial exam fee with \$150 annual fee to maintain. (\$1,800 total)
<b>Recertification Requirements</b>	Successful completion of examination or portfolio submission. Fees: \$300 for the wound specialty certification plus \$50 for each additional specialty certification.	Successful completion of one of the following: a. Examination (\$330 fee) b. Recertification Course \$530 (No exam required) c. Continuing Education (60 hours) d. Continuing Education and Outreach Program (30 hours plus community outreach, publication, research or leadership)	Minimum of (6) CEUs annually. Self-Assessment examination every 10 years. Fee: \$400.	Minimum of (6) CEUs annually. Self-Assessment examination every 10 years. Fee: \$300
<b>Established</b>	1978	2002	1995	

Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board · 555 E. Wells St., Suite 1100 · Milwaukee, WI 53202 · (888) 496-2622

\*References: [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org); [www.aawm.org](http://www.aawm.org); [www.nawccb.org](http://www.nawccb.org); [www.wcei.net](http://www.wcei.net); [www.noca.org/noca](http://www.noca.org/noca); [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org)

