

# CERTIFICATION 101

There are so many courses, programs, and educational opportunities to choose from, and each offers something different. A certificate and a certification sound a lot alike, but they are not.

## What is the difference between a certificate and certification?

	<b>CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>CERTIFICATION</b>
Goal?	To learn something new through instruction that does not grant an academic degree	To demonstrate already acquired knowledge, skills, or competencies (Show what you already know)
Depends on a specific learning event?	Yes	No
Measure of Mastery?	Performance on or completion of a content-based assessment	Meeting established standards (that often require achieving a passing score on an industry-wide exam)
Requires ongoing training?	No (typically)	Yes (typically)
Attendee receives?	Certificate	Credential (letters after your name)



INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**Forensic  
Nurses**

IAFN currently offers three certifications:

- SANE-A® (adult/adolescent)
- SANE-P® (pediatric/adolescent)
- AFN-BC (in collaboration with ANCC; renewals only).

## DOES ANCC RECOGNIZE THE CERTIFICATION?

ANCC recognizes all of the certifications IAFN offers.

## DOES THE CERTIFYING BODY OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGENCIES (NCCA)?

IAFN's certifying body, the Commission for Forensic Nursing Certification, operates according to NCCA standards.

## WAS THE EXAM DEVELOPED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PROCESS?

- **JOB ANALYSIS STUDY** - An industry-wide survey based on an ample number of people practicing in that professional role; goal is to determine the essential elements for developing test blueprint specifications. In 2018, IAFN completed its most recent job analysis studies; a robust number of SANE-As and SANE-Ps responded. The result? Up-to-date exam content and item weight assignment.
- **STANDARD SETTING STUDY** - A statistically sound process to determine the exam passing score. In 2019, IAFN completed its most recent Standard Setting Study, resulting in a new passing score for each exam.
- **ITEM WRITING WORKSHOP** - A meeting of selected subject matter experts who are trained to write valid, relevant, practice-based test items. IAFN holds periodic Item Writing Workshops with a diverse group of vetted content experts.
- **PSYCHOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF ITEMS** - Process to ensure that exam items meet strict statistical standards before the items can count as scored items on the exam. IAFN routinely reviews the statistical analysis of items after each exam administration.

## IS THE EXAM OFFERED THROUGH A KNOWN AND REPUTABLE TESTING VENDOR?

IAFN partners with Scantron Assessment, a globally known and well-respected testing vendor.