

# Comparison of Wound Certification Programs\*

Updated 6/8/2006

Provider	Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board	Wound Care Education Institute	American Academy of Wound Management
<b>Credential(s) Offered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CWOCN® Certified Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurse</li> <li>• CWCN® Certified Wound Care Nurse</li> <li>• COCN® Certified Ostomy Care Nurse</li> <li>• CCCN® Certified Continence Care Nurse</li> <li>• CWON™ Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse</li> <li>• CFCN® Certified Foot Care Nurse</li> <li>• Advanced Practice credentialing in wound, ostomy, and/or continence nursing</li> </ul>	<p>WCC (Wound Care Certification)</p>	<p>CWS® (Certified Wound Specialist)</p>
<b>Mission</b>	<p>Promoting the highest standard of consumer care and safety by providing credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing.</p>	<p>WCEI's mission is to develop multi-disciplinary wound care professionals in the United States by offering educational programs and clinical support, based on up-to-date wound care research, trends, and evidenced-based practice.</p>	<p>The American Academy of Wound Management is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization established for the purpose of credentialing multi-disciplinary practitioners in the field of wound management.</p>
<b>Eligibility requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RN license</li> <li>▪ Baccalaureate degree</li> <li>▪ ONE of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a WOC education program (approx. 9 weeks in length, including about 120 clinical experience hours.)</li> <li>2. Experiential Track - 50 CEUs per specialty in previous 5 years, Plus 1,500 clinical experience hours per specialty in previous 5 years.</li> <li>3. Graduate Level Track - Complete a graduate-level program in nursing with documentation of graduate clinical course work equivalent to two semester hours in each specialty for which certification is sought.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active unrestricted license in United States as one of the following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Registered Nurse</li> <li>▪ Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse</li> <li>▪ Physical Therapist</li> <li>▪ Physical Therapy Assistant</li> <li>▪ Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>▪ Occupational Therapist</li> <li>▪ Physician</li> <li>▪ Physician Assistant</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Candidate must be actively involved in the care of wound patients or in the management, education, or research directly related to wound care, for at least two years' full-time work, which is equivalent to 4160</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the educational requirements and clinical or research experience for applicable level of certification:</li> <li>2. Professional licensure as described below for applicable level of certification*:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates with a Doctorate Degree: Must have a degree from an accredited university and have two years post-residency documented clinical or research experience in wound care.</li> <li>• Candidates with a Masters Degree: Must have masters level degree in related health care disciplines with two years of documented clinical or research experience in wound care.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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Eligibility requirements (cont'd.)		<p>hours, within the five years prior to certification (verification required).</p> <p>3. Candidate must successfully complete an approved NAWC "Wound Management Certification Training Course." or</p> <p>Current active certification with the WOCNCB as a "CWCN" or "CWOCN" or</p> <p>Current active certification with AAWM as a "CWS".</p> <p>4. Candidate must receive a passing score of 85% or better on the NAWC Wound Care Certification Examination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates with a Bachelor's Degree: Must have a baccalaureate degree and five years of documented clinical or research experience in the field of wound care.</li> <li>• Candidates that are Licensed Healthcare Providers: Must have five years of documented clinical or research experience in the field of wound care.*</li> <li>• Non-Clinical Candidates: Must have a baccalaureate (or higher) degree and documented research experience in wound care or wound care related fields.</li> </ul> <p>* As of January 1, 2007, a Bachelors Degree or higher will be necessary in order to qualify to sit for the National Board Certification Examination for all Wound Management Professionals.</p>
Scope of Practice	<p><b>Wound</b> Assessment, management and product selection for wounds caused by pressure ulcers, venous and arterial disease, diabetes, draining incisions, and traumatic injuries.</p>	<p>The "WCC" provides direct patient wound and skin care in acute, long-term care and home care settings. The "WCC" plays an important role as a direct care provider, educator and resource for optimum patient outcomes in wound and skin care management. The WCC" scope of practice is performed in accordance with legislation code and scope of practice as determined by each respective professional state regulatory board.</p> <p>Skin and wound management includes the identification, assessment, management, prevention, and continuing evaluation of patients with alterations in skin/tissue integrity, that includes but it not limited to pressure, vascular, arterial and diabetic ulcerations, as well as skin conditions resulting from incontinence, surgical procedures and/or trauma. Skin and wound management is a specialized area that focuses on overall skin care, promotion of an optimal wound</p>	<p>None, based on experience outlined in Eligibility Requirements.</p>

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		<p>environment, including prevention, therapeutic interventions and rehabilitative interventions.</p> <p>Skin and Wound Management requires the skills of the interdisciplinary team that includes the physician, nurses, WCC, dietitian, physical therapist, occupational therapist, social workers, and other health care disciplines or providers depending upon each individual patient assessment. The physician is the leader of the interdisciplinary care team. Skin and Wound Care management plans must always be prescribed by the physician.</p>	
Length of education /training	Average 140 hours of instruction plus 120 hours of clinical practice (approx. 9 weeks in length)	<p>5-day seminar, consisting of classroom training, hands on lab practice, examination review, and certification examination.</p> <p>Days 1 - 4: 9:00am - 4:30pm</p> <p>Day 5: 9:00 am - 11:00 am</p>	N/A
Exam Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$300 any one credential</li> <li>▪ \$350 any two credentials</li> <li>▪ \$425 for WOC tri-specialty credentials (discount when paid by check)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included in training course registration fee of \$2,397.*</li> <li>▪ Plus \$30 application fee.</li> </ul> <p>*Group Rates - Available to 3 or more people registering at \$2,197 per person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$400 exam fee (one-time fee)</li> <li>▪ \$150 annual certification re-registration fee</li> <li>▪ \$400 recertification fee every 10 years</li> </ul>
Detailed Content Outline provided	Yes	Yes	Yes
Test Preparation	Yes, through the Self Assessment Exam (SAE). The SAE provides self assessment (or practice) to measure your professional knowledge and prepare you for the actual credentialing exam. This web-based SAE gives you instantaneous scoring and results, along with feedback on your answers.	Yes, through practice exam provided by LaserGrade.	Yes. Wound care course offered by the College of Certified Wound Specialists.
Length of Certification	5 years	5 years	10 years
Recertification Requirements	<p>Certification examination OR Professional Growth Program (PGP)</p> <p>Renewal Process: To renew credentials by the PGP,</p>	<p>Certification examination OR Continuing Education &amp; Outreach Program (CEOP)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Self-Assessment Exam (SAE) every ten years.</li> <li>2. Annual re-registration fee of \$150.</li> </ol>

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<b>Recertification Requirements (cont'd.)</b>	<p>must meet the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing Education - 10 CEUs related to specialty recertifying for, with a total of 80 PGP points for activities related to the WOC practice as outlined in the PGP Handbook. (50 minutes = 1 CEU)</li> </ol>	<p>Renewal Process: To renew WCC credentials by the CEOP, must meet all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing Education - Proof of 60 contact hours of continuing education related to wound or skin care management. (Note: One CEU = 10 contact hours.)</li> <li>2. Community Outreach Project: documentation of participation/ direction in a community wound care service offering.</li> <li>3. Provide proof of one additional activity as outlined in the CEOP recertification brochure.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Six (6) hours of continuing education per year.</li> </ol>
<b>Program accreditation</b>	<p>American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) AND, National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)</p>	<p>The Skin and Wound Management Course<sup>®</sup> is approved by the National Alliance of Wound Care Credentialing Board (NAWCCB), the credentialing arm of the National Alliance of Wound Care.</p> <p>This program has been planned and implemented in accordance with the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) standards of accreditation for continuing education. Under the American Nurses Association approval system, state nursing associations support reciprocity. Upon completion of the program, 27 Contact Hours are available.</p> <p>Approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 14094, for 27 Contact Hours.</p> <p>The Skin and Wound Management Course<sup>®</sup> meets Texas BNE requirements for a Type 1 CE program.</p>	<p>None as the CWS<sup>®</sup> examination is a self-preparation exam.</p>
<b>Years certification available</b>	Began in 1978.	Began in 2002.	Began in 1995.
<b>Affiliate organization</b>	Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (National)	National Alliance of Wound Care	None

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