

National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Consortium

FAQ

What is the National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium (NNPRFTC or “the Consortium”)?

- The Consortium offers accreditation for postgraduate nurse practitioner training programs, developed by NP program directors;
- Postgraduate NP training programs from a wide variety of settings are eligible: e.g., federally qualified health centers, Veterans Affairs (VA) programs, academic practices, or large health systems.
- The Consortium is a national, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization created to advance the model and rigor of postgraduate nurse practitioner (NP) postgraduate training programs – both residency and fellowship – through accreditation;

How to contact the Consortium?

Candice Rettie, PhD
3509 Connecticut Ave, NW
PBN 1121
Washington DC 20008
Email: Candice.rettie@nppostgradtraining.com
Web: www.nppostgradtraining.com
Twitter: @nppostgrad
Office: 202.780.9651

Who is involved in the Consortium?

- [Board](#) consists of individuals who are national leaders or stakeholders in advancing health and healthcare;
- [Staff](#) has expertise in health professions education, measurement, and nonprofits;
- Membership in the Consortium: currently 90 members representing clinical practice, academia, policy, and public health who are committed to excellence in postgraduate nurse practitioner training and advancing health and healthcare.

Why accreditation?

- Accreditation is a quality assurance review of programs or institutions. (Certification is for individuals.)
- Accreditation is a recognized way for trainees, patients, organizations, government officials, and the public to know that an institution or program provides quality postgraduate training.
- Goal of accreditation is to ensure that the experience provided by postgraduate training programs meets acceptable levels of quality.

What is the Consortium’s accreditation program?

- [Accreditation Fact Sheet](#)
- Based on adherence to NNPRFTC [Accreditation Standards](#) that were thoughtfully and rigorously developed by NP program directors and other healthcare leaders with consultation from experts in adult education curriculum, design and evaluation;
- Informed by programmatic [NNPRFTC Self Study Guide](#) that is designed to foster programmatic continuous quality improvement and innovation;
- Includes a 1.5-day on-site visit conducted by [professional peers](#) such as NP program directors who collect evidence pertinent to an accreditation decision;
- Accredits postgraduate nurse practitioner programs for up to three years.

Why do we need accreditation?

- Postgraduate residency and fellowship training for new NPs and NPs who are changing specialty areas is a key recommendation of the 2010 Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing Report. Recently programs have been implemented around the country, both in primary care and specialty areas, but accreditation has not previously existed.
 - First program established in 2007 by the Community Health Center, Inc. in CT;
 - As of January 2016, there are at least 36 primary care NP postgraduate training programs; 16 more expected by the end of 2016.
 - Major growth in specialty, sub-specialty, and acute care postgraduate training programs as well.
- Program directors identified the need for a national accreditation organization that recognizes a program's adherence to quality assurance standards.
- If federal funding becomes available for NP postgraduate training programs, national accreditation by a recognized organization is highly likely to be one component of eligibility for such funding.

At this time, the Consortium offers the only national accreditation for postgraduate NP training programs with a process that includes:

- Practice-based standards derived from a national consensus process inclusive of expert NPs and NP residency program faculty and directors;
- Rigorous on-site visit conducted by professional peers.

What do we accredit?

Established postgraduate NP training programs in the United States that have graduated at least one cohort of trainees with the following characteristics:

- Clinical training following a master's degree in nursing or a doctor of nursing practice;
- A minimum one-year program with structured and intensive education and training;
- A service delivery setting that supports training to mastery and confidence in the full scope of clinical practice and a higher performance model of care.

Newly established programs that have not yet graduated a cohort of trainees, which are likely to meet NNPRFTC's standards within one year, are eligible for provisional accreditation.