

# The Candidate's Journey

## From Nursing School to BCEN® Board Certification

Wherever you are in the journey, board certification from BCEN can set nurses up for even more success and fulfillment in the career you're building. We'll take you through the steps to plot your course to certification.

**You've got a bright future ahead. Get started!**

### 1 Toss that Cap, Graduate!

Celebrate now, because you've earned it. Tomorrow, the next stage in your journey begins. You've got the map, we've got the compass. Let's start you off in the right direction.



### 3 Start Building Your Professional Network Now

Join the professional organization(s) that will give you insight into your area of specialization, and connect you with other nurses who are on the same path. ENA, STN and ASTNA are all great places to start.



### 2 Real-World Experience

We recommend two years of experience as an RN before you take your certification exam. Soak up all the knowledge your job offers, and seize any opportunity for further learning.



### 4 Start the Conversation

It's never too soon to create your support network as you pursue certification. Let your supervisor know you're planning to take your career to the next level with board certification. And when the time comes, you can find all the resources you need in our Make Your Case Toolkit on our website.



### 5 Earn Your Badges

No, we aren't talking about scouting or camping in the woods. But with each level of achievement, you unlock more of the skills you'll need to succeed as a certified emergency, transport or trauma nurse.

**• Education Badges**  
Take continuing education courses in your area of specialization, because even after graduation, the learning never stops. Good certificates to focus on are Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC™).



### 6 Find a Mentor

**• Mentorship Badges**  
Behind every great nurse are other great nurses. Form connections with your peers and the nurses you aspire to be like, and ask one of them to serve as your professional mentor.



### 7 Keep Good Records

**• Accountability Badge**  
Keep a record of all of the courses you've taken, meetings with mentors and any other professional development opportunities you've taken advantage of. This will help you when it comes to making your case for certification support, and will build a solid foundation of confidence, capability and preparedness when it's time to take your exam.



### 8 Start the Countdown

Certification success begins with careful planning. Sign up for your free account at BCEN.org. Once you've chosen the certification that's right for you, we make it simple to submit your application. After we've determined you're eligible to pursue board certification and we receive your payment, we'll be in touch with your next steps.



### 9 The Journey Begins

Candidates have 90 days to schedule and sit for their exams at any of our Pearson VUE testing facilities. Choose the place and time that's right for you. We recommend scheduling your exam as quickly as possible.



### 10 Prepare for Success

It's not just about showing up; it's about slowing up and taking the time you need to succeed. BCEN offers helpful tools and tips for test preparation, including a BCEN practice exam. These exams are close to the real deal in delivery, content and scoring, and will give you a flavor of your actual exam. Practice exams can be purchased on Mindhub.com and offer different methods for taking the exam to ensure you maximize your value.



### 12 Set Your Sights on the Future

Once you've completed the exam, results can be found on your dashboard in your BCEN account within 1 to 2 business days. In the event you do not pass, you'll receive a follow-up from BCEN on how to reapply.



### 11 You Got This

You've worked hard, you've stretched your wings and now you're ready to soar. Be sure to bring along two valid forms of ID when you head to the testing facility. After a brief orientation, you'll have three hours to complete your exam. Breathe deep and stay calm — you're ready for this!



**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY NURSING.**  
Excellence. Achievement. Impact.