Certified Clinical Nutritionists (CCN) Exam Candidate Handbook
for Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition and The CCN Examination

The Clinical Nutrition Certification Board

CNCB ©2011
Certified Clinical Nutritionist (CCN)

Exam Candidate Handbook

for

THE POST GRADUATE STUDIES IN CLINICAL NUTRITION

and

THE CCN EXAMINATION

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The use of any product or laboratory test should always be according to the manufacturer’s instructions or lab directions.

CNCB is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) tax exempt certification agency which provides professional education training, examining and certifying for alternative or complementary medical, clinical nutrition, health care professions, specialty credentialing programs and state license/certification examinations. CNCB is experienced in the provision and oversight of training programs leading to a national/international certification/license.

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Publications: CCN Continuing Education Handbook
CCN Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Procedures
CCN Examination Study Guide
CNCB Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition
and CCN Examination Handbook

Membership Organization:
International and American Associations
for CCN & ACN Credentials:
of Clinical Nutritionists (IAACN)

Founded: 1983, Orlando, Florida

Memberships: Professional Members (CCN's)
Professional Associate Members (eligible doctors without CCN)
Associate Members (eligible nutritional consultants working toward CCN)

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The Discipline and Profession of Human Clinical Nutrition

Taber’s Medical Dictionary defines nutrition as the “sum total of the processes involved in the taking in and utilization of food substances by which growth, repair and maintenance of activities in the body as a whole or in any of its parts are accomplished, includes ingestion, digestion, absorption, and metabolism”. ¹

The discipline of Human Clinical Nutrition applies principles derived from current biochemical and physiological scientific knowledge for the purpose of promoting optimal health. Optimal health is at risk when there is nutritional deficiency. Deficiency leads to biochemical and metabolic imbalances, to cellular malnutrition and degeneration. Organ and gland dysfunction result and eventually cause nutrition-related diseases. “Nutrition must be for real people of all ages and genetic backgrounds, including both the weak and the robust. Because of the facts of biochemical individuality, each person’s nutrition is characteristically unique, and it is possible that disease often develops as a result of inadequate nutritional adjustments to unusual needs.” ²

“Nutrition is a universal biological process. Like humans, all other organisms on earth subsist, when necessary, on imperfect nutrition, and the state of their health and the degree of their welfare depends on the quality of the nutrition they get. Since entirely different kinds of organisms - plants, animals, bacteria, etc. - have similar fundamental needs, organisms generally feed on each other. We people commonly get the 40 or more essential nutrients ....from the tissues of plants and animals. If we try to live on sugars, starch, alcohol and refined fats, we fail because these do not contain the fundamental ABC’s of nutrition. We improve our nutrition when we get a better balance between the ABCs and when we minimize the use of those things like sugar and alcohol which are completely devoid of the ABC essentials.” ³

“Medicine will enjoy far greater success when it learns how to use as remedial agents those chemical substances that belong naturally in the human body rather than those which are wholly foreign to it,” Clinical nutrition is the discipline which exemplifies this principle.

Who are clinical nutritionists?

The very broad field of nutrition, which has come into mainstream understanding and acceptance, includes many varied and established levels of education, expertise, service, scope of practice and mode of practice. Clinical Nutritionists may be Bachelor of Science graduates with fulfillment of core nutrition hours, or those holding advanced degrees in clinical nutrition. In many cases, nutritionist practitioners are already licensed health care professionals in other disciplines. The field includes medical physicians, dentists, osteopaths, chiropractors, pharmacists, nurses, mental health professionals, podiatrists, optometrists and veterinarians, as well as medical scientists in biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology, pathology, psychology, endocrinology and oncology. These are practitioners who have found that the addition of nutrition to the existing practice will in many cases, aid in rapid restoration to health.

¹Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary, 17th Edition
Clayton L. Thomas, MD, MPH, Editor, p. 1337
²Williams, Roger J., Ph.D., D.Sc.
The Advancement of Nutrition, p. vii
Clayton Foundation Biochemical Institute
The University of Texas at Austin, 1982.
³
The goal of Clinical Nutritionists -

to promote optimal health

“The intricacies of nutrition mandate that the practitioner give patients sound, expert and dependable advice about the supplementation of their diets. The nutrification of foods (Baurenfeind) is a perfectly logical expedient involving supplementation and is widely used in the poultry, livestock and pet food industries.”

“The ABCs of nutrition are the essential chemicals we use and live with and need to get from our environment. Besides oxygen and water, there are about 40 of these chemicals - minerals, amino acids and vitamins - which must be supplied by our food in reasonable proportions. From these we build our metabolic machinery that makes possible the burning of fuel from which we get energy. Because of these numerous needs and the difficulty of obtaining all the ABCs in the right amounts, people in the normal course of events subsist with nutritional environments that are mediocre or even poor. There is nothing unusual about imperfect environments; all other phases of our human environment - climatic, governmental, educational, religious, social, etc. - are likewise imperfect and subject to improvement. The improvement of our inner nutritional environments is the prime objective of nutritional study.”

Clinical Nutritionists’ Political Philosophy

This profession speaks with a loud voice. of the oppression any group or legislation which would promote one singular representative professional group, to the exclusion of others. This type of oppression does great disservice to highly qualified professionals and to the multi-preferenced consumer public to be served. A fair nutritionist bill in any state must provide for the professional practice of nutrition by any professional group who meet acceptable academic and practice standards for the field.
INTRODUCTION

The Clinical Nutrition Certification Board (CNCB)

CNCB is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) certification agency which provides professional training, examining and certifying for alternative or complimentary medical, clinical nutrition and health care organizations, in addition to specialty credentialing programs and state license/certification examinations. A certification board must maintain careful separate corporate stance from any of the professional entities which it serves, yet be closely involved with the individual special dynamics and needs of each council of educators with which it works.

CNCB functions under the direction of an elected Board of Directors and the services of a 24 to 33-member content-expert team Scientific Council, which writes examinations for several agencies and organizations. CNCB is able to oversee /provide training programs leading to a national/international certification and/or license, handle an extensive credential review process, and work with an organization's elite program and examination writing board. For ten years CNCB has been providing appropriate examination processes which have served the applicant organization, the examination candidate, and state or national legislative bodies.

CNCB currently provides services for the International and American Associations of Clinical Nutritionists (IAACN), for the American Chiropractic Association Council on Nutrition, and for several other professions and state licensing boards.

Clinical Nutritionist Credentialing

In 1990, the Clinical Nutrition Certification Board (CNCB) established a voluntary program of professional credentialing designed to assist in assuring the competency of clinical nutritionists in all the health care professions. The International and American Associations of Clinical Nutritionists (IAACN) contracted with the Clinical Nutrition Certification Board, IAACN's selected credentialing agency, to administer the Certified Clinical Nutritionist (CCN) program. This program includes credential review, training, proctored examinations and certification. In 1999 a similar program was implemented for Associate Clinical Nutritionists (ACN).

Development of the National Certification for Clinical Nutritionists

CNCB in conjunction with Columbia Assessment Services, Inc. (CAS) of Morrisville, North Carolina, a highly reputable, full-service testing company, has constructed a content-valid national examination for the profession of clinical nutrition. Over two years, a legal Scope of Practice was created for the already diverse clinical practitioners of nutrition. This document not only provided an operational guide for clinical nutritionists, but defined the various areas which would be covered by examination. This Scope of Practice was validated by some 2200 practitioners in the field. Under the guidance of CAS testing professionals, experts in the field of clinical nutrition banded together to form a Scientific Council charged with writing a quality
national examination which would conform to the validated scope of practice. The examination database work continues to be performed by teams of content experts meeting at least twice a year. Over ten years, with an average of five test administrations per year across the United States, the CCN Examination has become the benchmark of the field, growing each year in prestige and influence. In 1994 the first State Licensing Exam for Clinical Nutritionists was completed to be utilized by the state legislators to certify and license at the state level.

The prescribed activities of the CNCB are monitored annually by the CNCB Board of Directors. The examinations fulfill all content and statistical requirements. All policies and procedures of the CNCB are reviewed annually, and changes are made where required.

Benefits of the CCN Credential

- Name recognition and identification with the premier CCN credential which signifies excellence in the field of clinical nutrition.
- Access to the CCN Scope of Practice, which has become a legal standard for conduct in the practice of clinical nutrition.
- National Certification and 5-Year Recertification Program
- Quality Continuing Education applied for annually through the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy, various state agencies and professional association
- National Client Referral Services
- Multi-disciplinary networking, sharing, camaraderie at annual Scientific Symposia.
- Product information and protocols from quality professional vendors of therapeutic product lines and laboratory services.
- Access to specialized training in laboratory testing.
- Certification Programs in IV and IM Clinical Nutrition Protocols and Order Writing.
- Phlebotomy Training Separate Certification.
- Access to significant journals and publications in the field.
- Licensing advocacy and credential representation.

Future Goals of the CNCB

The CNCB plans to continue its activity to:
- Aid various professions to establish diplomate programs within the professions.
- Expand the creation of state license examinations so there will be separate (not shared with another profession) licensure in clinical nutrition for credentialed practitioners.
- Become active at the undergraduate college level, working with progressive nutrition departments to educate and interest graduates in a professional certification.
- Expand networking into other allied professional associations and consumer organizations by way of membership and support.
Clinical Nutrition Today

Clearly the field of clinical nutrition is regulated with sufficiently high standards of academic eligibility, post-graduate study programs, course reviews, testing by examination, quality on-going continuing education, and a five-year recertification program to assure the competence of its practitioners. Certified Clinical Nutritionists are highly motivated to invest in hundreds of hours of continuing education beyond the minimum annual requirements.

While the scope of practice remains largely predominant in the study and application of nutrients, the field was pre-positioned to include the study of herbology and homeopathy. Today’s nutritionist is able to utilize several disciplines to achieve the express therapy required to support individual health.

Clinical Nutritionists are today highly trained to provide insightful intake, case history evaluation, appropriate testing recommendation and interpretation, with the optimum goal to achieve and maintain health. Competency in the use of biological medicine is sought after and prized. The intelligent support of the natural healing and healthrestorative powers inherent in the living organism becomes a lifelong quest.

Clinical Nutritionists are inquisitive and passionate students. While nutritionists are found in many work environments, the greater number of them is in private practice, working one-on-one to solve the multitudinous riddles of health. Others will be found in research or testing laboratories, supplement companies, group practices, teaching, corporate consulting, writing and authoring books.

Clinical Nutritionists today will often specialize in working with certain populations, preferring to work with children or women, geriatrics, pain management, detoxification, or in the world of sports nutrition and fitness. Many times the work of clinical nutrition is added to a current primary profession such as medicine, dentistry, chiropractic, pharmacy or nursing. And today, clinical nutritionists are involved in certain broad community programs that relate to specific disease state management such as diabetes and cardiovascular care. Some are gaining separate certificates and certifications in IV and IM Nutrition Protocol Selection and Order Writing, and some take training in Phlebotomy. The opportunities for a well-trained clinical nutritionist are extensive.

As the enlightened consumer public continues to voice a strong preference for the right to take responsibility for their own health, they will seek the guidance of Certified Clinical Nutritionists who have the academic background, post-graduate training, national certification and eventual state license to meet their needs. The challenge of the new millennium will require readiness and dedication. The Clinical Nutrition Certification Board provides eligible applicants the resources to make such a commitment. Will you be ready to meet that challenge? Begin Today for your Career of Tomorrow!
POST GRADUATE STUDIES IN CLINICAL NUTRITION

The Rationale

In answer to a substantial need to literally transform the practice capability of the new alternative health care practitioner, a practice intensive program was created. Preliminary sessions began in 1995 and in 1997 CNCB completed pilot programs for “Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition” (PGSCN) in Illinois and Connecticut under the sponsorship of the University of Toledo School of Pharmacy. In Connecticut the program was at the invitation of the Connecticut State Commissioner of Pharmacy.

The PGSCN Program is a component of the CCN Certification Process. Qualifying college graduates with a Master degree or PhD in Human Nutrition from a regionally accredited college or university. Certain licensed health care professionals with substantial backgrounds in science are eligible. Both recent college graduates and licensed professionals are approved individually through the CNCB Credentials Office.

The PGSCN Program is technically focused toward specific current research and practice protocols that are not normally found at the university level. The PGSCN Program creates an equivalency opportunity for interested already licensed health care practitioners who lack academic nutrition hours to approach the CCN national certification.

Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition (PGSCN) Format

The Post Graduate program consists of Four Training Sessions: Four 14-hour on line seminars (56 total hours). Instructor availability may change from year to year. Session Instructors are announced at the beginning of a year.

PGSCN Eligibility

See CORE REQUIREMENTS on CNCB website:
www.cncb.org

Successful Completion of the Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition Program establishes approval for Examination Candidacy.

1. PGSCN Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4
2. All PGSCN fees paid in full.
3. All Credential Review Materials (two copies each) turned in to the CNCB Credentials Office.

Completion of Items 1-3 and the Credential Review Process satisfies the CNCB requirement of approval and training prior to Examination Candidacy. This focused overview of practice intensive information in the field of clinical nutrition provides background training that is essential before Examination preparation can begin. The PGSCN Program also should provide the CCN practitioner with sufficient intellectual and protocol confidence necessary to begin a clinical nutrition practice.
POST GRADUATE STUDIES IN
CLINICAL NUTRITION COURSE

I. Session 1 - Optimal Human Nutrition
   (14 Hours)
   Biochemistry of Essential Vitamins
   Biochemistry of Essential Minerals
   Biochemistry of Essential Trace Minerals
   Biochemistry of Essential Amino Acids and Accessory Nutrients
   Optimal Human Nutrition
   Environmental Health Issues
   Drug Induced Nutritional Deficiencies

Session 2 - Cognition and Sensory Overload
   (14 Hours)
   Free Radicals & Antioxidants
   Biochemistry of Fats and Oils
   The Human Microflora
   Cognitive Enhancing Drugs and Nutrients
   Alternative Cancer Therapies
   Women’s Health Conditions
   Cardiovascular Disease
   Hyperinsulinemia
   Allergies and Asthma
   ADD and ADHD
   Health Assessment & Medical Symptom Questionnaires

Session 3 - Detoxification, Herbology and Homeopathic Therapy
   (14 Hours)
   Introduction to Human Toxicity
   Bowel Terrain
   Toxic Conditions, Allergies and Sensitivities
   Established Need for Detoxification Therapy Modality - Homeopathy
   Phytotherapy
   Therapy Modality - Herbology
   Clinical Nutrition Counseling with Alternative Therapies

Session 4 - Laboratory Assessment
   (14 Hours)
   Rationale for Laboratory Assessment
   Vitamins - the Working “Hands” of Enzymes
   Minerals & Laboratory Testing
   Amino Acids & Laboratory Testing
   Fatty Acids & Laboratory Testing
   Organic Acids & Laboratory Testing
   Gastrointestinal Disorders & Laboratory Testing: Digestion & Absorption
   Microbial Flora
   Gastric and Pancreatic Function
   Intestinal Function & Permeability
   Leaky Gut Syndrome
   Dysbiosis
   Bacterial & Protozoal Markers
   Food Allergy & Test Results
   Detoxification Testing
   Urinary Markers
   Hormones & Laboratory Testing
   Aging and Oxidant Stress
   Urinary Metabolic Markers
   Case Reports and Case Outcomes

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[signatures]
PGSCN COURSE TEXTBOOKS

I. Medical Nutrition from Marz, Marz
Mind, Mood & Smart Pills, Pelton
Family Guide to Homeopathy, Lockie
Repertory of the Homeopathic Materia Medica, Kent
The Basic 100, Queen

II. Estimated Average Length of Completion for the PGSCN Program is 9 months.

III. PGSCN On-Line Program
Fee $4500.00 (each session is charged individually $1125.00 each).

IV. CNCB Public Policy
In accordance with state and federal law, the CNCB nonprofit does not discriminate because of race, disability, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship or veteran status in eligibility training or Examination Candidacy.
CCN Examination Texts for Examination Preparation

Review the *Study Guide for the Certified Clinical Nutritionist Examination* online and download The Materials order information from the CNCB website www.cncb.org

Sample Examination Study Questions
Located in the *Study Guide for the Certified Clinical Nutritionist Examination* available online.

Examination Candidate Fees

- CNCB Credential Review Fee ($75.00 U.S. Degree; $150.00 Foreign Degree)
- CCN Exam Fee ($450.00)
- **CCN Examination Study Guide** (free online)
- CCN Exam Study Texts (List is in back of Study Guide available online).
- **CCN Exam Materials Order information**- available online.

Detailed Information Regarding the Examination


**Note:** The Credential Review Process leading to the Certified Clinical Nutritionist examination is a confidential and on-going process that may require individual help in the discovery of suitable personal options. The nutrition courses at the university level are not yet standardized and are not available in all locales. Personal consultations are available by appointment and are free of charge. The “appointment rule” requires that the following information be in the Credentials Office before the telephone appointment:

1. Completed Credential Review Form with fee.
2. Transcripts from all graduating universities.
3. Copies of Course Curriculum Manual pages from a college in the vicinity of the applicant, where available nutrition courses will be listed and discussed.

**Maintaining the Certification**

The CCN Credential requires on-going maintenance to verify that the practitioner is continuing to update knowledge and skills:
Forty approved CE Hours every 2 years, fulfilled by the following:
1. Attendance at “three out of four” IAACN Annual Scientific Symposiums (60 CEs earned).
2. Payment of Annual CNCB Maintenance Fee. (no refunds in part or in full)
3. Recertification in the spring of your fifth year via annual study textbooks with contracted Open Book Exam. Recertification Text books total 24 CE hours.

The CCN Continuing Education Maintenance Requirement of attendance at 3-out-of-every-4 IAACN Scientific Symposia will satisfy the above stated CE requirements.

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