

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, TX 78701**

**Advanced Practice Nurses Returning to Practice from Inactive Status
(Requirements for Refresher Course or Extensive Orientation)**

General Requirements:

According to 22 TAC §221.10(c), applicants who request reactivation of advanced practice nurse status for whom more than four years have lapsed since completion of the advanced practice educational program or who have not practiced in the advanced practice role during the previous four years must successfully complete a refresher course or extensive orientation that includes a supervised clinical component. Such courses may only be offered to individuals who otherwise meet current requirements for authorization to practice as an advanced practice nurse in Texas [includes RN licensure requirement and *advanced practice continuing education requirements* as outlined in Rule 216.3(3)].

The purpose of the experience is to assure the Board and the public that the advanced practice nurse who is returning to practice after a period of inactivity is competent to provide safe, effective care within the full scope of the advanced role and specialty. The following requirements are designed to assist the advanced practice nurse with inactive status and an individual who serves as his/her instructor to develop a refresher course or extensive orientation. The degree of supervision required will vary based on individual needs and performance.

Length of Program: The refresher course or extensive orientation must include a minimum of 400 hours of practice. Additional hours may be required at the discretion of the instructor based on the inactive advanced practice nurse's individual learning needs and the length of time the inactive advanced practice nurse has been inactive.

Content: The refresher course or extensive orientation must cover the **full scope of practice for the advanced role and specialty** through clinical and/or didactic learning experiences. Clinical learning experiences are defined as "planned learning experiences that involve direct contact with patients under the guidance of faculty [22 TAC §219.2(6)]." Didactic learning experiences are "any planned learning activities that take place in the classroom, learning resource center, skills laboratory, or similar settings under the guidance of faculty [§219.2(8)]." At a minimum, the content must include:

- Advanced assessment
- Pharmacotherapeutics
- Diagnosis and management of diseases and conditions consistent with current standards of care
- Ordering and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests

- Demonstration of safe and competent performance of procedures
- Demonstration of knowledge of the scope of practice as defined by the Nursing Practice Act and Board rules related to professional and advanced practice nursing role and responsibilities

Eligibility Criteria for the Advanced Practice Nurse with Inactive Status

The advanced practice nurse with inactive status shall hold a current, valid unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Texas or reside in any party state and hold a current, valid, unencumbered registered nurse license in that state

Responsibilities/Functions of the Advanced Practice Nurse with Inactive Status

The advanced practice nurse with inactive status shall:

- Recruit a qualified instructor as outlined in this document. While Board staff cannot assist with finding an instructor, applicants are encouraged to seek their consultation regarding instructor qualifications.
- Complete a **minimum** of 400 hours of clinical practice with the instructor (additional hours may be required at the discretion of the instructor based on individual learning needs and the length of time the advanced practice nurse with inactive status has been inactive)
- Not utilize his/her advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities that are beyond the scope of practice of the registered nurse unless the instructor agrees to accept full accountability for all aspects of the care and service provided, including but not limited to:
 - Continuous monitoring of all aspects of practice that are beyond the scope of practice of a registered nurse
 - Reviewing and signing all documentation, and
 - Remaining physically present and immediately available at all times.
- Not claim to be an advanced practice nurse, hold himself/herself out to be an advanced practice nurse, or use a title or any other designation tending to imply that he/she holds current authorization to practice as an advanced practice nurse.
- Not authorize, issue or sign medication or prescription drug orders
- Submit the “Verification of Successful Completion of an Advanced Practice Nurse Refresher Course or Extensive Orientation” form

NOTE: Nurse anesthetists MUST satisfactorily complete all requirements of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ refresher program leading to full recertification and document a minimum of 400 hours of practice

Minimum Criteria for Eligibility as an Instructor

- The instructor must hold a current, valid unencumbered professional license to practice in his/her role
 - If the instructor is another advanced practice nurse, he/she must be appropriately authorized/licensed to practice in the advanced role and specialty in the state in which he/she practices.
 - If the instructor is a physician, he/she must be licensed in the state in which he/she practices and credentialed in the appropriate specialty area
- The instructor must be engaged in active clinical practice
- Instructors in each advanced practice category must meet the following criteria:
 - **Inactive Nurse-Midwife:** instructor must be a CNM (national certification required)—physicians are not eligible as instructors.
 - **Inactive Nurse Anesthetist:** instructor must be a CRNA (national certification required) or an anesthesiologist—CRNA strongly preferred.
 - **Inactive Nurse Practitioner:** instructor must be a nurse practitioner in the same specialty (national certification preferred when available) or another advanced practice nurse/physician in a closely related specialty—nurse practitioner strongly preferred
 - **Inactive Clinical Nurse Specialist:** instructor must be a clinical nurse specialist who holds a master's degree in nursing and is authorized to practice in the same specialty (national certification preferred when available) or another advanced practice nurse/physician in a closely related specialty—clinical nurse specialist strongly preferred
- The Texas Board of Nursing reserves the right to make the final determination regarding the appropriateness of the instructor for an advanced practice nurse with inactive status in a particular role and specialty. The instructor must provide such documentation as required by the board to document his/her qualifications to function in this role.

Responsibilities/Functions of the Instructor

The responsibilities of the instructor shall include but not be limited to the following criteria. The instructor shall assume full accountability for all aspects of the care and services provided by the advanced practice nurse with inactive status that are beyond the scope of practice of a registered nurse.

- Provide initial and ongoing assessment and evaluation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of the advanced practice nurse with inactive status
- Participate in the assessment, management and follow-up of each patient
- Remain physically present and immediately available to the advanced practice nurse

with inactive status at all times.

- Meet regularly with the advanced practice nurse with inactive status to identify learning needs and discuss evaluation of performance
- Review and sign all patient records
- Assure that care provided by the advanced practice nurse with inactive status meets the current standard of care for the specialty area
- Attest that the advanced practice nurse with inactive status demonstrates competent clinical judgment and skills appropriate to the advanced role and specialty
- Complete the “Verification of Successful Completion of an Advanced Practice Nurse Refresher Course or Extensive Orientation” form

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**Verification of Successful Completion of an Advanced Practice Nurse
Refresher Course or Extensive Orientation**

_____ has successfully completed a refresher course or
Please print inactive advanced practice nurses name

extensive orientation in an advanced practice nursing role and specialty. My initials and signature below indicate that the aforementioned has demonstrated safe and competent practice in relation to the role and specialty of _____.

Please print the specific advanced role and specialty

This includes didactic and/or clinical experiences that encompass:

- _____ The full scope of the role indicated above as defined by the professional specialty organization as well as the Nursing Practice Act, Board rules related to professional and advanced practice nursing role and responsibilities
- _____ Advanced assessment
- _____ Diagnosis and management of problems within the specialty
- _____ Pharmacotherapeutics
- _____ Ordering and interpreting of diagnostic test and laboratory values appropriate to the specialty
- _____ Safe and competent practice in the performance of procedures appropriate for the role and specialty (e.g., suturing, intubation)
- _____ A **minimum** of 400 hours of clinical practice

****NOTE:** This form must be signed by the instructor who assumed primary responsibility for the inactive advanced practice nurse's refresher course/extensive orientation. If multiple instructors, please attach a letter of explanation and include the name and professional license number for each instructor.

I, the undersigned authority, attest that the above information is true and correct and that I believe the above named applicant is competent to practice in the full scope of the advanced role and specialty indicated above.

Please print instructor's name and title

Instructor's license number

Instructor's signature

Date _____, 20____.