COMMISSION FOR FORENSIC NURSING CERTIFICATION

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE-A® and SANE-P®)

2025

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION HANDBOOK

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF **Forensic Nurses**

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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

certification@ForensicNurses.org

Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to seek the credential of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A®) and/or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P®).[1]

A nurse who achieves certification as a SANE-A or SANE-P demonstrates through objective validation to themselves, colleagues, patients, employers, and the public at-large that they have the knowledge and expertise required for this specialty practice—and possess an ongoing professional commitment to providing quality patient care. The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN or Association), through the Commission for Forensic Nursing Certification (CFNC), is honored to help you earn certification in this challenging and vital nursing specialty.

The mission of the CFNC is to ensure that the Association's certification programs are psychometrically sound, technically accurate, and legally defensible. The Association established the CFNC to promote the highest standards of forensic nursing practice through the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of the certification and certification renewal processes. As the independent and autonomous governing body for the SANE-A and SANE-P certification examination programs, the CFNC has the sole authority for establishing policies regarding certification eligibility; development, scoring, and administration of the exams; certification renewal requirements; and operations of the certification programs.

This handbook contains:
- Exam eligibility requirements;
- Application process guidelines;
- Resources for exam preparation;
- What to expect when testing; and
- What to expect after the exam.

Please review this handbook carefully before you apply. The exams are offered twice a year during days 1–30 in the months of April and September. This document will guide you through the application process and help you prepare for what to expect before, during, and after the exam. You are responsible for meeting the eligibility requirements before you register and apply, and for submitting your application by the established deadlines.

The Association and the CFNC reserve the right to make changes to this document. Questions?
CFNC c/o International Association of Forensic Nurses 6755 Business Parkway, Ste 303 Elkridge, MD 21075
p 410.626.7805 ext 106
f 410.626.7804
certification@ForensicNurses.org
www.ForensicNurses.org

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[1] The International Association of Forensic Nurses holds the registered trademarks for the SANE-A® and SANE-P® designations. For readability, the registration marks appear in the text of this document only upon initial menti

Applying for the Exam

SANE-A: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to sit for the SANE-A certification examination, you must:

1. Hold an active, unrestricted license as a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) in the United States (US) or a US territory

   OR

   Hold an active, unrestricted license as a first-level general nurse (or the equivalent) in the country/jurisdiction of practice;[2]

<div align="center">AND</div>

2. Have practiced nursing for a minimum of 2 years as an RN/APRN

   OR

   Have practiced nursing for a minimum of 2 years as a first-level general nurse (or the equivalent) in the country/jurisdiction of licensure;

<div align="center">AND</div>

3. Have successfully completed an adult/adolescent sexual assault nurse examiner education program that grants a minimum of 40 hours of continuing nursing education contact hours from an **accredited** provider

   OR

   Have successfully completed an adult/adolescent sexual assault nurse examiner education program that comprises a minimum of 40 hours of academic coursework or the national equivalent from an **accredited** educational institution

   OR

   Have successfully completed a combined adult/adolescent/pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner education program that grants a minimum of 64 hours of continuing nursing education contact hours from an **accredited** provider

   OR

   Have successfully completed an adult/adolescent/pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner education program that comprises a minimum of 64 hours of academic coursework or the national equivalent from an **accredited** educational institution.

   NOTE: All education programs must be from a single educational offering and follow the content outline contained in the most current edition of the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines; Also, if you have questions about your course accreditation, please email certification@ForensicNurses.org.

<div align="center">AND</div>

4. Have successfully completed a sexual assault nurse examiner clinical preceptorship as outlined in the most current edition of the IAFN *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines*;

<div align="center">AND</div>

5. Have **practiced** [3] as a sexual assault nurse examiner for a minimum of 300 hours within the past 3 years. At least 200 of those 300 hours must comprise SANE-related practice that is focused on the adult and/or adolescent patient population.

    NOTE: If the application is designated for audit, the applicant will be asked to submit documentation of completion of their SANE didactic course and SANE-related practice hours.

The eligibility requirements for the SANE-A exam were initially established based on the first job analysis study conducted for the exam. The CFNC reviews the eligibility requirements annually and, if needed, makes updates.

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[2] Applicants who do not have a US RN license must have completed a post-secondary nursing education program that includes classroom instruction and clinical practice in medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and psychiatric nursing. To confirm eligibility, these applicants may be asked to provide a transcript from their nursing education program.

[3] Practice includes *any combination* of the following activities:
- Providing direct patient care as a SANE
- Taking on-call shifts to respond to patients as a SANE (even if not seeing a patient; limit: 100 hours)
- Teaching/precepting SANEs (including via telehealth modality)
- Providing direction/consultation on SANE issues/cases SANEs (including via telehealth modality)
- Participating in peer review of SANE cases.

SANE-P: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to sit for the SANE-P certification examination, you must:

1. Hold an active, unrestricted license as a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) in the United States (US) or a US territory

   OR

   Hold an active, unrestricted license as a first-level general nurse (or the equivalent) in the country/jurisdiction of practice;[4]

   <div align="center">AND</div>

2. Have practiced nursing for a minimum of 3 years as an RN/APRN

   OR

   Have practiced nursing for a minimum of 3 years as a first-level general nurse (or the equivalent) in the country/jurisdiction of licensure;

   <div align="center">AND</div>

3. Have successfully completed a pediatric/adolescent sexual assault nurse examiner education program that grants a minimum of 40 hours of continuing nursing education contact hours from an **accredited** provider

   OR

   Have successfully completed a pediatric/adolescent sexual assault nurse examiner education program that comprises a minimum of forty 40 hours of academic coursework or the national equivalent from an **accredited** educational institution

   OR

   Have successfully completed a combined adult/adolescent/pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner education program that grants a minimum of 64 hours of continuing nursing education contact hours from an **accredited** provider

   OR

   Have successfully completed a combined adult/adolescent/pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner education program that comprises a minimum of 64 hours of academic coursework or the national equivalent from an **accredited** educational institution.

   NOTE: *All education programs must be from a single educational offering and follow the content outline contained in the most current edition of the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines; Also, if you have questions about your course accreditation, please email* certification@ForensicNurses.org*.*

   <div align="center">AND</div>

4. Have successfully completed a sexual assault nurse examiner clinical preceptorship as outlined in the most current edition of the IAFN *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines*;

   <div align="center">AND</div>

5. Have **practiced** [5] as a sexual assault nurse examiner for a minimum of 300 hours within the past 3 years. At least 200 of those 300 hours must comprise SANE-related practice that is focused on the prepubertal patient population.

NOTE: If the application is designated for audit, the applicant will be asked to submit documentation of completion of their SANE didactic course and SANE-related practice hours.

The eligibility requirements for the SANE-P exam were initially established based on the job analysis study conducted for the exam. The CFNC reviews the eligibility requirements annually and updates, as needed.

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4 Applicants who do not have a US RN license must have completed a post-secondary nursing education program that includes classroom instruction and clinical practice in medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and psychiatric nursing. To confirm eligibility, these applicants may be asked to provide a transcript from their nursing education program.

5 Practice includes *any combination* of the following activities:
- Providing direct patient care as a SANE
- Taking on-call shifts to respond to patients as a SANE (even if not seeing a patient; limit: 100 hours)
- Teaching/precepting SANEs (including via telehealth modality)
- Providing direction/consultation on SANE issues/cases (including via telehealth modality)
- Participating in peer review of SANE cases.

DEADLINES AND FEE SCHEDULE

April Exam / September Exam	IAFN Member Application Fee	Non-Member Application Fee	International* Member Application Fee	International Non-Member Application Fee
January 3 - February 7/ June 3–July 8: early filing-fee applies	$275	$425	$350	**$475**
February 8–16/ July 9–18: late filing-fee applies	$455	$605	$530	**$655**

International - Residence outside the US or Canada

- Cancellation of an exam application is not permitted after the final application deadline and fees are non- refundable.

- *IAFN must RECEIVE your full application and fee by the deadline dates above at 5:00 PM ET.* No application will be accepted after the late-filing deadline date/time below:

    - Feb 16, 2025, 5:00 PM ET (April exam)

    - July 18, 2025, 5:00 PM ET (September exam)

- You must remit payment via credit card or promo code when you register. Call the home office to arrange if paying by personal check or money order/certified check. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, you will be required to pay a $45 returned-check fee and then must remit by money order/certified check or credit card.

REFUND POLICY

All application fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable to another applicant. In the event you are found ineligible to test, the application fee minus a processing fee of $125 may be refunded upon request.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

Follow these steps:
- [Register](#) and list a valid, *personal* (*not* work or school) email address. This helps ensure you will receive exam scheduling information and your confidential exam results.

- **Complete** the application; and

- **Pay** by credit card and/or promo code **and click Submit**.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

- **Register/apply using the name on the government-issued photo identification** you will use to be admitted to test. **If the first and last names on your application do not exactly match the name on your government- issued identification, you will not be permitted to test.** The name you provide will appear on your certificate.

- **Complete all sections/fields**. Applications are incomplete if requested information is missing or the appropriate fee is not paid in full. If the application is incomplete, you will receive 1 email (sent to the email address listed on your application), detailing what you must submit to complete your application within a given deadline of up to 7 days. If you fail to respond by the given deadline, the application will be subject to denial. Only completed applications are processed.

- If you are applying to take both the SANE-A and SANE-P certification examinations during the same testing window, you must submit a separate application and application fee for each exam.

- An immediate notice will confirm your application submission

AUDIT PROCESS

To maintain the credibility and integrity of the certification process in determining eligibility to sit for the exam, at any point during the certification exam application review process, the CFNC reserves the right to verify any information you provide on your application.

To ensure that all exam eligibility requirements are met, the CFNC audits every 10th exam application submission the certification exam applications. However, if an application is submitted with missing, incomplete or inaccurate information, the CFNC will conduct a focused audit.

If your application is subject to audit, you will receive an email with instructions and a deadline of 7 days in which to submit requested information.

NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY TO TEST

In the event your application does not meet the eligibility requirements, you will be notified via *personal* email (*not* work or school), detailing the issue and a deadline for you to respond and submit the requested information.

If eligibility is denied, a follow-up confidential email will be sent to your personal email address with a letter outlining the reason(s), refund policy, and appeals process. No uniformly applied efforts exceeding the times or means for contact outlined herein may comprise a viable basis for appeal

APPLICATION APPEALS PROCESS

You have the right to if you are deemed eligible to sit for the examination and believe that a violation of CFNC policy may have contributed. You must submit your appeal in writing to the CFNC c/o the Certification Director within 30 days of the date on the letter of notice of ineligibility. Your appeal letter should identify the CFNC policy violation(s) and why you comply with the exam requirements. A reasonable administration fee may be imposed. If the issue cannot be resolved, the CFNC will review the appeal and render a decision. The applicant will be notified of the CFNC's decision within two (2) months of the appeal process. The decision of the CFNC is final.

Scheduling the Exam

SCHEDULING PROCESS

- You may **test via Live-Remote Proctoring (LRP) or at a testing site**. See the list of [test site cities](#).

- Approximately 30 days before the start of the testing window, our testing vendor, Meazure Learning, will email a notice to schedule (NTS) your examination to the personal email address you listed on your exam application.

- **Your NTS email will contain the phrase Notice to Schedule, sent from** [candidatesupport@MeazureLearning.com.](mailto:candidatesupport@MeazureLearning.com) **Be sure to check your inbox, spam box, and delete box for this email.** If you cannot locate the email, **promptly** contact: certification@ForensicNurses.org

- On or soon after **March 1 (April exam)** and **August 1 (September exam), check IAFN's** [SANE Certification Central](#) **web page**. IAFN posts the date the vendor sends the NTS email.

- The NTS email will provide a URL address and a username/password for you to access Meazure Learning's online scheduling system. Once you log on, you will be asked to submit a preferred testing date/time, means (LRP or testing center), and location (based on availability). The email will also include LRP requirements.

- **You are permitted to schedule your exam only during the designated 30-day testing window.**

- **You must log on and submit your scheduling request at least 2 days prior to your preferred testing dat**eats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so seating will become more limited near the middle and end of the testing window.

- If you fail to schedule your exam at least 2 days before the end of the testing window and are unable to test, you will forfeit your examination application fee.
- After approving your preferred test date and location, Meazure Learning will send you an email confirmation notice that provides the exact test date, time, and location. **If you do not receive this confirmation within 24 hours of scheduling your exam, call Meazure Learning immediately: 919.572.6880**.

- **You must print your email confirmation notice and have it with you to test via LRP or at a testing site.**

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations provide candidates who speak English as a second language (ESL) and/or have a disability a fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in the essential functions that the exam is designed to measure; these accommodations do not include steps that fundamentally alter the purpose or nature of the examination.

Reasonable accommodations generally are provided for candidates who have ESL status and/or a

physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that person in one or more major life activities (e.g., walking, talking, hearing, performing manual tasks); have a record of such physical or mental impairment; or are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

Reasonable accommodations are based on the individual's specific request, ESL status and/or disability, submitted documentation, and the appropriateness of the request. To apply for reasonable accommodations, complete the [request form](#) and submit to: certification@forensicnurses.org

You must email the written request form and documents to IAFN at least 45 days prior to your expected testing date. Your request shall also include documentation from an appropriate professional (on the professional's letterhead), which identifies your ESL status and/or diagnosis of disability as well as the specific recommendations for accommodations. IAFN will advise Meazure Learning of any approved request. Meazure Learning requires notice at least 30 days before the test date you seek.

RESCHEDULING

Scheduled Testing Site Appointment: Following Meazure Learning's online scheduling system instructions, you may reschedule a testing site exam date, time, or location up to 2 days *in advance* of your scheduled testing appointment. Rescheduling requests are not accepted less than 2 days prior to your scheduled appointment. You may reschedule for later in the testing window (time/availability permitting). To reschedule, Meazure Learning charges a nonrefundable $50 fee for all candidates, which you must pay by credit card at the time of the request.

Scheduled LRP Appointment: Following Meazure Learning's online scheduling system instructions, you may reschedule an LRP exam date or time up to 24 hours *in advance* of your scheduled testing appointment. Rescheduling requests are not accepted less than 24 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. You may reschedule for later in the testing window (time/availability permitting).

All Scheduled Appointments: If you fail to appear for your testing appointment and/or you do not reschedule your exam within the specified time in advance of your scheduled testing appointment, you will forfeit your exam application fee. Exceptions to the above policy may be granted only in the event of a substantiated medical emergency or death in the family. Contact Meazure Learning directly: 919.572.6880.

Preparing for the Exam

PREPARING FOR COMPUTER-BASED TESTING

To familiarize yourself with computer-based testing, Meazure Learning offers a free, online tutorial of testing instructions and a sample test.

You may access the online sample test and tutorial anytime, anywhere, through any computer that has Internet access. The sample test is not intended to be a review of the SANE-A or SANE-P examination content.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM CONTENT

The SANE-A and SANE-P exams were developed following generally accepted steps and principles for professional certification exams. The current exams are based on an explicit set of competency statements determined from the SANE-A and SANE-P job analysis studies of practitioners completed in 2017–2018.

The competency statements are organized into different content areas or domains, each with a percentage weight. The percentage reflects how much of that content area is included on every exam.

Each SANE examination contains up to 200 questions (150 scored and up to 50 unscored or pretest items) written within the framework of the nursing process. You are permitted 4 hours to complete the SANE-A or SANE-P examination.

To prepare for the exam content, you are strongly encouraged to:

- Study the test content outline for your intended examination

- Familiarize yourself with the resources on the reference list for your intended exam

- Consider enrolling in or embarking on a SANE-A or a SANE-P preparation course or study program that meets your learning needs

- View live and/or archived nursing professional education (e.g., webinars) addressing SANE content

- Access test practice items

- Review test-taking tips

- Practice techniques for managing test anxiety if this is an issue for you.

For more information, see IAFN's Study for the SANE Exam web page.

Adhering to best practices for certifying bodies, the Commission for Forensic Nursing Certification (CFNC) volunteers and staff are not involved in the development of any preparatory program. The CFNC does not endorse any preparatory program. The CFNC and its staff are solely responsible for the policies and administration of the SANE certification programs, including establishing application deadlines and processes.

SANE-A® Test Content Outline

Domain 1: Assessment and Documentation 32%	
0101	Identify urgent/emergent medical problems (e.g., strangulation, head injury, wounds, drug/alcohol intoxication) that require medical treatment prior to and/or during the medical forensic examination.
0102	Assess safety needs of the patient (e.g., bed rails, medical equipment, environment, patient identity) and implement safety measures during the SANE evaluation.
0103	Identify the acute and long-term emotional and psychological response (e.g., neurobiological, suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder) to sexual assault.
0104	Obtain and document the health history (e.g., medical, psychosocial, developmental).
0105	Obtain and document the sexual assault history.
0106	Assess the patient for indicators of alcohol- and/or drug-facilitated sexual assault.
0107	Assess the patient's level of development (e.g., physical, psychological, cognitive).
0108	Assess the patient for sexually transmitted infections and/or exposure risk.
0109	Assess the patient for pregnancy and/or pregnancy risk.
0110	Assess the patient's immunization status (e.g., tetanus, hepatitis B, HPV).
0111	Conduct a comprehensive head-to-toe physical assessment and document findings (e.g., narrative, diagrammatic).
0112	Assess orifices involved in the sexual assault for trauma by using appropriate methods or adjuncts (e.g., speculum, anoscope, magnification, toluidine blue dye, catheter technique).
0113	Distinguish trauma from normal and abnormal physical findings.
0114	Complete photographic documentation by using principles of forensic photography.
Domain 2: Evidence Collection 18%	
0201	Identify items for evidence collection based on the circumstances or events (e.g., time frame, orifices involved, body contact).
0202	Collect biological and trace specimens from involved orifices and other body areas of contact by using appropriate methods or adjuncts (e.g., alternate light sources, toxicology kits, sexual assault evidence kits).
0203	Collect reference samples (e.g., blood, buccal swab) for the patient's DNA.
0204	Preserve forensic sample integrity (e.g., knowledge of biological degradation, chain of custody).
0205	Document clothing and biological and trace specimens collected.
Domain 3: Patient Management 28%	
0301	Utilize appropriate communication resources (e.g., interpreters, technology, translation services) based on the patient's needs.
0302	Provide crisis intervention to the patient and family members/caregivers.
0303	Provide the patient with developmentally appropriate control and consent.

0304	Conduct the medical forensic examination by using trauma-informed care principles.
0305	Modify and document examination techniques (e.g., positioning) based on the patient's specific needs (e.g., variations in anatomy, physical/cognitive impairments).
0306	Educate the patient about transmission of sexually transmitted infections.
0307	Educate the patient about testing, prophylaxis, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.
0308	Administer testing, prophylaxis, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections as indicated.
0309	Educate the patient on pregnancy risks and emergency contraception.
0310	Administer pregnancy testing and emergency contraception as indicated.
0311	Educate the patient about actions and side effects of prophylactic medications.
0312	Consult with or refer to other healthcare providers regarding medical problems identified.
0313	Refer the patient for follow-up counseling, support, and/or advocacy services.
0314	Create discharge and safety plans (i.e., intimate partner violence).
0315	Conduct follow-up based on medical forensic needs (e.g., wound healing, photography, lab results).

Domain 4: Legal Issues and the Judicial Process 10%

0401	Adhere to applicable mandatory reporting requirements as appropriate (e.g., vulnerable persons, injuries, reportable infections, minors).
0402	Respond to subpoenas and court orders for judicial proceedings (e.g., civil, criminal, administrative).
0403	Testify as a fact or expert witness for the prosecution or defense.
0404	Provide ethical and professional testimony (e.g., objective, evidence-based, accurate).

Domain 5: Professional Practice 12%

0501	Implement safety measures (e.g., physical, environmental, equipment) for the safety of the SANE during and after the medical forensic examination.
0502	Implement principles of confidentiality (e.g., privacy laws, release of information, restricted vs. nonrestricted reporting).
0503	Implement principles of informed consent and informed refusal.
0504	Evaluate and utilize current evidence-based practice (e.g., research, professional development, guidelines).
0505	Participate in peer review, case review, and quality improvement processes.
0506	Implement strategies to collaborate with interprofessional team members.
0507	Identify risks, prevention, and interventions for vicarious trauma.
0508	Incorporate ethical principles in professional practice (i.e., autonomy, beneficence, nonmalfeasance, justice).

SANE-A® Reference List

This reference list contains recommended resources to assist you in preparing for the certification examination. This list is not all-inclusive; other references may help you to study, including information in the *Journal of Forensic Nursing* and other peer-reviewed journals.

Alexander, R., & Harper, N. S. (2019). *Medical response to child sexual abuse: A resource for professionals working with children and families* (2nd ed.). STM Learning Inc.

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Hammer, R. M., Moynihan, B., & Pagliaro, E. M. (2013). *Forensic nursing: A handbook for practice* (2nd ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.

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Mezey, G. C., & King, M. B., eds. (2000). *Male victims of sexual assault* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

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Price, B., & Maguire, K. (2016). *Core curriculum for forensic nursing.* Lippincott Wolters Kluwer.

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. (2017). *National best practices for sexual assault kits: A multidisciplinary approach*. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. (2018). *SANE program development and operation guide*. National Institute of Justice & US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. (2013). *A national protocol for sexual assault medical forensic examinations: Adults/adolescents* (2nd ed.). US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Workowski, K. A., Bachmann, L. H., Chan, P. A., et al., Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. (2021). Sexually transmitted infections treatment guidelines, 2021. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, 70*(4), 1–192.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2003). *Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence.* WHO Press.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2017). *Policy brief: Consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations--2016 update*. WHO Press.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). *Guidelines for the management of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections.* WHO Press.

World Health Organization (WHO) & United Nations Office of Drugs & Crime (UNODC). (2015). *Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence*. WHO Press.

9/10/12, 11/25/15, 1/2/19, 12/31/21 Revised—CFNC; 6/19/13, 10/24/13, 12/31/16, 12/31/17, 12/31/19, 12/31/20, 12/28/22, 9/26/23 Updated

SANE-P® Test Content Outline

	Domain 1: Assessment and Documentation 34%
0101	Identify urgent/emergent medical problems (e.g., strangulation, head injury, wounds, drug/alcohol intoxication) that require medical treatment prior to and/or during the medical forensic examination.
0102	Assess safety needs of the patient (e.g., bed rails, medical equipment, environment, patient identity) and implement safety measures during the SANE evaluation.
0103	Identify the acute and long-term emotional and psychological response (e.g., neurobiological, suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder) to sexual assault/abuse.
0104	Obtain and document the health history (e.g., medical, psychosocial, developmental, behavioral).
0105	Obtain and document the sexual assault/abuse history.
0106	Assess the patient for indicators of alcohol- and/or drug-facilitated sexual assault/abuse.
0107	Assess the patient's level of development (e.g., physical, psychological, cognitive, sexual maturation).
0108	Assess the patient for sexually transmitted infections and/or exposure risk.
0109	Assess the patient for pregnancy and/or pregnancy risk.
0110	Assess the patient's immunization status (e.g., tetanus, hepatitis B, HPV).
0111	Conduct a comprehensive head-to-toe physical assessment and document findings (e.g., narrative, diagrammatic).
0112	Assess orifices involved in the sexual assault/abuse for trauma by using appropriate methods or adjuncts (e.g., speculum, anoscope, magnification, toluidine blue dye, catheter technique, positioning).
0113	Distinguish trauma from normal and abnormal physical findings (e.g., normal variances, mimics of abuse).
0114	Complete photographic documentation by using principles of forensic photography.
	Domain 2: Evidence Collection 14%
0201	Identify items for evidence collection based on the circumstances or events (e.g., time frame, orifices involved, body contact).
0202	Collect biological and trace specimens from involved orifices and other body areas of contact by using appropriate methods or adjuncts (e.g., alternate light sources, toxicology kits, sexual assault evidence kits).
0203	Collect reference samples (e.g., blood, buccal swab) for the patient's DNA.
0204	Preserve forensic sample integrity (e.g., knowledge of biological degradation, chain of custody)
0205	Document clothing and biological and trace specimens collected.

	Domain 3: Patient Management 30%
0301	Utilize appropriate communication resources (e.g., interpreters, technology, translation services) based on patient and/or caregiver needs.
0302	Provide crisis intervention to the patient and family members/caregivers.
0303	Provide the patient with developmentally appropriate control and consent.
0304	Conduct the medical forensic examination by using trauma-informed care principles.
0305	Modify and document examination techniques (e.g., positioning) based on the patient's specific needs (e.g., variations in anatomy, physical/cognitive impairments).
0306	Educate the patient and/or caregiver about transmission of sexually transmitted infections.
0307	Educate the patient and/or caregiver about testing, prophylaxis, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.
0308	Administer testing, prophylaxis, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections as indicated.
0309	Educate the patient and/or caregiver on pregnancy risks and emergency contraception.
0310	Administer pregnancy testing and emergency contraception as indicated.
0311	Educate the patient and/or caregiver about actions and side effects of prophylactic medications.
0312	Consult with or refer to other healthcare providers regarding medical problems identified.
0313	Refer the patient and/or caregiver for follow-up counseling, support, and/or advocacy services.
0314	Create discharge and safety plans (i.e., intimate partner violence).
0315	Conduct follow-up based on medical forensic needs (e.g., wound healing, photography, lab results).
	Domain 4: Legal Issues and the Judicial Process 10%
0401	Adhere to applicable mandatory reporting requirements as appropriate.
0402	Respond to subpoenas and court orders for judicial proceedings (e.g., civil, criminal, administrative).
0403	Testify as a fact or expert witness for the prosecution or defense.
0404	Provide ethical and professional testimony (e.g., objective, evidence-based, accurate).
	Domain 5: Professional Practice 12%
0501	Implement safety measures (e.g., physical, environmental, equipment) for the safety of the SANE during and after the medical forensic examination.
0502	Implement principles of confidentiality (e.g., privacy laws, release of information).
0503	Implement principles of informed consent/assent and informed refusal.
0504	Evaluate and utilize current evidence-based practice (e.g., research, professional development, guidelines).
0505	Participate in peer review, case review, and quality improvement processes.
0506	Implement strategies to collaborate with interprofessional team members.
0507	Identify risks, prevention, and interventions for vicarious trauma.
0508	Incorporate ethical principles into professional practice (i.e., autonomy, beneficence, nonmalfeasance, justice).

SANE-P® Reference List

This reference list contains recommended resources to assist you in preparing for the certification examination. This list is not all-inclusive; other references may help you to study, including information in the *Journal of Forensic Nursing* and other peer-reviewed journals.

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US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. (2013). *A national protocol for sexual assault medical forensic examinations: Adults/adolescents* (2nd ed.). US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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World Health Organization (WHO). (2017). *Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused*. WHO Press.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). *Guidelines for the management of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections.* WHO Press.

World Health Organization (WHO) & United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence*. WHO Press.

Taking the Exam

PRIOR TO TESTING

- Read the [Test Day Instructions](#)

- Locate and bring the email confirmation notice Meazure Learning sent you that specifies your testing location, the time that you need to arrive at the testing center/Live-Remote Proctoring site, and the list of items you need to bring. Submit your email confirmation notice to the proctor.

- If testing by Live-Remote Proctoring, review all materials the testing vendor sends in your scheduling confirmation email to ensure you meet the location and all computer system requirements.

- Plan to arrive at the testing center or Live-Remote Proctoring site at least 15 minutes before the start of the testing session. If you arrive late for the testing session, you will not be permitted to test.

- Bring a current photo identification (ID) with signature. You will not be admitted without this.

  - **Acceptable** forms of ID: driver's license, passport, or government-issued ID card with photograph.

  - **Unacceptable** forms of ID: gym membership card, warehouse membership card, school ID card, credit card, ID card with no photograph, etc.

- Your first and last name on the confirmation notice must match exactly the first and last name on your ID card.

- If your last name is hyphenated, both the last name on your ID card and on your email confirmation notice must be hyphenated for you to be admitted to test. Presenting documentation regarding a name change (e.g., a marriage license) at the time of testing is not acceptable.

EXAM SECURITY

To ensure fairness and consistency for all examinees throughout the exam process, the CFNC and Scantron apply rigorous security measures specifically developed for the testing industry. All authorized testing sites follow the same high-level security protocol. Each Meazure Learning proctor successfully completes training and is charged with actively monitoring each examinee throughout the exam process. **As an examinee, you agree at all times to follow all testing rules, including, but not limited to:**

- Not entering or existing the exam room with any unauthorized items/materials.
- Not giving or receiving unauthorized information or aid to or from another person.
- Not disclosing, posting, or discussing with others any items on the exam.
- Timely reporting of any suspected security breach to the exam proctor and Certification Director.

Failure to follow the above may result in exam termination score invalidation, and/or disciplinary action.

CLOSURE OF THE TESTING SITE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCY

Meazure Learning makes its best efforts to keep test sites open regardless of weather conditions. However, a test site may need to temporarily close due to inclement weather or other emergencies. If inclement weather occurs in your area on or around your scheduled testing date, please check the Site Closures and Delays listing.

After the Exam

COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOUR EXAM PROCESS

If you experience problems with the examination process at the testing site/online remotely, please let the proctor know. After you complete your exam, ask the proctor to bring up the comment screen so you may document your concerns about your testing center experience.

Within 30 days of your testing date, please submit a complaint in writing via email to the CFNC c/o the Certification Director, who may forward the information to Meazure Learning with a request to investigate. You will be notified promptly when Meazure Learning returns its investigation findings.

NOTIFICATION ABOUT YOUR EXAM RESULTS

IAFN posts all notices about the exam results on IAFN's [SANE Certification Central](#) web page. The CFNC endorses allowing time for the testing vendor's psychometrician time to analyze the statistical performance of the items prior to release of the exam results. **Exam results typically arrive 6–8 weeks** *after the close of the testing window* (i.e., late June or late November).

When the results arrive, IAFN will send a confidential email to your **personal** (*not* work or school) email address. In the event you do not achieve a passing score, your email will contain information about retesting and an attached score report, which provides general feedback about your performance in each test domain. Because the exam is offered twice a year, **no waiting period or limit exists on retesting. You may apply to retest as early as the next testing window and test as many times as necessary.** You are also eligible for a discount if you retest within 1 year of your initial exam (and every other time thereafter).

If you achieve a passing score, your name will be listed in the publicly available IAFN-Certified Nurses registry ([SANE-A](#); [SANE-P](#)). The Association will email an electronic certificate and score report packet to you.

TEST APPEAL PROCESS

You have the right to appeal your test results or if you believe that a violation of CFNC policy may have contributed to your results. You must submit your appeal in writing to the CFNC c/o the Certification Director within 30 days of the date on the letter of notice of ineligibility. Your appeal letter should identify the CFNC policy violation(s) and why you believe you comply with the exam requirements. A reasonable administrative fee may be imposed. If the issue cannot be resolved, the CFNC will review the appeal and render a decision. The applicant will be notified of the CFNC's decision within 2 months of the appeal submission date. The decision of the CFNC is final. To the extent there is communication regarding your denial past the date of the appeal deadline that shall not constitute any extension of the appeal deadline date.

USE OF THE CREDENTIALS

After achieving a passing score on the exam, you may use the designated credential in all correspondence and professional relations. The credential is typically placed after your name, following any academic degrees and licensure (e.g., Mary Smith, BSN, RN, SANE-A). If you have earned both the SANE-A and the SANE-P credentials, list them separately (e.g., Mary Smith, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P).

You may use the credential as long as the certification remains valid, which is 3 years, barring disciplinary action. For more information on how to list your credentials, please see IAFN's [Use of Credentials](#) web page.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Association, the CFNC, and Meazure Learning do not discriminate against any applicant or candidate for certification on the basis of race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, country of residence, religion, disability, marital status, parental status, ancestry, sexual orientation, military discharge status, source of income, or otherwise as may be prohibited by federal and state law. Applicants/candidates for certification are judged solely on the criteria determined by the CFNC.

DISCIPLINARY AND COMPLAINTS POLICY

In the event a certification applicant/candidate/examinee or certificant violates the CFNC certification requirements and/or policies, the CFNC may issue a reprimand, which may include revocation of the individual's certification. The grounds for sanctions under these procedures may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Any restrictions on the general or registered nursing license, such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions by a recognized nursing authority;

- Violation of established CFNC requirements and/or policies;

- Conviction of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude under federal, state/provincial, or similar law in a matter related to the practice of, or qualifications for, forensic nursing;

- Gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of SANE-A and/or SANE-P professional services, or other unethical or unprofessional conduct based on the formal determination of a licensing body;

- Fraud, falsification, or misrepresentation in an application for certification examination or certification renewal;

- Falsification of any material information requested by the Association/CFNC;

- Misrepresentation of SANE-A and/or SANE-P status; or

- Cheating on any SANE-A and/or SANE-P certification examination.

Actions taken under this policy do not constitute enforcement of the law, although referral to appropriate federal, state/provincial or similar, or local government agencies may be made about the conduct of a certification applicant/candidate/examinee or certificant in appropriate situations.

Contact Information

CFNC
c/o International Association of Forensic Nurses
6755 Business Parkway, Ste 303
Elkridge, MD 21075
p 410.626.7805
f 410.626.7804

certification@ForensicNurses.org

www.ForensicNurses.org

Meazure Learning
 3005 Carrington Mill Boulevard, Ste 150
Morrisville, NC 27560
p 919.572.6880
f 919.361.2426

candidatesupport@meazurelearning.com

www.assessments.meazurelearning.com/programs/international-association-of-forensic-nurses/

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