



CPAN and CAPA Alternate Certification Status Options: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between Inactive and Alumnus status?

Inactive status is for nurses who are currently working in perianesthesia nursing who do not currently meet the recertification requirements but plan to complete the requirements during the up to three year Inactive period.

Alumnus status is for nurses who have permanently left perianesthesia nursing but are still working within the nursing profession.

2. How long can I remain on Inactive status?

You can remain on Inactive status for a maximum of three years. You must reactivate your certification or pursue a different status option before the end of this period.

3. What if I want to return to perianesthesia nursing after my Inactive status expires?

If you do not reactivate your certification within the three-year Inactive status period, you must meet the current exam eligibility criteria, pay the examination fee, and pass the CPAN and/or CAPA exam again.

4. How do I reactivate my CPAN or CAPA certification after being on Inactive status?

You must submit a completed recertification application form, pay the recertification fee, and provide proof of meeting all current recertification requirements. An audit will be conducted to verify your submitted information.

5. Can I use my CPAN or CAPA credential while on Inactive or Alumnus status?

No, you cannot use your CPAN or CAPA credential on your badge or in your email signature while on Inactive or Alumnus status. You may not work or present yourself as a certified perianesthesia nurse in these statuses.

For Alumnus status, though, you may use your Alumnus credential (*Alumnus CPAN and/or CAPA*) on your business card or in a CV or resume.



6. Can I switch from Alumnus status back to active CPAN or CAPA certification?

No, there is no direct path to switch from Alumnus status back to active certification. If you want to return to perianesthesia nursing and use your CPAN or CAPA credential, you must meet the current exam eligibility criteria, pay the examination fee, and pass the relevant exam again.

7. What happens if I incorrectly use my Alumnus or Retired CPAN or CAPA designation?

Inappropriate use of the Alumnus or Retired status will result in the permanent revocation of your credential. You will lose the privilege to use the retired designation and will not be eligible for it in the future.

8. What are the restrictions of Retired status?

While you can use "Retired CPAN" or "Retired CAPA" on your resume or business card, you cannot use it after your signature or on a professional name badge. This status does not allow for active perianesthesia nursing practice. You also cannot use it to fulfill licensing requirements for advanced practice nurses.