

# Becoming a CTR - NCRA Clinical Practicum & CTR Exam Core Competencies

FCDS Annual Conference  
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NCRA Education Committee Chair

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## NCRA Revised Practicum (Derived from the CTR Exam's Domain of Practice)

The practicum is based on five Core Competencies.  
Practicum activities focus on developing skills in these  
critical knowledge areas. ·

- + Casefinding
- + Abstracting
- + Coding, and Staging
- + Analysis and Data Usage
- + Registry Organization
- + Follow-Up, and Data Quality Assurance
- + Cancer Program Accreditation

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## NCRA Center for Cancer Registry Education Practicum Portal ACCESS

- Available only to students who have completed all the course work in an NCRA accredited program and are ready to begin practicum activities.
- College programs: Program Directors have information to access the Practicum Activities
- AHIMA students: information is in every AHIMA course in the “Course Home” section. Students complete survey and submit documentation of completion of coursework for review.

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## OPTIONS FOR PRACTICUM ACTIVITIES

### Option 1: In-Person

- Always preferred
- On-site, CTR-credentialed advisor (instructor) required to record student’s completion of practicum activities

### Option 2: Virtual

- ▶ Activities include:
  - ▶ SEER\*Educate
  - ▶ NCRA-created
- ▶ CTR-credentialed advisor (instructor) required to review practicum activities and answer questions

### Option 3: Hybrid


- ▶ Activities include:
  - ▶ In-Person
  - ▶ SEER\*Educate &/or
  - ▶ NCRA-created
- ▶ CTR-credentialed advisor (instructor) required to review practicum activities and answer questions

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## CORE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS

- ▶ Core Competency Assessments are the final step in all NCRA accredited Cancer Registry Management degree/diploma/certificate programs.
- ▶ **ALL** students, upon completion of practicum activities, will be required to complete a series of Core Competency Assessments to measure their knowledge in each of the five Core Competencies.
  - ▶ Applies to Options 1, 2, and 3
  - ▶ Minimum score of 70% to pass each assessment
  - ▶ Download Practicum Assessment Completion Certificate and submit to instructor for documentation of completion, or submit with CTR exam application.

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### NCRA Practicum Activities and Assessments

The practicum is the final step for all NCRA Accredited Formal Education Programs. It provides students with hands on technical aspects of cancer registry operations and cancer surveillance methods to complement their coursework. The theoretical foundation provided in program courses is essential to understanding the general concepts and principles of a cancer registry. Therefore, **students do not begin the practicum until they have completed all the courses in an NCRA Accredited Formal Education Program.**

NCRA's online practicum activities are outlined and available below. Students must complete all practicum activities for each core competency before taking the related assessment. Once each activity and assessment is complete, students will print and/or save a copy of the completion certificate for their records.

[NCRA Practicum Guide](#)  
[Five Core Competencies Fact Sheet](#)  
[NCRA Accredited Formal Education Program Practicum FAQs](#)

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#### Core Competency Activities

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## Core Competency Assessments

The following five *Core Competency Assessments* are to be completed after completing the above *Core Competency Activities*. Students must achieve a minimum score of 70% on each core competency assessment. The enrollment period for an assessment activity is five days. Students will be allowed two attempts to pass an assessment. If a student is not successful achieving a 70% score after the two attempts, the student should return to the practicum activities for the core competency for additional review. Reference materials may not be utilized except for the open-book portion of the *Core Competency 2 Assessment*. Each assessment is timed and must be completed during the designated timeframe. If the student fails an assessment or does not finish in time, they will be granted access to re-take the assessment 10 days from the last failed attempt.

### Core Competency Assessments

	<b>Core Competency 1: Casefinding Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge and competency in the area of Casefinding.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>
	<b>Core Competency 2: Abstracting, Coding, and Staging - Part 1 (Closed Book) Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge and competency in the areas of abstracting, coding, and staging.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>
	<b>Core Competency 2: Abstracting, Coding, and Staging - Part 2 (Open Book) Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge and competency in the areas of abstracting, coding, and staging.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>
	<b>Core Competency 3: Analysis and Data Usage Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge of and competency in the areas of data collection, analysis, distribution, and presentation.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>
	<b>Core Competency 4: Registry Organization, Follow-Up, and Data Quality Assurance Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge and competency in the areas of cancer registry organization, follow-up, and data quality.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>
	<b>Core Competency 5: Cancer Program Accreditation Assessment</b> Evaluate your general knowledge and competency in the areas of CoC program accreditation and the application of the CoC's standards.	Member Non-Member	Free Free	<a href="#">ADD TO CART</a>