



## Become a Certified Specialty Pharmacist

The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy offers the one and only Certified Specialty Pharmacist (CSP) Credential. CSP exams are offered at testing centers across the country during two testing windows each year. CSP certification validates professional experience and expertise and demonstrates your commitment to continued professional development. The Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB) develops and oversees certification programs for specialty pharmacists and related specialty pharmacy professionals, implements policies and procedures for these certification programs, and oversees the development of the certification examination(s). The SPCB retains autonomy over all certification program policies and decisions.

The Certified Specialty Pharmacist (CSP) credential has been developed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated intermediate knowledge and skill to provide competent specialty pharmacy services in the United States and Canada. The CSP credential is a key indicator to employers, manufacturers, patients, payers, additional healthcare providers, and the public at large that a pharmacist has proficiency in specialty pharmaceuticals.

Specialty pharmacists demonstrate proficiency in specialty management duties, practice in a variety of pharmacy settings including but not limited to Retail, Hospital, Mail Order, PBM, Infusion Center, Pharmacy Associations, and require interaction with difference healthcare providers including Physicians, Pharmacists, Chief Pharmacy Officers, Infusion Nurses, Home Healthcare Nurses, Pharmacy Technicians, Case Managers, Reimbursement Specialists, Patients, Caregivers, and Patient Advocates.

Individuals who earn the CSP credential have demonstrated knowledge of the professional domains that encompass the tasks and knowledge required of a specialty pharmacy professional in various practice settings. By passing the CSP examination, pharmacy professionals not only display their aptitude in each specialized knowledge area, but also present their expertise in specialty pharmacy with a CSP credential.

The CSP certification program:

- Validates professional expertise
- Protects the public
- Distinguishes the specialty pharmacy profession
- Differentiates specialty pharmacists in a competitive job market
- Encourages education providers to develop programming

that will improve the knowledge and performance of specialty pharmacists through academic training and professional development opportunities

- Provides a learning path that recognizes career-long professional development
- Improves the understanding of specialty pharmacy by related disciplines
- Stand out within one of the fastest growing sectors in the pharmaceutical industry by earning the CSP credential. You already have the knowledge. Why not prove it?

### NCCA-Accredited Certification Program

The CSP certification program is developed and administered in compliance with nationally accepted accreditation standards for certification programs.

The Certified Specialty Pharmacist (CSP) credential has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 2015. NCCA accreditation signifies that the CSP program has been impartially reviewed and found to meet national certification standards for the development and operation of credentialing programs.

### NASP offers EVERYTHING you need to earn CSP certification:

- **CSP Examination Preparation Course** is offered online and live at the NHIA Annual Meeting and at the NASP Annual Meeting & Expo. The prep course improves your knowledge and helps you successfully complete the certification exam. For more information: [https://www.proce.com/activities/activity\\_detail?id=567](https://www.proce.com/activities/activity_detail?id=567)
- **Continuing Education Credits** (*FREE for NASP members -- you must log in or register for an account*): <http://proce.learnercommunity.com>
- **CSP Exam** For the Candidate Handbook, eligibility requirements, and to apply: <http://www.spcboard.org/certification/>

All individuals who seek certification must meet the established eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application.

- **Education:** Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (BSPHarm) or Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD).
- **Licensure:** Active pharmacist license in good standing, with no current restrictions or pending actions, in the United States or Canada.
- **Continuing Education:** Completion of 30 hours of Specialty Pharmacy continuing education in the previous two (2) years. All continuing education hours must be related to Specialty Pharmacy and topics included in the CSP examination content outline. All continuing education must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or approved by the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP). To enter your CE activities using the full copy of your CPE Monitor Activity Transcript, view the Uploading a CE Transcript document for instruction.
- **Experience:** 3,000 hours of Specialty Pharmacy practice in the previous four (4) years. See Specialty Experience Requirement Interpretation section of the Candidate Handbook for more information. Employer Verification forms may be submitted by the employer electronically through the application system or by completing the hard copy version of the SPCB Employer Verification Form and uploading it to the application.
- **Background, Code of Conduct, and Application Accuracy Attestation:** Applicants must attest to comply with the SPCB Code of Conduct and report any previous history of felony records or State/Provincial Board suspensions. Any conviction or State Board suspension must be reported to SPCB within 15 days. Applicants and certificants must abide to practice specialty pharmacy in a manner consistent with the certification standards and responsibilities set forth in the SPCB's Code of Conduct. Applicants must attest to the accuracy of information reported within the application.
- **Examination:** Passing score on the CSP examination.

Candidates who meet all of the requirements are awarded the CSP credential.

## Recertification

Certification is valid for a two-year period. The initial certification expiration date is indicated on each individual's certificate and is the last day of the month 2 years after the exam was passed. Subsequent expiration dates will be at 2-year intervals. Recertification applications and fees are due 45 days prior to the expiration of the CSP certification.

To maintain an active certification status all certificants must document compliance with the following recertification requirements:

- **License:** Continually maintain an active US or Canadian pharmacist license in good standing. Any lapse in licensure must be reported to SPCB within 15 days. Failure to report changes in pharmacy licensure status will be investigated under the Disciplinary Policy.
- **Questionnaire:** Complete an individualized learning path questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to help inform and direct the professional development activities of each certificant and should therefore be submitted early in the

recertification period. Before submitting the recertification application, the certificant will evaluate the learning path for reflection on pharmacy practice and professional development activities.

- **CE:** Accrue 30 continuing education (CE) credits during the two-year reporting cycle. Certificants may earn CE using any of the options below. One hour of continuing education is equal to one (1) CE credit. Candidates may use the online recertification application to track continuing education activities throughout the certification period if desired. For instructions on entering your CE activities using the full copy of your CPE Monitor Activity Transcript, view the Uploading a CE Transcript document for instruction.
  - a) **Continuing Education (CE) in Specialty Pharmacy**
    - All continuing education must be directly related to the practice of Specialty Pharmacy and the CSP examination content.
    - All continuing education must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or approved by the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP).
    - A maximum of 10 hours of the required 30 CE hours may include non-clinical courses. Non-clinical courses shall address the area of pharmacy or health care. Examples include pharmacy administration, pharmacy technology, laws and regulation around specialty pharmacy care, managed care, formulary management, drug information, pharmaceutical or biotech, informatics, or management.
  - b) **Earning an Additional Professional Certification**
    - CSPs who become certified in an additional discipline of specialty pharmacy may earn 15 CEs for the current reporting period. Primary source verification of the certification is required.
    - Examples include: Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP), HIV Pharmacist™ (AAHIVP), Certified Pain Educator (CPE), Multiple Sclerosis Certified Specialist (MSCS).
    - CE credits will not be awarded for the CSP certification (e.g. initial, reexamination, reinstatement).
    - Credit may not exceed 50% of the total CEs required during any reporting period.
- **Background & Code of Conduct Attestation:** Agree to comply with the SPCB Code of Conduct and report any previous history of felony records or State/Provincial Board suspensions. Any conviction or State Board suspension must be reported to SPCB within 15 days.

It is important to note that as the CSP's governing board, the SPCB does not accredit, approve, endorse, or recommend any education or training programs and/or products designed or intended to prepare candidates for certification. SPCB has no involvement in the development or delivery of such programs or products. In order for the CSP program to retain NCAA accreditation, it is essential that this separation exists.