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Board of Pharmacy Specialties **bps**[®]

Fall 2018 Candidate's Guide

Specialty Certification in:

Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
Cardiology Pharmacy
Critical Care Pharmacy
Geriatric Pharmacy
Infectious Diseases Pharmacy
Nuclear Pharmacy
Nutrition Support Pharmacy
Oncology Pharmacy
Pediatric Pharmacy
Pharmacotherapy
Psychiatric Pharmacy

Application Deadline: August 1, 2018
Test Dates: September 21–October 7, 2018

Updated: May 16, 2018

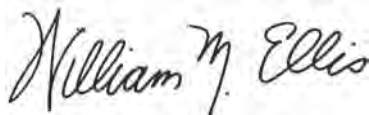
bps Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Thank you for your interest in becoming certified in your chosen field of specialty practice. As the delivery of health care becomes more sophisticated and complex, health care providers and the system they work in will be asked to become even more accountable for the quality of care they deliver. By choosing to pursue specialty certification you are taking an important step to recognize your specialized training, knowledge and skills. Most importantly your pursuit of specialty certification indicates your commitment to improving patient care.

Since 1978, the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) has provided specialty certification programs for pharmacists – both nationally and internationally. The founding of BPS by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) in 1976 resulted from a five-year effort during which the entire profession studied and deliberated the issue of specialization in pharmacy. Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Cardiology Pharmacy, Critical Care Pharmacy, Geriatric Pharmacy, Infectious Diseases Pharmacy, Nuclear Pharmacy, Nutrition Support Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, Pediatric Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy, and Psychiatric Pharmacy exist today as bona fide specialties due to ongoing collaborative efforts by all segments of the profession.

The Board, with assistance from several professional organizations and their members, has continued to provide vital leadership and support for the recognition of specialties and the certification of pharmacist specialists. As a result, BPS and its Specialty Councils are now the principal entities through which these activities are carried out for the pharmacy profession. Each of the Specialty Councils works diligently with the BPS examination development team to ensure that the entire certification process is psychometrically sound and legally defensible. BPS is also working with its strategic partner organizations to promote the value of specialty recognition and certification to the profession, other health care professionals, employers, and the public.

Through the rigorous standards mandated by BPS board certification and recertification, the specialty-credentialed pharmacist stands out as the most qualified individual to meet today's expanding professional expectations. BPS salutes your interest and commitment to quality patient care.



William M. Ellis, RPh, MS
Executive Director



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BPS Specialty Certification Programs in Ambulatory Care, Geriatric Pharmacy, Nuclear Pharmacy, Nutrition Support Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy and Psychiatric Pharmacy are recognized as accredited certification programs by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Importance of Certification.....	4
Recognition of BPS Certification.....	4

OVERVIEW

Non-discrimination Policy.....	5
Impartiality Statement.....	5
Statement of Confidentiality.....	5
Record Retention Policy.....	5

APPLICATION INFORMATION

General Information.....	5
Name and / or Address Changes.....	5
Examination Dates.....	5
Examination Administration.....	5
Overview of Steps in Applying for the Examination.....	5
Important Dates.....	6
Eligibility requirements.....	6
Processing Applications.....	6
Examination Sites.....	6
DANTES Program.....	7
Scheduling.....	7
Rescheduling.....	7
Special Circumstances.....	7
Withdrawals / Deferrals.....	7
No Shows.....	8
Americans with Disabilities Act.....	8
Fee Payments.....	8
Application Fee.....	8
Declined Credit Cards and Returned Checks.....	8
Forfeiture of Fees.....	8
Late Arrivals.....	8

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES TRAINED / LICENSED OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. AND CANADA..... 9

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION 9

ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION

Checking-In on Examination Day.....	10
Examination Rules.....	11
Prohibited Items.....	11
Inclement Weather and Cancellations.....	11
Examination Format and Administration.....	11
Examination Schedule.....	11
Examination Content.....	12
Security.....	12
Statement of Confidentiality for BPS Examinations.....	12

FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION

Examination Scoring.....	13
Passing Standard.....	13
Equating and Scaled Scores.....	13
If You Do Not Pass the Examination: Retaking the Examination.....	13

COMPARATIVE REVIEW AND HAND SCORING 13

APPEAL PROCESS 14

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION..... 14

RECERTIFICATION 14

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE 14

USE OF THE BPS MARK AND LOGO..... 14

BPS SPECIALTIES

Ambulatory Care.....	14
Cardiology Pharmacy.....	15
Critical Care Pharmacy.....	16
Geriatric Pharmacy.....	17
Infectious Diseases Pharmacy.....	17
Nuclear Pharmacy.....	18
Nutrition Support Pharmacy.....	19
Oncology Pharmacy.....	20
Pediatric Pharmacy.....	21
Pharmacotherapy.....	22
Psychiatric Pharmacy.....	22

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS..... 23



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Board of Pharmacy Specialties

BPS is an independent, non-governmental certification body that provides recognition of persons involved in the advanced practice of pharmacy specialties. BPS was created on January 5, 1976 by the American Pharmaceutical Association (now the American Pharmacists Association, APhA), and exists today as an autonomous division of APhA.

The Board is composed of 14 members, including nine pharmacists, six of whom represent BPS specialty practices, three pharmacists who are not board certified, along with two health care professionals other than pharmacists and one public member. The BPS Executive Director and one member of the APhA Board of Trustees are non-voting Board members, *ex officio*.

BPS has established a Specialty Council for each recognized specialty. Specialty Councils work with the Board to develop and administer psychometrically-sound and defensible certification processes, consistent with public policy regarding the credentialing of health care professionals. A Specialty Council is composed of seven pharmacists certified in the specialty area and two other pharmacist not certified in the specialty area.

The five-point purpose of the BPS Certification Programs:

1. To grant recognition of appropriate pharmacy practice specialties based on criteria established by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties;
2. To establish standards for certification and recertification of pharmacist specialists in recognized pharmacy practice specialties;
3. To grant qualified pharmacists certification and recertification in recognized pharmacy practice specialties;
4. To serve as a coordinating agency and informational clearing house for organizations and pharmacists in recognized pharmacy specialties;
5. To enhance public / consumer protection by developing effective certification programs for specialty practices in pharmacy.

Importance of Certification

The primary purpose of specialization in any health care profession is to improve the quality of care individual patients receive, to promote positive treatment outcomes, and ultimately, to improve the patient's quality of life. Specialties evolve in response to the development of new knowledge or technology that can affect patient care. The rapid, dramatic advancement of drug therapy in recent decades has created a clear need for pharmacy practitioners who specialize in specific kinds of treatment and aspects of care. Specialty certification is a responsible, progressive initiative from the profession to try to ensure the best possible patient care.

Board certification has allowed more pharmacists to participate in collaborative drug therapy management, which is a significant value to patients. Pharmacists certified in a specialty are frequently sought for professional consultations. As the contributions of pharmacists become more recognized, we anticipate greater recognition from public and private

payers. Employers and patients can feel secure in knowing that a board-certified pharmacist has taken the initiative to seek advanced specialized training that sets them apart.

Certification can also provide a personal reward for pharmacist specialists. Preparing for the certification exam offers an opportunity to increase advanced, specialized knowledge in a practice area. Specialty certification is a means of informing other professionals of the individual's educational and practice accomplishments, setting the specialist apart from colleagues. It is one way to demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills independent of, and in addition to, a degree program, license or residency.

Recognition of BPS Certification

BPS-certified pharmacist specialists are recognized for their advanced level of knowledge, skills, and achievement by many government agencies and educational organizations. The following are examples of specific benefits that may be realized by BPS-certified pharmacist specialists:

- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: specialists may be recognized as Authorized Nuclear Pharmacists;
- U.S. Department of Defense: specialists may receive bonus pay;
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: specialists may serve at a higher pay step;
- U.S. Public Health Service: specialists may receive bonus pay;
- California, New Mexico and North Carolina State Boards of Pharmacy: specialists may apply for advanced privileges;
- Increasing numbers of employers are recognizing BPS-certified specialists with monetary rewards, promotion or hiring preference.

OVERVIEW

This Candidate's Guide is intended for use by pharmacists who are interested in being certified as specialists by the BPS in any of the BPS-recognized specialty practice areas. This Guide provides information on BPS certification processes: eligibility requirements, application procedures, examination administration, annual certification maintenance, and recertification.

This document is ONLY A GUIDE. The information, procedures, and fees detailed in this publication may be amended, revised, or otherwise altered at any time and without advance notice from BPS. The provision of this Guide does not confer any rights upon an applicant. The information contained in this Guide supersedes information contained in all previous editions of the BPS Candidate's Guide.

All correspondence and requests for information concerning the administration of BPS specialty certification examinations should be directed to:

Board of Pharmacy Specialties

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20037-2985

TEL 202-429-7591 • FAX 202-429-6304

www.bpsweb.org

Non-discrimination Policy

BPS endorses the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination. BPS does not discriminate with regard to age, gender, ethnic origin, race, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by federal or state law.

Impartiality Statement

BPS provides objective and balanced certification activities for all applicants, candidates and certified persons. Impartiality is a key component of our business ethics and we adhere to transparent procedures based on ISO 17024, which allows us to monitor our certification activities to avoid any potential threats to impartiality.

Statement of Confidentiality

BPS is committed to protecting confidential or proprietary information related to applicants and certificants, as well as the examination development, maintenance, and administration process. BPS will not disclose any confidential applicant / certificants information outside of the course of BPS business unless authorized in writing by the individual or as required by law.

Examination Results: Individual examination results are considered confidential. Scores are released only to the individual candidate, unless a signed release is provided in advance. Results are not released by phone, fax or email. All personal information submitted by applicants and certificants with their application is considered confidential.

Application Status: An applicant's status is considered confidential. We do not disclose information regarding whether or not an individual has applied for certification (except when verifying practice experience via employment) or has taken the examination. Current certification status is published and verifiable as noted in the Credential Verification section (below).

Credential Verification: The names of currently certified pharmacist specialists are not considered confidential and may be published by BPS. Published information may include name, city, state, country, certification(s) held, and certification status.

BPS Database: Personal information retained within the application / certificant database and / or applicant / certificant files will be kept confidential. This includes information and any documentation regarding a disability and the need for accommodation in testing. With the applicant / certificant's written permission, BPS shares non-personal information with third parties. This information is not considered confidential and may include name, city, state, country, certification(s) held, and certification status.

Record Retention Policy

BPS retains examination results (scores), summary reports from examination administrations, and active applicant data indefinitely. We retain submitted paper documentation for one (1) year. After one (1) year, BPS will shred those documents. Applicants / certificants should retain their own copies of all documentation sent to BPS.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

General Information

All questions pertaining to BPS certification should be directed to the Board. BPS office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm (Eastern Time). The Board offices are closed on all U.S. Federal holidays. Please refer to the BPS [website](#) for inclement weather and other unscheduled closures.

All applicants must submit their applications online via the BPS website (www.bpsweb.org). A valid credit card is required for the payment for online applications. The online application process uses a secure server.

It is the individual's responsibility to submit a complete and accurate application by the deadline of August 1, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be processed. All applications are processed within 20 business days of receipt.

Name and / or Address Changes

All applicants are responsible for immediately notifying BPS of any address change (including e-mail) or legal name change. Notification for admission to the examination, communication of test results, maintenance of certified status and renewal of certification depend on the Board having current information. Any applicant or certificant who legally changes his or her name should immediately notify BPS. Please be advised, that the name you submit with your application must match your current copy of government-issued photo identification with signature (e.g., driver's license, passport, or government-issued identification card). Failure to provide BPS with a name matching your identification may result in a denial to enter the testing center on your scheduled examination date.

Please update your MyBPS profile immediately with changes in information (e.g., mailing address, e-mail address, etc.) to ensure timely communication. Address and name changes made after the mailing of certificates will result in additional charges for a duplicate certificate. Name changes that occur after submission of the application must be received no later than **September 15, 2018**, in order to be updated in time for your examination appointment.

Examination Dates

The Fall Testing window is between September 21–October 7, 2018.

Examination Administration

BPS certification Examinations are administered by Prometric, through its affiliated [examination sites](#). Candidates may test within scheduled examination administration windows domestically or internationally.

Overview of Steps in Applying for the Examination

Five basic steps are required to apply for the Fall 2018 BPS Certification Examination (International candidates, please refer to the "[Helpful Tips Guide](#)" for detailed information on requirements).

1. Create an online [MyBPS](#) profile on the BPS website.

Important Dates

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

August 1, 2018

EXAMINATION DATES

Computer-based examinations:

September 21 through October 7, 2018

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW:

August 1, 2018

LAST DAY TO SCHEDULE:

International applicants:

September 27, 2018

Domestic (U.S. and Canada) applicants:

October 2, 2018

LAST DAY TO REQUEST NAME CHANGE:

September 15, 2018

A unique candidate number (IND-XXXXXX) is assigned once the profile is created.

2. Once your profile has been created, click on the “Apply for New Certification” link found on your [MyBPS](#) profile home page. Please review the eligibility criteria for your specialty before applying. The application must be completed within 24 hours of initiation. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

At the time of application, you will be required to upload a PDF or JPG version of your current pharmacy license. Applicants intending to confirm eligibility via an ASHP-accredited residency program are required to upload a PDF or JPG copy of a certificate of completion, residency certificate, or a letter from their preceptor.

FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: Please be advised that international applicants (those licensed outside of the United States or Canada) must request a hard copy of their transcripts or certificate of graduation with an official seal to be sent directly to BPS from the University where they received their pharmacy degree in addition to submitting the online application. (see page 9 for further details).

After completing your application, please submit the [Education Documentation Request Form](#) to your University. This form must be returned to BPS along with your transcript.

If you graduated from a university outside of the United States but are currently licensed in the U.S or Canada and hold a current U.S. or Canadian license, you will not be required to submit hard copy official graduation documents. However, if you claim practice experience outside the U.S. or Canada, you will be required to upload a copy of your license for that time frame as a part of your online application.

Additionally, all fees must be paid at the time of application submission.

3. Your application will be reviewed by BPS. You will receive a decision regarding your eligibility to sit for the examination within 20 business days. Please be advised that the initial eligibility decision may be revised if the candidate is later found to be ineligible.
4. All approved candidates will receive an approval e-mail as well as an Authorization to Test (ATT) e-mail including a BPS examination ID (BPS-EXAM-XXXXX) and a link to the Prometric scheduling portal.
5. Candidates must schedule the date, time, and location of their examination within the scheduled test administration window using the BPS exam ID and the first 4 letters of their last name. For Fall 2018, the window runs from September 21–October 7, 2018.

Candidates may schedule only one examination in the Fall 2018 window.

Eligibility Requirements

Complete eligibility requirements for each specialty can be found beginning on page 14 of this guide or on the BPS website (www.bpsweb.org). All practice and educational eligibility requirements must be met prior to the candidate sitting for the examination.

Processing Applications

All applicants will be notified by BPS via e-mail of their eligibility to sit for the examination within 20 business days of the receipt of their application and fee. Candidates should keep a record of their unique candidate number and use it in all correspondence with BPS. For the steps following application approval please see the section titled *Scheduling* (below).

If an application is denied, the entire fee will be refunded to the credit card on file. Applicants will receive an e-mail with an explanation as to why the application was denied. Applicants will also be notified by e-mail if their application is incomplete.

Examination Sites

Through an arrangement with Prometric, BPS candidates may schedule their examinations at more than 275 sites within the United States and more than 275 sites outside of the U.S. Test site locations can be found on the [Prometric website](#).

In Fall 2018, the scheduled examination administration window is between September 21–October 7, 2018. Candidates will be able to begin scheduling examination appointments after receiving an application approval email from BPS including a link to the Prometric scheduling portal.

The Prometric network available to candidates has ample seats to meet demand for the BPS examinations. Prometric will employ reasonable efforts to secure the site and date requested by the candidate; however, BPS cannot guarantee availability of an examination session at a specific location within the designated period. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, based on site availability. It is

recommended that you schedule your examination as soon as possible.

BPS does not provide information on hotel or travel arrangements. Candidates are encouraged to use their own travel agent or one of the online search engines to locate hotel accommodations near a test site as well as maps and driving directions.

DANTES Program

Overseas U.S. Military pharmacists may sit for BPS certification exam using the DANTES program through Military Education Centers. When candidates are sent an application approval email from BPS, they should click on the scheduling link provided and choose the test location, date and time of their choice.

Scheduling

In order to help assure the greatest probability that candidates receive their preferred site and date, BPS recommends registering as early as possible.

** Domestic candidates must submit their scheduling request at least four (4) days prior to their preferred testing date during the scheduled test administration window (no later than **October 2, 2018**). Non-U.S. candidates must submit their scheduling request at least ten (10) business days prior to their preferred testing date (no later than **September 27, 2018**).*

Prometric will provide telephone and e-mail support to candidates on matters related to scheduling an examination appointment. Voice-mail will accept candidate inquiries outside of normal U.S. business hours [Eastern time].

Once an examination appointment is scheduled, the candidate will receive a confirmation email outlining the appointment details.

The candidate must bring a current, government-issued photo identification with signature to the test site. Acceptable forms of identification include driver's licenses, passports, and government-issued identification cards.

The candidate's name as it appears on the confirmation e-mail must match that which appears on the government-issued photo identification. **Candidates are responsible for contacting BPS with any name changes that occur after the submission of their application. Candidates have the ability to request a name change through their MyBPS profile, and will be required to upload a PDF or JPG copy of government-issued identification showing their new name as part of that request. All name change requests must be received by September 15, 2018.**

Rescheduling

Candidates may reschedule an examination session at no charge up to 29 days in advance of the scheduled appointment through Prometric's scheduling system. An examination session may be rescheduled up to two (2) calendar days in advance of the scheduled appointment. **BPS staff will not process change requests. A \$45 (U.S. dollars) nonrefundable fee, payable to Prometric, will apply if the appointment is rescheduled within 29 calendar days prior to the original appointment date.**

Day of Examination	Last Day to Reschedule / Cancel Testing Appointment:
Monday	Saturday of the previous week
Tuesday	Sunday of the current week
Wednesday	Monday of the current week
Thursday	Tuesday of the current week
Friday	Wednesday of the current week
Saturday / Sunday	Thursday of the current week
Sunday	Friday of the previous week

Special Circumstances

In the following situations and with appropriate documentation, candidates may reschedule their examination session date with fewer than four (4) days' notice. Candidates must contact Prometric directly with documentation in order to reschedule. A \$50 nonrefundable fee, payable to Prometric, will apply.

- (i) Serious illness (either the candidate or an immediate family member)
- (ii) Death in the immediate family
- (iii) Disabling accident
- (iv) Court appearance
- (v) Jury duty
- (vi) Unexpected military call-up

Withdrawals

Candidates may withdraw from the application process prior to the close of the application deadline of August 1, 2018. Candidates must inform BPS of their intent to withdraw in writing, at which point they will be sent a link to an online form to make an official request. Candidates who withdraw from the application process will be refunded the fee paid, less an administrative charge of \$200 U.S. dollars (\$250 U.S. dollars if the exam has been scheduled). Refunds will be processed within 14 days of the close of the application window.

After August 1, 2018, BPS will review requests for withdrawals with decisions made on a case-by-case basis. Acceptable withdrawal requests, with appropriate documentation (e.g., physician's letter, police report, etc.) will be considered under the following situations:

- (i) Serious illness (either the candidate or an immediate family member)
- (ii) Death in the immediate family
- (iii) Disabling accident
- (iv) Court appearance
- (v) Jury duty
- (vi) Unexpected military call-up

Supporting documentation must be submitted to BPS within seven (7) days after the last date in the examination window. Candidates who receive a denial of their withdrawal request will forfeit all fees. If the withdrawal request is approved, all administrative fees will apply.

Spring examination candidates also have the option of having their application deferred to the Fall examination cycle of the same year. Candidates who defer to the Fall exam cycle and do not test will forfeit all fees; no additional deferrals will be allowed. NOTE: BPS does not defer applications in the Fall application window.

No Shows

Failure to appear, schedule, or reschedule an examination session less than four (4) business days before a testing appointment (outside of the special circumstances listed above) will count as the candidate's examination appointment. The candidate will be marked as a no-show candidate and all testing fees will be forfeited. No-show candidates will have the option to apply for a future examination at full price.

Americans with Disabilities Act

BPS complies with the relevant provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a candidate has a disability and requires accommodations under this Act during the certification examination, he / she should select "Special Accommodations" as part of their application form and then submit the "ADA Accommodations Request Form" as part of their application. All application forms with requests for accommodations must be submitted no later than August 1, 2018.

Qualified Individual with a Disability

A disabled candidate is one who has 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), has a record of such physical or mental impairment, or is regarded as having such a physical or mental impairment.

A "qualified individual with a disability" is one who has a disability and satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education, and other requirements of the service, program, or activity of which he or she is being measured; and, with or without accommodations, can perform the essential functions of the service, program, or activity. An essential function is one that individuals are required to perform, and removing that function would fundamentally change the service, program, or activity. **A person must be a "qualified individual with a disability" to be protected under the ADA.**

Reasonable accommodations provide candidates with disabilities a fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in the essential functions being measured by the examination. Reasonable accommodations are decided based on the individual's specific request, disability, documentation submitted, and appropriateness of the request. Reasonable accommodations do not include steps that fundamentally alter the purpose or nature of the examination.

Reasonable accommodations generally are provided for candidates who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that person in one or more major life activities (e.g., walking, talking, hearing, and performing manual tasks), have a record of such physical or mental impairment, or are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

To apply for reasonable accommodations, the candidate must request accommodations as part of the application process. To ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided, candidates must submit their completed ADA Request Form and all additional documentation as part of the application process.

The information and any documentation regarding the candidate's disability and need for accommodation in testing will be considered strictly confidential and will be used solely to determine the candidate's eligibility for accommodations. Supporting documentation must be supplied as part of the application process. Professionals submitting documentation in support of a candidate's request for accommodation may be contacted by BPS or Prometric for clarification of any information provided concerning the requested accommodations. Failure to notify BPS of needed accommodations by August 1, 2018, may result in the accommodations not being available at the time of the testing appointment.

Fee Payments

Payments are made in **U.S. dollars** by **credit card** (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover). Purchase orders will **NOT** be accepted.

Application Fee

The application fee payment must accompany each completed application. The fee for **first-time** applicants for specialty certification is \$600 U.S. dollars. Candidates who have failed an examination within the past year have the option to take the examination during this period for a reduced fee of \$300 U.S. dollars.

Declined Credit Cards

When a credit card transaction is declined, for any reason, an alternate valid credit card number must be provided.

Forfeiture of Fees

Candidates who fail to schedule an examination appointment or who fail to arrive at the site on the date and time they are scheduled for examination and who have failed to get an approved withdrawal will forfeit their examination fees and must re-submit an application for the full price if they wish to re-register for a future examination.

Late Arrivals

Candidates who arrive at the examination site 30 minutes after his or her scheduled examination appointment and are denied admission, forfeit all examination fees. Refunds will not be issued for forfeited appointments. **If an appointment is forfeited, there is no refund of the examination fee.**

All fees are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Board.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES TRAINED / LICENSED OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. AND CANADA

Information Sources

BPS certification is oriented primarily toward pharmacists licensed and practicing in the U.S. however, we encourage international applicants to apply. Pharmacists licensed outside of the U.S. and Canada must request official graduation documents from the university where they obtained their pharmacy program degree. Pharmacists who obtained their pharmacy degree outside the U.S. and Canada, but are currently licensed in either of those countries, only need to provide a copy of their current state board of pharmacy license to accompany their application.

Applicants who graduated from a pharmacy program outside the U.S. and Canada and who are not licensed to practice pharmacy in the U.S. and Canada should refer to the [Helpful Tips for International Candidates](#) guide before submitting their application.

International candidates must provide the Board with the following by the application deadline:

- An official electronic copy of a graduation transcript and / or an official graduation certificate (translated into English) as a part of the online application process indicating that the individual has completed an educational program preparing him / her for basic pharmacy practice (as part of the online application process);
- Electronic documentation of current active legal authorization to practice pharmacy in their country of origin or residence.

AND

- Sealed hard copy of transcripts or certificate of graduation with seal sent directly from the college or university where they received their pharmacy degree. It is preferred that the school send English translations of documentation. Please submit a [Graduation Documentation Request Form](#) to request education documentation from your University (**Candidates must submit an application online prior to having this documentation sent to BPS**). Please instruct your university to send sealed copies of your transcripts or certificate directly to:
Board of Pharmacy Specialties
2215 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-2985

Your application will not be considered complete until BPS has received this documentation directly from your school.

Throughout all BPS specialty certification examinations, all measurements from laboratory test results are expressed in traditional U.S. units. A conversion chart will not be offered as part of the examination. A reference table of normal lab values is not provided. Candidates should take this into consideration when preparing for the examination.

The Board is aware that examination questions dealing with procedures or regulatory issues in the U.S. are not necessarily pertinent to candidates who practice in other countries. However, all candidates are given the same examination and are held to the same standard of achievement, regardless of the country in which they practice and the regulations under which they practice.

Please note BPS certification does not confer the privilege to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or in any other country.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The Board publishes the content outline specific to each examination and strongly encourages candidates to become thoroughly familiar with this document. Content outlines are occasionally modified to reflect changes in practice. Candidates should ensure that they are using the current outline for their specialty. Current content outlines are posted on the BPS website.

Suggested preparation for the examination might include:

- Residency or other formal training;
- The study of journal articles, textbooks, or other publications related to the content outline;
- Continuing education programs and courses in specialized pharmacy practice;
- Study groups and examination preparation courses;
- Reviewing sample examination questions printed in this guide or on the BPS website.

Potential applicants may contact the organizations noted below, which offer review / preparatory courses and materials for the specialty or specialties listed. **BPS and its Specialty Councils neither sponsor nor endorse training or educational opportunities in specialized practice areas or preparatory courses for any of the BPS examinations. BPS does not have any official agents outside of the U.S.**

The list below is for informational purposes only. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of sources. Please note: candidate's using any preparatory resources agree to abide by all U.S. copyright laws in the use of examination preparation materials.

For Ambulatory Care Pharmacy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

(913) 429-3311 • FAX (913) 492-0088

<http://www.accp.com/education/ambuPrepCourse.aspx>

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

(202) 628-4410

<http://www.pharmacist.com/ambulatory-care-specialty-pharmacy-recertification-program>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

(866) 279-0681

<https://www.ashp.org/professional-development/board-certification-resources/ambulatory-care/ambulatory-care-recertification>

For Critical Care Pharmacy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy/
Society of Critical Care Medicine
(913) 429-3311 • FAX (913) 429-0088
<http://www.accp.com/education/criticalcare.aspx>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
(866) 279-0681
<http://www.ashp.org/professional-development/board-certification-resources/critical-care-pharmacy>

For Geriatric Pharmacy

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
(703) 739-1300 • FAX (703) 739-1321
(ASCP) - BPS Approved Geriatric Recertification Program
<http://www.ascp.com/page/BCGP>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
<https://www.ashp.org/Professional-Development/Board-Certification-Resources/Geriatric-Pharmacy>

For Nuclear Pharmacy

Purdue University
(765) 496-1815
<https://nuclear.pharmacy.purdue.edu/>

For Nutrition Support Pharmacy

Purdue University
(765) 496-1815
<https://nutrition.pharmacy.purdue.edu/certificate-program>

For Oncology Pharmacy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
(913) 492-3311 • FAX (913) 492-0088
<http://www.accp.com/education/oncologyCourses.aspx>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
(866) 279-0681
<https://www.ashp.org/professional-development/board-certification-resources/oncology/oncology-certification-preparation>

Hematology / Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
(877) 467-2791
<http://www.hoparx.org/education/default/bcop-recert.html>

For Pediatric Pharmacy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy
(913) 492-3311 • FAX (913) 492-0088
<http://www.accp.com/education/pediatrics.aspx>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
(866) 279-0681
<https://www.ashp.org/professional-development/board-certification-resources/pediatric-pharmacy/pediatric-pharmacy-certification-preparation>

Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group
(901) 820-4434 • FAX (901) 767-0701
<https://www.ppag.org/index.cfm?pg=BCPPSRecertification>

For Pharmacotherapy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
(913) 492-3311 • FAX (913) 492-0088
<http://www.accp.com/education/pharmacotherapyPrepCourse.aspx>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
(866) 279-0681
<http://www.ashpcertifications.org/certifications/pharmacotherapy/certification-preparation/>

For Psychiatric Pharmacy

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)
(402) 476-1677 • FAX (888) 557-7617
<https://cpnp.org/bcpp/certification/prep/products>

ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION

Checking-In on Examination Day

All candidates should arrive at the examination site 15 minutes prior to the scheduled examination appointment. Candidates who arrive 30 minutes after their scheduled appointment may be refused admission. Refunds will not be issued in the event of a forfeited appointment.

The candidate must present a valid government-issued photo identification with signature. Candidates will be required to sign-in and will be instructed on where to store personal items and where to keep identification. The candidate's identity will be verified every time he / she enters or leaves the examination room.

Once the candidate has been checked-in, he / she will be escorted by examination staff to a workstation. The candidate must remain at the workstation unless authorized to leave by examination site staff. Candidates may not leave the room without site staff permission. If the candidate leaves the room without permission prior to completing his / her examination, he / she will forfeit the examination appointment and there will be no refund of applicable fees.

Onsite staff will provide the candidate with an erasable note board or scratch paper, and pen, which may be replaced as needed during the examination. The candidate may not remove the note boards, paper or pens, and candidates are not allowed to use their own scratch paper, or writing tools. Additionally, candidates taking the computer-based examination will be provided with a scientific calculator available on their computer screen for use during the examination.

The examination room temperature can be unpredictable; therefore, we suggest that you bring appropriate clothing with you (e.g., sweater, sweatshirt without hood) to help you adapt to a cooler or warmer climate in the examination room. Bring earplugs if you are sensitive to noise. If you choose to bring earplugs, they will be subject to inspection by the onsite staff.

Examination Rules

BPS and Prometric follow industry standard examination rules as outlined below.

Prohibited Items

Candidates are expressly prohibited from bringing the following items to the examination site:

- Cameras, cell phones or other mobile devices, optical readers, or other electronic devices that include the ability to photograph, photocopy, or otherwise copy examination materials
- Notes, books, dictionaries, or language dictionaries
- Book bags or luggage
- iPods, MP3 players, headphones, or pagers
- Computers, PDAs, i-Pads, or other electronic devices
- Personal writing utensils (i.e., pencils, pens, and highlighters)
- Watches
- Food and beverage (i.e., in the examination room)
- Hats, hoods, or other headwear, unless required for religious purposes
- Candidates taking the examination will not be allowed to bring calculators to the examination site.

All items are subject to inspection by the proctor. If onsite staff determine that a candidate has brought any of the items listed above to the examination site, they may request that candidates surrender them for safekeeping for an indefinite period of time. BPS and Prometric reserve the right to review the memory of any electronic device that may be in the candidate's possession at the examination site to determine whether any examination materials have been photographed or otherwise reproduced.

If the review determines that any examination materials are in the memory of any such device, BPS and Prometric reserve the right to delete materials and / or retain them for subsequent disciplinary action. Upon completion of the review and any applicable deletions, BPS and Prometric will return the device to the candidate, but will not be responsible for the deletion of any materials that may result from the review, whether or not such materials are examination materials.

By bringing any such device into the examination site in contravention of BPS and Prometric policies, the candidate expressly waives any confidentiality or other similar rights with respect to the device, BPS and Prometric review of the memory of the device and / or the deletion of any materials. BPS, Prometric, the examination site, and the examination site staff are not liable for lost or damaged items brought to the examination site.

Inclement Weather and Cancellations

Prometric will attempt to contact candidates in the event of an examination site closure due to inclement weather to reschedule their appointment. As sites close, e-mails are issued to the candidates impacted notifying them of the closures, and Prometric's website is also updated with this information. However, because closures can occur at any time during inclement weather, it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact Prometric to receive the most up-to-date

information regarding if a center is open or to reschedule the examination appointment. If an examination site is officially closed, candidates will not be charged a rescheduling fee. If a site is open and the candidate does not keep his or her appointment, the candidate forfeits all fees.

EXAMINATION FORMAT AND ADMINISTRATION:

Four-option multiple choice questions constitute the majority of examination items; however, alternate item types, such as drag and drop and hotspot, may be used.

During the examination, **if a candidate experiences difficulty with the computer, he / she should notify the proctor immediately and await further instruction.** Most technical issues are resolved quickly with a simple refresh of the screen or by the proctor logging you back into the examination.

BPS specialty certification examinations are delivered via computer. While it is not the norm, technology issues can, on occasion, occur, requiring the proctor to log you back into your examination. If this occurs, inform the proctor that you have a computer issue.

If a technical issue lasts longer than 30 minutes and prevents you from continuing with the examination, you may choose to stop and reschedule to another day, or you may continue to wait for the resolution. Again, most technical issues are resolved quickly.

Candidates will be provided with a scientific calculator app available on their computer screen for use during the examination. A sample calculator is available on the Prometric website.

Candidates will have the option to add comments to each examination item (question). The comments will be collected and shared in aggregate to inform BPS staff and council review.

Instructions will be provided to candidates on their computer screen. Only answers submitted via computer will be scored. Answers written on whiteboards will not be scored

Examination Schedule

The examination day schedule is provided below.

Initial certification candidates will be provided timed examination periods, outlined below:

Examination Part 1 (100 items): 2.5 hour examination period

Break (optional): Up to 30 minutes

Examination Part 2 (75 items): 1 hour, 53 minute examination period

Recertification candidates will be allowed a 2.5 hour examination period to complete the 100-item recertification examination. Recertification candidates will have the option of a morning or afternoon administration.

Candidates are reminded that they should arrive at the examination site 15 minutes in advance of their scheduled appointment time.

If a candidate takes an unscheduled break outside of the optional break time between Part 1 and Part 2 or during a recertification examination, that time is deducted from their examination period.

On the day of the examination, all candidates MUST present a print out of their scheduling confirmation e-mail AND valid government-issued photo identification with signature (e.g., driver's license, passport) in order to be admitted to the examination room. Candidates who arrive 30 minutes after their scheduled examination time and candidates without valid photo identification will not be admitted to the examination. If that occurs, their fees will be forfeited.

Candidates will not be permitted to enter the examination room unless proper identification as described above is presented.

Examination Content

A BPS specialty certification examination samples the knowledge required to perform the tasks in each of the major areas of responsibility of the specialty as defined through a role delineation study. The examination does not attempt to assess knowledge at all levels or settings in the specialized practice area. Mastery of the knowledge and skills involved in the defined scope of specialized practice is necessary for board certification, regardless of the particular practice in which a candidate is currently practicing.

BPS specialty certification examinations are constructed according to examination specifications derived from role delineation studies. The BPS Psychometrics and Examination Development department provides the expertise in conducting job analyses, establishing exam specifications, and constructing examinations.

A content outline, listing the domains, tasks, and knowledge statements specific to each specialty practice and validated through a subject matter expert panel and study of the work, is provided for the information of prospective candidates on the BPS website. The content outline also notes the percentage of items per domain. Examination content outlines are developed through a nationwide study of the work pharmacist specialists perform in a variety of practice settings.

Examinations are not structured domain by domain. Instead, examination questions for each domain are distributed randomly throughout the examination. While BPS examinations examination the stated domains of each specialty, candidates are advised that the examinations will probably NOT address all of the knowledge statements listed under the domains in the content outline of the examination.

New regulations, drugs, and therapies are incorporated into the examinations. All BPS specialty certification examinations reflect current, best practices, at the time they are constructed – practice guidelines used for the Spring examination are those that are current as of January 1 of the examination year. Practice guidelines for the Fall examination are those that are current as of July 1 of the examination year. Official United States Adopted Name (USAN) generic names are used on all BPS examinations for all drug products, when possible.

Security

BPS examinations are the confidential property of BPS and are protected by trade secret law, copyright law, and other applicable state and federal laws and regulations. BPS and its examination administrator maintain examination administration and security standards that are designed to assure that all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

Before beginning the examination, candidates will be asked to read and sign a *Statement of Confidentiality*. **This statement restricts candidates from sharing any information about the examination with other individuals, including discussions with any colleagues who might be planning to take the examination in the near future.**

Proctors are authorized by BPS and its examination administrator to maintain a secure and proper examination administration environment. Candidates will be allowed to leave the room during examination administration to use the restroom facilities as long as they follow the test site procedures. If a candidate takes an unscheduled break outside of the optional break time, either between Part 1 and Part 2, or during a recertification examination, that time is deducted from their examination period. Candidates will be inspected for devices such as hand-held scanners, cameras, tape recorders, or other electronic equipment. Areas around the testing room (e.g., hallways, restrooms, telephone stalls) are monitored throughout the examination for security purposes. Be aware that you will be observed at all times while taking the examination. Observation may include direction observation by center staff, as well as video and audio recording of your examination session.

Candidates may not communicate with other candidates during the examination. Anyone who provides or receives assistance during the examination will be dismissed from the examination room. Candidates may not photograph, record, or memorize any examination material. Other causes for dismissal include, but are not limited to using notes, references, or any examination aids; using unauthorized calculators; causing a disruption to the environment; and removing any examination material from the examination site. Candidates who are dismissed from the examination room forfeit all fees.

Personnel authorized by the BPS examination administrator will proctor the examination. No one is permitted in the room during the examination except for the candidates and persons authorized by BPS and / or the examination administrator.

Statement of Confidentiality for BPS Examinations:

1. This examination and the questions contained herein are the exclusive property of BPS.
2. This examination and the questions contained herein are protected by copyright law. No part of this examination may be copied or reproduced in part or whole by any means whatsoever, including memorization.

3. The theft or attempted theft of any examination materials is punishable as a felony.
4. My participation in any irregularity occurring during this examination, such as giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid, as evidenced by observation or subsequent analysis, may result in termination of my participation, invalidation of the results of my examination or other appropriate action.
5. Further discussion or disclosure of the contents of the examination orally, in writing or by any other means is prohibited.

My electronic signature on my application indicates that I have read, understood and agree to be bound by the statement of confidentiality and that I have read and understood the BPS Candidate's Guide. Failure to comply can result in termination of my participation, invalidation of the results of my examination or other appropriate action.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION

Examination Scoring

Candidate responses are stored in real time as candidates progress through an examination. Scoring for all candidates takes place after the examination administration window closes. Scores are computed based on the correct responses recorded by candidates. It is to the candidate's advantage to answer every question on the examination. There is no penalty in the scoring formula for guessing.

The individual score report will indicate whether the candidate passed or failed the examination. Scores will range from a minimum of 200 to a maximum of 800. The minimum passing score on BPS examinations is 500. Pass / fail decisions are based on the total score indicated on the score report, not on the performance in the domains.

Candidates will receive their score reports electronically approximately 60 days following the close of the scheduled examination administration window by logging in to their MyBPS accounts. The anticipated score release date for the Fall 2018 examination is December 6, 2018.

A certificate suitable for framing and a BPS lapel pin are sent to newly certified specialists approximately 90 days after notification of certification.

For reasons of privacy and confidentiality, examination results are released to the candidate only. Examination results will not be given via telephone or fax. Access to a candidate's score report is limited to those staff at BPS and Prometric who are involved in the processing of these reports. BPS will not release personal information (other than the name of certified individuals under established policy) without written authorization.

In order to protect the security and integrity of the specialty certification examinations, neither BPS nor its examination administrator release examination questions, individual answer strings, or the answer key to any individual or organization. Efforts are made by BPS, its Specialty

Councils, and its examination administrator to produce completely accurate examinations; however, if a candidate believes there is an error in an examination question, the concern should be noted in the candidate comments of the exam. These comments will be reviewed by BPS for investigation and resolution.

Passing Standard

The passing standards, or cut scores, used in BPS examinations were established using criterion-referenced procedures that are widely used in certification. Criterion-referenced passing standards link the score required to pass an examination to the minimum level of knowledge required for specialty certification. Each BPS specialty certification program has its own passing standard.

Equating and Scaled Scores

BPS creates new versions, or forms, of all of its examinations on a regular basis. In assembling the new forms, BPS and its consultants follow best practices in certification testing so that all forms of an examination are comparable.

Once the examination forms have been equated, a procedure called *scaling* is used to convert the actual number of correct answers, or raw scores, to a uniform scale. These converted scores are called scaled scores. Equated, scaled scores ensure that all candidates for a BPS specialty certification demonstrate at least the same level of knowledge in order to pass the examination.

If You Do Not Pass the Examination: Retaking the Examination

If a candidate fails to achieve a passing score on the examination, retaking the examination is permitted. The fee for retaking the examination is \$300 U.S. dollars. If the candidate does not retake the examination within a one-year period, re-submission of the complete application will be required, along with re-payment of the full fee in effect at that time.

An individual who fails one specialty examination may NOT apply for another specialty examination as a retake candidate.

Retake candidates who withdraw from taking the examination are processed as described in the section "Withdrawals".

COMPARATIVE REVIEW AND HAND SCORING

A comparative review verifies that the candidate's answers were scored against the correct examination answer key in order to confirm the candidate's examination was scored properly. Please note that the examination scoring process is accurate and that the BPS scoring process already includes several quality assurance steps.

To request a Comparative Review / Hand Scoring of a BPS examination, the request form, found on the BPS website, must be completed and submitted along with a \$50 U.S. dollars fee to Prometric Worldwide. Requests must be received within 60 days of the candidate receiving the score report. Please allow 30 days to process requests.

APPEAL PROCESS

An appeals process is available to any individual who has applied for or received a BPS certification and wishes to contest any adverse decision or proposed action affecting their application for certification or recertification status other than a failed examination score.

BPS provides a two-step appeals process for resolution of any questions or complaints concerning an action or decision by the BPS Board of Directors. The first step of the process includes a reconsideration review procedure which is handled by BPS. The second step of the process is an appeals procedure which is handled by a specially appointed Appeals Committee. The individual must first file the request for reconsideration before filing an appeal.

A reconsideration and appeal process is available to individuals seeking a redress of an action by BPS. All requests must be submitted in writing. The process and procedures for appeal are available on the BPS web site under the Resources menu marked "[Appeals Policy and Procedures](#)".

If you experience an examination administration issue and wish to file a complaint, the complaint must be received by BPS within five (5) days of your examination date.

REVOCAION OF CERTIFICATION

The certification of an individual may be revoked by BPS for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to complete or fulfill the requirements for certification or recertification;
- Failure to maintain professional licensure;
- Determination that certification or recertification was improperly granted;
- Misrepresentation or misstatement of facts submitted upon application for certification or recertification;
- Violation of Conflict of Interest and / or confidentiality / non-disclosure attestations to BPS.

RECERTIFICATION

To maintain "active" board certification status, recertification is required every seven (7) years. Recertification requirements are listed in the BPS Specialties section. Certificants are expected to keep their certification current. If requirements are not completed at the end of the seven year cycle, certification lapses. Once certification has lapsed, individuals must meet all current requirements, including passing the full-length, 175 question initial certification examination.

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE

All BPS- certified pharmacists are required to register annually with the Board and pay a \$125 U.S. dollars annual certification maintenance fee. An invoice will be sent to each certificant via e-mail in early May. Payment is due within 45 days of that e-mail notification. Pharmacists holding more than one BPS certification are assessed only one annual fee.

Failure to pay the annual fee results in removal of the individual's name from BPS' official list of certified pharmacists. This list of BPS-certified specialists "in good standing" is published on the BPS website and elsewhere. Upon applying for recertification, all outstanding annual fees and a \$5 U.S. dollars penalty fee for each late payment will be due. Failure to pay the annual certification maintenance fees may result in suspension of the certification.

USE OF THE BPS MARK AND LOGO

The BPS certification mark and logo are the property of BPS. Permission to use the certification mark or logo is granted to certified persons at the discretion of BPS, for permissible uses only. A candidate who passes the examination will receive a certificate suitable for framing and will have the right to claim the mark of a Board Certified Pharmacist in the specific pharmacy specialty. Use of BPS marks and logos is limited to those pharmacist specialists, in good standing, who, in good standing, have been granted the pharmacy specialty designation by BPS and who satisfy all maintenance and recertification requirements established by BPS.

USE OF THE DESIGNATION:

To use letters in one's title, individuals must: (1) meet and continue to meet BPS certification and recertification standards; (2) demonstrate the requisite experience requirements; and (3) agree to abide by the Code of Ethical and Professional Responsibility. Successful individuals are authorized to use the following certification marks or designations in communications and marketing materials, as appropriate: BCACP®, BCCP®, BCCCP™, BCGP®, BCIDP®, BCNP®, BCNSP®, BCOP®, BCPPS®, BCPS® and BCPP®

BPS SPECIALTIES

AMBULATORY CARE PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) Program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and provide integrated, accessible healthcare services for ambulatory patients in a wide variety of settings, including community pharmacies, clinics, and physician offices. The BCACP provides patient care, develops sustained partnerships with ambulatory patients and other healthcare providers in the context of family and community; and integrates care of both acute illnesses and chronic conditions.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Focus on the special needs of patients who may have concurrent illnesses taking multiple medications, and who often administer these drugs themselves or with the assistance of a caregiver at home;
- Manage patients in between provider visits through treatment assessment, monitoring compliance, refilling prescriptions and patient education and
- Educate and engage patients in health promotion and wellness

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Ambulatory Care Pharmacy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four years of practice experience,* post pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care pharmacy activities (as defined by the [BPS Ambulatory Care Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY1 residency** plus one additional year of practice post-pharmacist licensure* with at least 50% of time spent in ambulatory care pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Ambulatory Care Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in ambulatory care pharmacy

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Patient-Centered Care: Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (37% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Patient-Centered Care: Collaboration and Patient Advocacy (29% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Translation of Evidence into Practice (14% of the examination)
- Domain 4: Practice Models and Policy (14% of the examination)
- Domain 5: Population and Public Health (6% of the examination)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) will be required to maintain their certification over a seven year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination (administered by BPS), based on the content outline for the Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification;

OR

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development programs approved by BPS.

To achieve the 100 hour requirement, the BCACP may participate in recertification offerings from both BPS-approved ambulatory care pharmacy providers.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 recertification fee in year seven.

CARDIOLOGY PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Cardiology Pharmacist (BCCP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and specialize in the delivery of direct patient care, as members of interprofessional health care teams, working to ensure safe and effective use of medications in patients with cardiovascular disease.

The purpose of the BCCP program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Focusing on disease prevention and treatment, including evidence-based medication use and related care that improve both short and long-term outcomes for patients.
- Practicing across the spectrum of care, including ambulatory, acute, and intensive care.
- Reviewing, analyzing, and monitoring multifaceted clinical information to make reasoned decisions for patients with multiple comorbidities and highly complex medication regimens.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Cardiology Pharmacy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four (4) years of practice experience* (post-pharmacist licensure) with at least 50% of time spent in cardiology pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Cardiology Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY-1 residency * plus two (2) additional years of practice experience** (post-pharmacist licensure) with at least 50% of time spent in cardiology pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Cardiology Pharmacy Content Outline](#)).

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY-2) residency* in cardiology pharmacy.

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Cardiology Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be dated more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Effective January 1, 2013 only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and completed by the applicant within the past 7 years, or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Cardiology Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Patient Management and Therapeutics (approx. 59%)
- Domain 2: Information Management and Education (approx. 23%)
- Domain 3: Practice Development and Administration (approx. 14%)
- Domain 4: Public Health and Patient Advocacy (approx. 4%)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Cardiology Pharmacist® (BCCP) will be required to maintain their certification over a seven year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple-choice objective recertification examination (administered by BPS), based on the content outline for the Cardiology Pharmacy Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification;

OR

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a BPS-approved professional development program provider. Cardiology Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Courses offered by any of the approved providers may only be completed for recertification credit up to two times, in nonconsecutive years, during the 7-year recertification cycle.

***To achieve the 100-hour requirement, the BCCP may participate in recertification offerings from any of the BPS-approved professional development providers.*

Board Certified Cardiology Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance Fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven. Individuals with more than one BPS certification will only be assessed one BPS Annual Certification Maintenance Fee each year.

CRITICAL CARE PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Critical Care Pharmacist (BCCCP) Program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who specialize in the delivery of patient care services as integral members of interprofessional teams, working to ensure the safe and effective use of medications in critically ill patients.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Critical Care Pharmacist (BCCCP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Quickly assessing clinical data and deliver direct patient care to the critically ill and injured patient who may require specialized pharmacologic or technological interventions to maintain blood pressure, respiration, nutrition and other homeostatic functions, in addition to helping to manage the patient's primary condition.
- Reviewing, analyzing and frequently reassessing multi-faceted clinical and technological data to make reasoned decisions for patients with life-threatening conditions and complex medication regimens whose pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic parameters differ substantially from the non-critically ill patient.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Critical Care Pharmacy specialty certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.

- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four (4) years of practice experience,* post-licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in critical care pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Critical Care Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY1 residency** plus two (2) additional years of practice* with at least 50% of time spent in critical care pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Critical Care Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in critical care pharmacy.

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Critical Care Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be more than seven years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Critical Care Pharmacy Content Outline for details.)

- Domain 1: Clinical Skills and Therapeutic Management (65% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Practice Administration and Development (15% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Information Management and Education (20% of the examination)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Critical Care Pharmacist® (BCCCP) will be required to maintain their certification over a seven year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination (administered by BPS), based on the content outline for the Critical Care Pharmacy Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification;
- OR**
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development program(s) approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Critical Care Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

GERIATRIC PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below. The Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist specializes in the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of medications in the aging adult and the use of medications to optimize therapeutic outcomes in older adults.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Applying evidence and clinical judgment to help older adults achieve goals consistent with their values and preferences, including improved quality of life, improved functional status, prolonged life, and cost management.
- Providing direct patient care through interprofessional health care teams, education of other health care providers, and advocacy for appropriate medication use in older adults.
- Reviewing, analyzing, and monitoring patients with multiple comorbidities and highly complex medication regimens to make reasoned decisions for patients.
- Uniquely improving public health by reducing polypharmacy and adverse effects of medications in older adults.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for certification in geriatric pharmacy are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of two (2) years of practice experience, post-licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in geriatric pharmacy activities (as defined in the 2018 BPS [Geriatric Pharmacy Content Outline](#)); Please note practice experience can

include direct and indirect patient care activities (e.g., Assess financial / reimbursement issues when making therapeutic recommendations, Assess a medication regimen and medical history for medication-related problems, Facilitate medication to improve transitions across the continuum of care and reduce readmissions.)

And

- Achieving a passing score on the Geriatric Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be dated more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Geriatric Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: General Principles of Aging (20% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Person-Centered Care (60% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Population and Public Health (20% of the examination)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP), will be required to maintain their certification over a seven-year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination;
- OR**
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS. The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists are approved by BPS as providers for geriatric recertification.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Infectious Diseases Pharmacist (BCIDP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who in their unique practice specialize in the use of microbiology and pharmacology to develop, implement and monitor drug regimens that incorporate the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of antimicrobials to optimize therapy for patients.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Infectious Diseases Pharmacist (BCIDP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to:

- Using clinical and evidence-driven knowledge to develop appropriate antimicrobial therapies to more rapidly resolve infections while decreasing adverse events, complications, and resistance.

- Providing direct patient care through interprofessional health care teams, collaborative leadership of antimicrobial stewardship programs, education of health care providers, preventive services including immunizations;
- Advocating for appropriate antimicrobial utilization;
- Improving public health by optimizing antimicrobial potential in individual patients and narrowing the resistance trends that occur in society by preventing progression of antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases.

Eligibility Requirements

(All practice eligibility requirements must be met prior to the candidate sitting for the examination)

The minimum requirements for Infectious Diseases Pharmacy specialty certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four (4) years of practice experience** (post-pharmacist licensure) with at least 50% of time spent in infectious diseases pharmacy activities (as defined by [Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY-1 residency * plus two (2) additional years of practice experience** (post-pharmacist licensure) with at least 50% of time spent in infectious diseases pharmacy activities (as defined in the [Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Content Outline](#)).

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY-2) residency* in Infectious Diseases pharmacy.

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

**Effective January 1, 2013, only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and completed by the applicant within the past 7 years, or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

***Practice experience and or residency completion should be from within the past seven years prior to the application date.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Infectious Disease Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Patient Management and Therapeutics (50% of the exam)
- Domain 2: Education, Research and Scholarship (about 20% of the exam)
- Domain 3: Antimicrobial Stewardship and Practice Management (25% of the exam)
- Domain 4: Public Health and Patient Advocacy (about 5% of the exam)

Recertification

(The Professional Development Programs for the recertification of BCIDP have not been approved.)

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Infectious Diseases Pharmacist® (BCIDP) will be required to maintain their certification over a seven-year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item, multiple-choice objective recertification examination (administered by BPS), based on the content outline for the Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification.

OR

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a BPS-approved professional development program provider. Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Courses offered by any of the approved providers may only be completed for recertification credit up to two times, in nonconsecutive years, during the 7-year recertification cycle.

***To achieve the 100-hour requirement, the BCIDP may participate in recertification offerings from any of the BPS-approved professional development providers.*

Board Certified Infectious Pharmacists® are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

Individuals with more than one BPS certification will only be assessed one BPS Annual Certification Maintenance Fee each year.

NUCLEAR PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist (BCNP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice seek to improve and promote public health through the safe and effective use of radioactive drugs for diagnosis and therapy.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist (BCNP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Manage the procurement, compounding, quality control testing, dispensing, distribution and monitoring of highly toxic radiopharmaceuticals used for PET scans and other diagnostic procedures;
- Prepares medications, troubleshoots problems with scans;
- Consults on health and safety issues concerning radiopharmaceuticals, as well as the use of non-radioactive drugs and patient care
- Play an important role in quality control and cost management by thoroughly testing products before delivery;
- Minimize error and patient exposure to radiation, and
- Identify whether a patient is on any interfering medications.

Eligibility Requirements:

The minimum requirements for certification in nuclear pharmacy are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction. Foreign-trained pharmacists must pass the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) examination.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- 4,000 hours of training / experience in nuclear pharmacy practice.
- Achieving a passing score on the Nuclear Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination. Please view the [Nuclear Pharmacy Content Outline](#).

The required 4,000 hours of experience may be earned in a variety of settings.

Academic up to 2,000 hours:

- Undergraduate courses in nuclear pharmacy: up to 100 hours experience for every quarter credit hour or 150 hours experience for every semester credit hour, to a maximum of 1,500 hours.
- Postgraduate courses in nuclear pharmacy: up to 100 hours experience for every quarter credit hour or 150 hours experience for every semester credit hour, to a maximum of 1,500 hours.
- MS or PhD degree in nuclear pharmacy: 2,000 hours.
- Successful completion of the Nuclear Pharmacy Certificate Program offered by Purdue University (217 hours) or The Ohio State University (214 hours), or the Nuclear Education Online (NEO) Program offered by the Universities of New Mexico and Arkansas (250 hours), or the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center (225 hours). Credit for other courses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Training / Practice up to 4,000 hours:

- Residency** in nuclear pharmacy: hour-for-hour credit to a maximum of 2,000 hours.
- Internship to satisfy requirements of state boards of pharmacy: hour-for-hour credit in a licensed nuclear pharmacy or facility authorized to handle radioactive materials, to a maximum of 2,000 hours.
- Nuclear pharmacy practice:* hour-for-hour credit in a licensed nuclear pharmacy or health care facility approved by state or federal agencies to handle radioactive materials, to a maximum of 4,000 hours.

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be dated more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Nuclear Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Procurement, Storage, and Handling (16% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Preparation, Compounding, and Dispensing (38% of the examination)

- Domain 3: Quality Assurance (17% of the examination)
- Domain 4: Health and Safety (19% of examination)
- Domain 5: Drug Information and Professional Consultation (10% of the examination)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist (BCNP), will be required to maintain their certification over a seven year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination;
- **OR**
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

At the time of recertification, the BCNP is also required to certify that (s)he is not currently under suspension by either the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission or a state Radiation Control Organization.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

NUTRITION SUPPORT PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist (BCNSP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice address the care of patients receiving specialized nutrition support, including parenteral (IV) or enteral (feeding tube) nutrition.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist (BCNSP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize patient outcomes by:

- Promoting the maintenance of and / or restoration of optimal nutritional status through design and modification of individualized treatment plans
- Providing direct patient care including patient assessment; type of feeding design; clinical monitoring; dosing of specific nutrients; compatibility issues;
- Identifying unusual nutrient deficiencies to guarantee the safety of the patient
- Ensuring that parenteral and enteral feeding formulations are properly prepared and administered, and
- monitoring and maintaining the patient's nutritional status during the critical transition to a care facility or home.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Nutrition Support Pharmacy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.

- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of three (3) years practice experience* post-pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in nutrition support pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Nutrition Support Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in nutrition support pharmacy

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Nutrition Support Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination

**Practice experience and or residency completion should not be dated more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Nutrition Support Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Clinical Practice: Provision of Patient-Centered Nutrition Support (63% of the examination)
 - Subdomain A: Assessment (22% of the examination)
 - Subdomain B: Design and Initiation of a Therapeutic Plan of Care (27% of the examination)
 - Subdomain C: Monitoring and Management (14% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Nutrition Support Operations (30% of the examination)
 - Subdomain A: Practice Management (7% of the examination)
 - Subdomain B: Policy and Protocol Management (7% of the examination)
 - Subdomain C: Compounding Operations (16% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Retrieval, Interpretation, Generation, and Communication of Knowledge in Nutrition Support (7% of the examination)

Recertification

Beginning in January 2017, Purdue University College of Pharmacy assumed responsibility as the BPS Professional Development Provider for the recertification of Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists (BCNSP). Along with this new addition, BPS has updated the recertification requirements for recertification in Nutrition Support Pharmacy.

All Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists who certified / recertified between 2010 and 2015 should download the approved BCNSP Continuing Education Transition Plan.

Recertification for those BCNSP certified / recertified in 2016 and beyond is achieved through an assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination (administered by BPS) based on the content outline for the Nutrition Support Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification.

OR

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the approved programming offered by Purdue University.

Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

ONCOLOGY PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice manages cancer-related and drug-related adverse events or clinical situations not encountered in other disease states due to the increasing number and complexity of drug therapies for treating and preventing cancer.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize outcomes for patients with malignant diseases by:

- Recommending, designing, implementing, monitoring and modifying pharmacotherapeutic plans;
- Reduce medication errors,
- Recognizing and responding to adverse physical and emotional issues that may arise during treatment and provide education and counseling.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Oncology Pharmacy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of four (4) years of practice experience,* post-pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in oncology pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Oncology Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY1 residency** plus two (2) additional years of practice post-pharmacist licensure,* with at least 50% of time spent in oncology pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Oncology Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in oncology pharmacy.

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination

**Practice experience and or residency completion should not be dated more than 7 years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Oncology Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Pathophysiology and Molecular Biology of Cancer (20% of examination)
- Domain 2: Therapeutics, Patient Management, and Education (38% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Clinical Trials and Research (14% of the examination)
- Domain 4: Practice Management (22% of the examination)
- Domain 5: Public Health (6% of the examination)

Recertification

Recertification for Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP) requires assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination;
- OR**
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists Specialists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

PEDIATRIC PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist (BCPPS) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice ensure safe and effective drug use and optimal medication therapy outcomes in children up to 18 years of age.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist (BCPPS) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize outcomes for pediatric patients by:

- Providing patient care to children, including providing alternative dosage forms and specialized drug therapy monitoring required for pediatric patients;
- Advocating for and educating children and their families about medications;
- Promoting wellness, health and other activities that advance knowledge in pediatric pharmacy for both patients and other health care providers.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Pediatric Pharmacy specialty certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.

- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
 - Completion of four (4) years of practice experience,* post-licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in pediatric pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Pediatric Pharmacy Content Outline](#))
- OR**
- Completion of a PGY1 residency** plus two (2) additional years of practice* with at least 50% of time spent in pediatric pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Pediatric Pharmacy Content Outline](#))
- OR**
- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in pediatric pharmacy.
- AND**
- Achieving a passing score on the Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination.

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be more than seven years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Pediatric Pharmacy Content Outline for details.)

- Domain 1: Patient Management (57% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Practice Management (21% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Information Management and Education (17% of the examination)
- Domain 4: Public Health and Advocacy (5% of the examination)

Recertification

Pharmacists who earn the designation Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist (BCPPS) will be required to maintain their certification over a seven year period by completing one of the following professional development activities:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination (administered by BPS), based on the content outline for the Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty in their seventh year following initial certification;
- OR**
- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by the professional development program(s) approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

PHARMACOTHERAPY

The BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice ensure the safe, appropriate and economical use of medications as part of interprofessional treatment teams in a variety of settings, including hospitals and health systems.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to impact patient outcomes by:

- Optimizing medication use by serving as an objective, evidence-based source for therapeutic information and recommendations;
- Functioning as a member of an interprofessional team providing direct patient care;
- Working with physicians / prescribers in hospitals to design and / or modify patient's medication therapy regimens;
- Recommending adjustments to dosage or alternate medications when appropriate;
- Working with physicians / prescribers in outpatient settings to optimize medication therapy, tracking progress and compliance and
- making suggestions about diet and lifestyle changes to help patients better manage their health.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Pharmacotherapy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- Completion of three (3) years of practice experience,* post-pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in pharmacotherapy activities (as defined by the BPS [Pharmacotherapy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY1 residency**

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Pharmacotherapy Specialty Certification Examination

** Practice experience and or residency completion should not be more than seven years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted by BPS for verification purposes.*

*** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.*

Examination Content (Refer to the Pharmacotherapy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Patient-centered Pharmacotherapy (55% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Drug Information and Evidence-Based Medicine (25% of the examination)
- Domain 3: System-Based Standards and Population-Based Pharmacotherapy (20% of the examination)

Recertification

Recertification for Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS) is an assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item objective recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination;
- OR**
- Earning 120 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY

The BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP) program is a credential for pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria below and who in their unique practice provides person-centered care that ensures the safe, appropriate, evidence-based, and cost-effective use of medications in the treatment of persons with mental illness.

The purpose of the BPS Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP) program is to validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to optimize outcomes and recovery for patients with mental illness by:

- designing, implementing, monitoring, and modifying treatment plans for individuals
- educating patients, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders
- providing leadership in health system and public policy to improve the health of persons with mental illness.

Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements for Psychiatric Pharmacy certification are:

- Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction.
- Current, active license to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.

- Completion of four (4) years of practice,* post-pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities (as defined by the BPS [Psychiatric Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a PGY1 residency** plus two (2) additional years of practice* post-pharmacist licensure, with at least 50% of time spent in psychiatric pharmacy activities (as defined by the [Psychiatric Pharmacy Content Outline](#))

OR

- Completion of a specialty (PGY2) residency** in psychiatric pharmacy.

AND

- Achieving a passing score on the Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Certification Examination

*Practice experience and or residency completion should not be more than seven years prior to the application date. Please note that your employer may be contacted for verification purposes.

** Only residency programs accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), or new residency programs granted Candidate Status for accreditation by ASHP are creditable for this purpose.

Examination Content (Refer to the Psychiatric Pharmacy Content Outline for details)

- Domain 1: Person-centered care (55% of the examination)
- Domain 2: Translation of Evidence into Practice and Education (30% of the examination)
- Domain 3: Health Care Policy, Advocacy, and Practice Management (15% of the examination)

Recertification

Recertification for the Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP) requires an assessment of a practitioner's knowledge and skills through one of two methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the 100-item recertification examination, based on the content outline of the certification examination;

OR

- Earning 100 hours of continuing education credit provided by a professional development program approved by BPS.

A current, active license to practice pharmacy is required for recertification.

Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists are also required to pay the BPS Annual Certification Maintenance fee of \$125 U.S. dollars for years one through six and a \$400 U.S. dollars recertification fee in year seven.

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

The following sample questions provide candidates with an opportunity to review the FORMAT of questions used on BPS specialty certification examinations. Four possible answers are provided for each question, with only ONE designated as the correct or best choice. An asterisk marks the correct answer for the following sample questions. Sample questions may be found on the BPS website at <https://www.bpsweb.org/sample-questions/>. They are to be used for self-assessment and scored, but they are used strictly for illustrative purposes and not indicative of actual content on the examinations.

SAMPLE:

A 35-year-old, 70 kg patient was examined by his family physician for a complaint of right-sided abdominal pain for 6 weeks, and nausea. A CT scan of the abdomen revealed a solid bulky mass within the retroperitoneum. The patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy and the mass (8.0 x 7.0 cm) was removed. The patient was diagnosed with advanced testicular cancer and underwent a right orchiectomy. He has now been admitted for his first cycle of cisplatin, vinblastine, and bleomycin (PVB). In addition to corticosteroids, which of the following is the best choice for an antiemetic to provide for prevention of acute emesis?

- *1. Ondansetron
- 2. Metoclopramide
- 3. Prochlorperazine
- 4. Haloperidol

SAMPLE:

A 60-year-old man regularly attends a pharmacotherapy specialist's lipid clinic. The patient has a time-consuming job and must travel frequently. He would like to receive his laboratory results by e-mail. Which of the following is the specialist's most appropriate response to this request?

- 1. The patient can e-mail the specialist, but HIPAA does not allow the specialist to e-mail the patient because protected health information would be is closed in that e-mail
- 2. E-mail communication of protected health information is not acceptable in any situation
- 3. HIPAA would require that the provider set up a secure website for the patient to access
- *4. If the patient signs a consent from acknowledging the risk of potential breaches of privacy and confidentiality e-mail communication is acceptable

SAMPLE:

For a state of equilibrium to occur in a radionuclide generator:

- *1. The parent / daughter half-life ratio must be greater than 1
- 2. The daughter radionuclide must be a stable isotope
- 3. Elution must occur daily
- 4. The daughter radionuclide should exhibit branched decay

SAMPLE:

An 80-year-old ambulatory female patient with hypertension receiving lisinopril 20mg daily requires a second antihypertensive agent for optimum blood pressure control. History includes diet-controlled diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, mild left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) and mild dementia. Serum creatinine = 2.5 mg/dL; BUN = 30 mg/dL. Which of the following antihypertensive agents should be added to the regimen?

1. Valsartan
2. Verapamil
- *3. Metoprolol
4. Hydrochlorothiazide

SAMPLE:

A patient with Type 2 diabetes reports vomiting, somnolence, epigastric pain, anorexia, hyperventilation, diarrhea, and thirst. Medications include enalapril 20 mg daily; hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg daily; metformin 1000 mg twice daily; and digoxin 0.25 mg daily. Serum creatinine = 2 mg/dL, blood glucose = 365 mg/dL, pH = 7.2, anion gap = 20. Which adverse drug effect is the patient most likely experiencing?

1. Renal tubular acidosis secondary to enalapril
- *2. Lactic acidosis secondary to metformin
3. Respiratory acidosis secondary to compensation for metabolic alkalosis from hydrochlorothiazide
4. Metabolic acidosis secondary to hydrochlorothiazide / digoxin

SAMPLE:

A 67-year-old patient with Parkinson's disease presents with mildly erythematous scaly plaques distributed in a butterfly-like pattern across the face and extending into the nasolabial folds. Scaling and flaking are also present in the patient's beard, eyebrows, scalp and behind his ears. His medications include: phenytoin 300 mg nightly for seizures following a stroke that occurred last year; amantadine 100 mg twice daily for mild bradykinesia and rigidity; and augmentin 850 mg twice daily x 10 days, for a recent upper-respiratory infection. The patient has no fever and claims that the lesions, which itch "a little bit," have been present for several years but have become more noticeable over the past month. Which of the following best describes how this problem should be managed?

- *1. Explain that the condition is seborrheic dermatitis, common in patients with Parkinson's disease and is not caused by drug therapy; treat with hydrocortisone cream 1% to affected areas twice daily

2. Call the patient's neurologist for evaluation and monitoring of the lesions for possible progression to Stevens-Johnson syndrome; discontinue phenytoin and substitute valproic acid
3. Recommend that the patient stop using the augmentin, because of drug allergy, and call the patient's prescriber
4. Explain that the condition is livedo reticularis, a harmless reaction to amantadine that requires no treatment

SAMPLE:

According to data from *in vitro* studies, which liquid dosage form is most likely to cause clumping / precipitation when mixed with enteral feeding formulations?

1. Elixir with pH>6
- *2. Syrup with pH<4
3. Suspension with pH>6
4. Solution with pH=7.4

SAMPLE:

Which Current Procedural Terminology code is designated to be used by pharmacists when billing for medication therapy management services?

- *1. 99605
2. 99205
3. 99211
4. 90115

SAMPLE

A 15-year-old boy diagnosed with mild persistent asthma is currently taking inhaled fluticasone 44 mcg / puff at 2 puffs twice daily and inhaled albuterol as needed. His asthma control test score is 16. The patient is using the inhaled albuterol once weekly at school and sometimes at night. His mother states that he wakes up two or three nights each week needing inhaled albuterol. He demonstrates proper inhaler technique, his dose counter indicates good adherence, and both he and his mother deny exposures to known triggers or changes in environment. In addition to keeping an asthma control diary, what should the pharmacist recommend?

1. Switch fluticasone to montelukast 10 mg orally daily, and continue albuterol as needed
- *2. Increase fluticasone to 110 mcg / puff at 2 puffs twice daily and continue albuterol as needed
3. Switch fluticasone to tramcinolone MDI 3 puffs twice daily and continue albuterol as needed
4. Continue fluticasone and initiate prednisone 10 mg daily

