Ethics and Professionalism

The BPS shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to workplace ethics by which all staff and certified persons (inclusive of the BPS Board and its Specialty Councils and committee members) shall agree to abide. The BPS adheres to good governance standards and works ethically to represent the interests of all our stakeholders. The BPS Board shall hold responsibility for maintaining the relevance and efficacy of the Ethics and Professionalism Policy, and has the authority to change the Policy as required.

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties ascribes to the belief that certification carries an obligation for ethical behavior and professionalism necessary in all conduct. Candidates or certificants who are found to have exhibited unethical behavior or lack of professionalism may be prevented from pursuing certification, or such action may result in the suspension or revocation of certification. Determinations of said behavior shall be at the discretion of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. The following examples constitute unethical behavior:

A. Behavior that is dishonest includes cheating, lying, falsifying information, misrepresenting one’s educational background, certification status, and/or professional experience, and failure to report misconduct. Individuals exhibiting such behavior with regard to the BPS certification and/or recertification program risk being permanently barred from certification and being reported to state pharmacy boards.

B. Theft or attempted theft of exam content (in any format) is punishable as a felony. Any irregularity occurring during the examination such as giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid, as evidenced by observation or subsequent analysis, may result in termination or participation, invalidation of the results of the exam or other appropriate action. Exam content (in any format) is the exclusive property of BPS and is protected by copyright law. No part of a BPS exam may be copied or reproduced in part or whole by any means whatsoever including memorization. Such efforts may violate federal copyright law.

C. Cheating includes possession, reproduction or disclosure of materials or information, including examination questions or answers, or specific information regarding the content of the examination, before during or after the examination.

Because of BPS’ organizational relationship to and service arrangements with the American Pharmacists Association, BPS staff members serve as full-time employees of APhA, and are subject to their general employment policies and conditions to ensure ethical and impartial operations. However, BPS has implemented an organizational structure that assures the separation of certification activities from those training and membership activities undertaken by APhA.

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