



Examination Specifications
Geriatric Pharmacy
Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCGP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who assess, design, implement, monitor, modify, and advise on pharmacotherapeutic treatments and protocols for older adults
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to optimize safety and outcomes for older adults
Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the United States that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction• Current, active license or registration to practice pharmacy in the United States or another jurisdiction• One of the following, within the past 7 years:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ At least 4 years of specialty area practice with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline○ Completion of PGY-1 pharmacy residency and at least 2 years of specialty area practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline○ Completion of PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 pharmacy residency in Geriatric Pharmacy <p><i>Residency programs must be accredited by or deemed candidate status by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for PGY1, PGY2, and International Pharmacy Practice Residency Programs, or accredited by the Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board (CPRB) for year-1 programs.</i></p>
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This document serves as examination specifications and certification scheme according to the respective requirements of the NCCA 2021 and ISO-IEC 17024:2012 standards.

For more information about the BCGP examination program, please refer to the BPS website and candidate’s guide: www.bpsweb.org/specialty-exams/candidates-guide/.

Examination Content Outline

1	Geriatric Patient Population
1A	Physiological Factors of Aging
1A1	Age-Related Physiological Changes
1A2	Pathophysiology in the Older Adult
1A3	Geriatric Syndromes
1A4	Multimorbidity in the Older Adult
1A5	Mental Health and Changes in Cognitive Function
1A6	Activities of Daily Living (ADL/IADL)
1B	Non-Physiological Factors of Aging
1B1	Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Isolation
1B2	Ageism and Therapeutic Nihilism
1B3	Self-Determination and End-of-life Decisions (e.g., advance care planning, legal documents, capacity, conservatorship)
1B4	Caregiver Support (e.g., respite care, caregiver services, caregiver burnout)
1B5	Long-Term Care (e.g., home health, residential care)
1B6	Patient-Support Resources and Programs (e.g., medical transportation, patient assistance programs, food/nutrition assistance)
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management
2A	Treatment Planning
2A1	Clinical Assessment (e.g., functional, cognitive, physical)
2A2	Diagnosis and Diagnostic Testing
2A3	Pharmacodynamics, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacogenomics
2A4	Shared Decision-Making and Goals of Care
2A5	Goals of Treatment (e.g., risk vs. benefit, time to benefit)
2A6	Social Determinants of Health
2B	Therapeutic Implementation
2B1	Pharmacotherapy (e.g., medications, supplements, herbals)
2B2	Non-Pharmacologic Treatments and Lifestyle Modification
2B3	Interprofessional Care Coordination
2B4	Medication Reconciliation and Optimization
2B5	Medication Delivery (e.g., routes of administration, delivery devices, anatomic alterations)
2B6	Patient and Caregiver Education and Counseling
2B7	Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use (e.g., polypharmacy, prescribing cascade, deprescribing, pill burden)
2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring
2C1	Therapeutic Targets and Endpoints
2C2	Therapeutic and Physiological Monitoring
2C3	Adverse Drug Events
2C4	Drug Interactions
2C5	Medication Adherence
2C6	Palliative and Hospice Care

3	Professional Practice
3A	Quality of Care
3A1	Population Health
3A2	Preventative Care
3A3	Continuity of Care
3A4	Clinical Practice Guidelines
3A5	Medication Appropriateness Assessment (e.g., STOPP/START, Beers criteria, FORTA, MAI)
3B	Practice Management
3B1	Research Methods and Statistics
3B2	Professional Practice Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations (e.g., Medicare, HEDIS)
3B3	Ethics and Patient Advocacy
3B4	Pharmacoeconomics
3B5	Clinical Informatics (e.g., clinical decision support, MUEs, CPOE)

The examination content outline is a product of a job analysis (aka role delineation study) that includes facilitation of discussions with a representative panel of 15-20 subject matter experts who identify competencies required for safe and effective pharmacy practice in this specialty area as well as a validation survey soliciting endorsement of the identified competencies from certified pharmacists in this specialty area. The job analysis process is conducted every 5 years to help ensure that the competencies in the examination content outline reflect current pharmacy practice in the specialty area.

Examination Administration and Scoring

<u>Number of Examination Items</u>		Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
1	Geriatric Patient Population	48	29
1A	Physiological Factors of Aging	30	17
1B	Non-Physiological Factors of Aging	18	12
2	Therapeutics and Patient Management	90	50
2A	Treatment Planning	25	14
2B	Therapeutic Implementation	35	19
2C	Treatment Outcomes and Monitoring	30	17
3	Professional Practice	37	21
3A	Quality of Care	22	13
3B	Practice Management	15	8
TOTAL		175	100

	Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
Exam Administration Time	4 hours 23 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes
Minimum Score	200	200
Minimum Passing Score	500	500
Maximum Score	800	800

The certification examination is split into two parts with an optional break (up to 30 minutes) in between. Part 1 consists of 100 items (2 hours 30 minutes) and Part 2 consists of 75 items (1 hour 53 minutes).

Maintenance of Certification

Recertification Requirements	<p>Pharmacists who earn the BCGP designation will be required to maintain their certification over a 7-year period by completing one of the following recertification pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a passing score on the BCGP recertification examination in their seventh year following initial certification • Earning 100 hours of BPS-approved continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit provided by the professional development programs offered by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) and/or the joint program offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). <p><i>The Geriatric Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course offered by either of the approved providers may only be completed for recertification credit up to two times, in nonconsecutive years, during the 7-year recertification cycle.</i></p>
Ethics and Professionalism	<p>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 may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of certification, at the discretion of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.</p> <p>Please refer to the BPS Ethics and Professionalism Policy: https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf</p>