



## Examination Specifications Oncology Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

<b>Name of Credential</b>	BPS Board-Certified Oncology Pharmacist
<b>Certification-Issuing Body</b>	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
<b>Designation Awarded</b>	BCOP
<b>Level of Proficiency</b>	Specialty Certification
<b>Target Population</b>	Pharmacists who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapeutic treatments; manage adverse events or clinical situations associated with cancer, cancer therapies, and non-malignant hematology; and facilitate and/or evaluate clinical trials, research, and investigational drugs
<b>Program Purpose</b>	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge and experience to provide treatment and education that optimizes safety and outcomes for individuals receiving treatment for cancer or non-malignant hematologic conditions, palliative and supportive care, and/or survivorship care; as well as support for cancer detection, screening, and risk-reduction
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Current, active license or registration to practice pharmacy in the United States or another jurisdiction</li><li>• One of the following, within the past 7 years:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ At least 4 years of specialty area practice with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline</li><li>○ Completion of PGY1 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</li><li>○ Completion of PGY1 pharmacy residency and PGY2 pharmacy residency in Oncology Pharmacy</li></ul></li></ul> <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>
<b>ECO Creation Date</b>	February 2022

**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 BCOP examination program, please refer to the BPS website and candidate's guide: [www.bpsweb.org/specialty-exams/candidates-guide/](http://www.bpsweb.org/specialty-exams/candidates-guide/).**

## Examination Content Outline

<b>1</b>	<b>Oncology Diagnosis and Testing</b>
1A	Oncology Diagnosis
1A1	Cancer Etiology and Pathophysiology
1A2	Types of Cancer
1A3	Cancer-Related Molecular Biology
1A4	Mechanisms of Tumor Resistance
1B	Oncology Testing
1B1	Genomics (e.g., genomic alterations, gene amplification, types of mutations)
1B2	Prognostic and Predictive Testing (e.g., IPI, FLIPI, Oncotype DX)
1B3	Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS)
1B4	Biomarker Testing (e.g., PDL1, TMB, TPS, CPS)
1C	Cancer Detection and Prevention
1C1	Cancer Detection (e.g., screening frequency, early detection)
1C2	Cancer Prevention and Risk-Reduction
1C3	Cancer-Support and Cancer-Education Resources
<b>2</b>	<b>Therapeutics and Patient Management</b>
2A	Treatment Planning
2A1	Treatment of Cancer
2A2	Treatment of Non-Malignant Hematologic Disorders (e.g., aplastic anemia, ITP, sickle cell)
2A3	Palliative and Supportive Care
2A4	End-of-Life Care
2A5	Survivorship Care
2A6	Social Determinants of Health (e.g., health literacy, socioeconomic status, cultural practices and preferences, access to care, caregiver support)
2A7	Clinical Standards and Guidelines (e.g., NCCN, ASCO)
2B	Therapeutic Implementation
2B1	Pharmacotherapy
2B2	Non-Pharmacologic Treatment Modalities (e.g., surgery, radiation therapy)
2B3	Pharmacogenomics
2B4	Patient and Caregiver Education
2B5	Interdisciplinary Care Coordination (e.g., transitions of care, specialty pharmacy services, patient assistance programs)
2B6	Drug Administration (e.g., dosage forms, routes of delivery)
2B7	Complementary and Alternative Therapies
2C	Cancer Outcomes and Treatment Monitoring
2C1	Drug Interactions (with foods, supplements, laboratory tests, and other drugs)
2C2	Mechanisms of Drug Resistance
2C3	Toxicity Prevention, Monitoring, and Management
2C4	Oncologic Emergencies
2C5	Complications of Cancer Therapy
2C6	Complications of Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy
2C7	Long-Term Complications of Cancer Therapy
<b>3</b>	<b>Professional Practice</b>
3A	Clinical Trials and Research
3A1	Research Methods (e.g., study design, validity)
3A2	Statistics (e.g., statistical power, number needed to treat, results interpretation)

3A3	Research Outcomes (e.g., clinical benefit, patient reported outcomes)
3A4	Laws and Ethics associated with Research and Clinical Trials
3A5	Clinical Trial Design in Oncology (e.g., phases, objectives, endpoints)
3A6	Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and Independent Ethics Committees (IECs)
3A7	Drug Approval Process
3A8	Investigational Drug Management
3B	Practice Management
3B1	Quality Management (e.g., medication use evaluation, root cause analysis, patient safety)
3B2	Medication Inventory Management (e.g., pharmacoeconomics, procurement, allocation, tracking)
3B3	Drug Handling and Disposal (e.g., USP<800>, radiopharmaceuticals)
3B4	Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Programs
3B5	Compassionate Use Processes (e.g., IND process, right-to-try)
3B6	Biosimilar Medications
3B7	Professional Practice Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations (e.g., NIOSH, ASCO-ONS)

**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
<b>1</b>	<b>Oncology Diagnosis and Testing</b>		
1A	Oncology Diagnosis	11	9
1B	Oncology Testing	11	9
1C	Cancer Detection and Prevention	6	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Therapeutics and Patient Management</b>		
2A	Treatment Planning	20	16
2B	Therapeutic Implementation	20	16
2C	Cancer Outcomes and Treatment Monitoring	21	17
<b>3</b>	<b>Professional Practice</b>		
3A	Clinical Trials and Research	18	14
3C	Practice Management	18	14
<b>SCORED ITEMS</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>PRETEST ITEMS</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

The certification examination includes unscored pretest items that are embedded within the test and represent new items that are being trialed before use as a scored item in subsequent forms of the examination.

	Certification Exam	Recertification Exam
<b>Exam Administration Time</b>	3 hours 45 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes
<b>Minimum Score</b>	200	200
<b>Minimum Passing Score</b>	500	500
<b>Maximum Score</b>	800	800

## Maintenance of Certification

<b>Recertification Requirements</b>	<p>Pharmacists who earn the BCOP 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"> <li>• Achieving a passing score on the BCOP recertification examination in their seventh year following initial certification</li> <li>• Earning 100 hours of BPS-approved continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit provided by the joint professional development programs offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the program offered by the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA).</li> </ul> <p><i>Board Certified Oncology Pharmacists must complete the Oncology Pharmacy Preparatory Review Course for Recertification offered by ACCP/ASHP and/or the BCOP Preparatory and Recertification Course offered by HOPA at least once, but no more than three times, in nonconsecutive years, during the 7-year recertification cycle.</i></p>
<b>Ethics and Professionalism</b>	<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:  <a href="https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf">https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf</a></p>