The Board Certified Pharmacist's Welcome Packet

For pharmacists newly certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)
Welcome to The Board of Pharmacy Specialties

We're excited to have you join the growing international community of board-certified pharmacists! This document is intended to provide valuable information about the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) and helpful resources to promote and maintain your certification.

PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT
BPS Digital Badge 3
Celebratory Social Media Graphics 3
Suggested Order of Credentials 4
Discussion Points for Explaining Your BPS Credential 5
Testimonials from Board-Certified Pharmacists Like You! 6
Easy Statistics about the Board of Pharmacy Specialties 7

RECERTIFICATION
Maintenance of Certification 8
Professional Development Program Providers 8

ABOUT BPS
Our History 9
Our Vision 10
Our Mission 10
BPS Throughout the Years 11
BPS By-The-Numbers 12
Council Leadership 13
BPS Ambassadors 14
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

BPS DIGITAL BADGE

The BPS digital badge provides the certificant with the flexibility of a portable, digital, and third-party-verified display of their credential(s) as evidence of their achievement. Opportunities for application of your digital badge include:

- Demonstration of earned credential to peers
- Verification of credentials for employers
- Placement in mail signature or social profile

Learn more about how you can utilize your BPS Digital Badge by clicking here.

You've Earned It, Now Share It!

For those interested in celebrating their accomplishment on social media with friends, family and coworkers, you can find our ready-to-use graphics here!

BPS SOCIAL MEDIA

@BoardofPharmacySpecialties @BPSweb
@Board-of-Pharmacy-Specialties @BPSnewsChannel
The BPS Board-Certified Pharmacist Podcast
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

SUGGESTED ORDER OF CREDENTIALS

Currently, there is variation in the order and manner in which pharmacists display their professional credentials. This guidance looks to standardize use of credentials and other distinctions.

BPS recommendations listing your credentials in the following order:
1. Highest earned degree such as PhD, PharmD, MS, BS, etc.
2. Licensure credentials such as RPh
3. State designations such as designations for advanced practice
4. National certifications such as the Board of Pharmacy Specialties credentials
5. Awards and honors such as fellowship status
6. Other recognitions can include non-pharmacy credentials

Listing your credentials could look like this:
- Jane Doe, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCP, FCCM
- John Doe, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, AAHIVP
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR EXPLAINING YOUR BPS CREDENTIAL

- Board certification is a voluntary process that assesses competencies beyond those accessed by mandatory licensure exams and professional registration.
- Board certification demonstrates a level of rigor above a certificate of participation or assessment-based certificate.
- Board certification validates a pharmacist's education, training, experience, and knowledge in their specialty area of practice.
- Board certification shows a pharmacist's commitment to improved patient outcomes, the advancement of the pharmacy profession, and to continued professional development.
- Pharmacists with residency training and/or professional experience are eligible to sit for a specialty exam, which is created by subject matter experts and validated by psychometric standards.
- Discuss your personal motivator, which could include but is not limited to:
  - Recognition among peers;
  - Financial reward;
  - Career advancement;
  - Personal satisfaction; and/or
  - Accountability to maintain advanced knowledge.
- Recertification pathways (e.g. examination or BPS-approved professional development programs) ensure that board-certified pharmacists maintain the necessary expertise to practice at advanced levels.
- Click here to review the specialty areas currently recognized by BPS.
PROMOTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

WHAT OTHER BOARD-CERTIFIED PHARMACISTS ARE SAYING ABOUT BOARD CERTIFICATION

Caitlin Gibson, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP
I find that BPS Certification provides a framework for accountability and direction in the ever-evolving, ever-improving journey of pharmacy practice. Through BPS Certification, I now prioritize my own professional development, and I have gained a more holistic and intentional approach to becoming a well-rounded pharmacist and educator.

Douglas J. Tam, PharmD, BCPS
One of the benefits of board certification is the accountability to lifelong learning. It has been said that “learning never ends,” and it is downright true. With so many advances in healthcare and pharmaceuticals today, it could be easy to become complacent and work on what is comfortable. Aside from learning through pharmacotherapy CE modules, board certification has opened even more doors to learning in my workplace.

Debbie Zock, PharmD, MBA, MHA, BCPS, BCCCP, BCIDP
Advancement begins with a global understanding of the value proposition that board certification brings and leverages that intrinsic worth to “raise the bar” of the profession. Board-certified pharmacists have the confidence and skillsets needed to integrate themselves into any team, and they hold the keys to unlocking the best pharmaceutical care at any level.
There are more than 57,600 active pharmacist certifications in more than 58 countries across the globe.

There are more than 5,300 pharmacists holding more than one specialty certification.

There are 14 BPS-recognized specialty areas that a pharmacist may earn board certification in.
Recertification assures the public and the profession that certified practitioners undergo periodic evaluation. The Board of Pharmacy Specialties requires all board-certified specialists to recertify every seven years.

If a certified pharmacist fails to successfully complete the recertification process, extension of certification may be granted for a one-time only, one-year period, at the sole discretion of BPS, while the individual seeks to successfully complete the process.

If a BPS-certified specialist does not apply for recertification, the individual will be removed from the official roster of board-certified specialists. Once a BPS-certified specialist has been removed from the roster, reinstatement can only be achieved by the successful completion of the entire certification process.

For full details regarding recertification, please refer to the BPS Recertification Guide, which is updated annually with relevant information.

If you decide that recertification through continued education (CE) is the right pathway for you, you can visit this webpage to view your opportunities through BPS-approved professional development providers. Please note that each specialty has its own specific CE pathway and rules surrounding the use of CE credits for more than one specialty.

The amount of CE credit required before December 31 of your recertification year differs between each specialty, so make sure to be up to date with the information listed on the BPS website.
OUR HISTORY

In 1971, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) House of Delegates adopted a policy statement which contained in part the following provision: “that an organizational mechanism be established with the structure of the Association for the recognition of specialties and certification of specialists.” Following adoption of this statement and further deliberations and discussions, the APhA Board of Trustees created the Taskforce on Specialties in Pharmacy in 1973.

The report of the Task Force concluded that “an official board with independent decision-making authority should now be established and charged with the responsibility of formally recognizing specialties in pharmacy once they are judged to have met approved criteria.” Thus, creating the Board of Pharmacy Specialties® (BPS).

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties® (BPS) was established in 1976 as an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association. Today, BPS is the gold standard in post-licensure certification worldwide.
OUR VISION
The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), the premier post-licensure certification agency, will ensure that BPS Board-Certified Pharmacists are recognized within healthcare delivery systems while serving the needs of the public and the pharmacy profession.

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties is to improve patient care by promoting the recognition and value of specialized training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy and specialty board certification of pharmacists. We accomplish this mission by:

- Providing leadership for the profession of pharmacy in the discussion, evolution, direction and recognition of specialty board certification of pharmacists.
- Establishing and promoting, in collaboration with stakeholders, the value of pharmacy specialization and board certification.
- Establishing the standards for identification and recognition of pharmacy specialties.
- Establishing standards of eligibility, knowledge and skills for pharmacists as the basis for board certification.
- Developing and administering a valid process to evaluate the knowledge and skills for recognition of board certified pharmacists.
- Assessing and recognizing the continued eligibility, knowledge, and skills of board certified pharmacist specialists through a valid re-certification process.
Today, BPS recognizes 14 distinct specialties with active pharmacist certifications nationally and internationally.

- **Nuclear Pharmacy (BCNP)**: 1978
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Nutrition Support Pharmacy (BCNSP)**: 1988
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Pharmacotherapy (BCPS)**: 1988
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Psychiatry Pharmacy (BCPP)**: 1994
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP)**: 1996
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACCP)**: 2009
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Critical Care Pharmacy (BCCCP)**: 2013
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Pediatric Pharmacy (BCPPS)**: 2013
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Geriatric Pharmacy (BCGP)**: 2017
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Cardiology Pharmacy (BCCP)**: 2017
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Infectious Diseases Pharmacy (BCIDP)**: 2017
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Compounded Sterile Preparations Pharmacy (BCSCP)**: 2018
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Solid Organ Transplantation Pharmacy (BCTXP)**: 2018
  More information about this specialty can be found here.

- **Emergency Medicine Pharmacy (BCEMP)**: 2020
  More information about this specialty can be found here.
BPS BY-THE-NUMBERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE PHARMACIST CERTIFICATIONS

Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties by Specialty Area in the U.S. and Abroad as of December 2022 (Total=57,529)

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL PHARMACIST CERTIFICATIONS

Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties by Specialty Area Outside of the U.S. as of December 2022 (5,709 Total Active Certifications Outside the U.S., with the Top 14 of 58 countries listed below)
COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

BPS SPECIALTY COUNCILS

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) has expanded the number of specialties it recognizes due to the growth of the pharmacy profession. BPS currently has 14 specialty councils that help facilitate and produce the exams for their specialty.

To learn more about the members of each specialty council, you can visit the corresponding links below:

- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCACP)
- Cardiology Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCCP)
- Compounded Sterile Preparations Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCSCP)
- Critical Care Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCCCP)
- Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCEMP)
- Geriatric Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCGP)
- Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCIDP)
- Nuclear Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCNP)
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCNSP)
- Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCOP)
- Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCPPS)
- Pharmacotherapy Specialty Council (BCPS)
- Psychiatry Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCPP)
- Solid Organ Transplantation Pharmacy Specialty Council (BCTXP)
PHARMACIST AMBASSADORS

BPS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) Ambassador program showcases BPS Board-Certified Pharmacists and their experiences advancing practice in their communities and improving patient care. In these engaging videos, the 2021 BPS Ambassadors highlight the value of board certification in their own unique stories.

Stephanie Gaston, RPh, BCACP

Stephanie Gaston, RPh, BCACP shares how board certification has impacted her career and how certification through BPS can give direction and purpose for a pharmacist at any point in their career.

Watch her video here!

Teisha Robertson, PharmD, MBA, BCGP

Teisha Robertson, PharmD, MBA, BCGP, shares 7 fun facts about BPS and highlights the benefits of board certification for pharmacists, patients, and healthcare teams.

Watch her video here!

Rosana Steavenson, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP

Rosana Steavenson, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP discusses the value of her board certification in her work with pharmacist mental health through the three C’s of competence, continued professional development, and connectedness

Watch her video here!