



**Examination Specifications
Critical Care Pharmacy
Board of Pharmacy Specialties**

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Critical Care Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCCCP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who have met the eligibility criteria and who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapeutic treatments for critically ill patients across the continuum of care
Program Purpose	To validate that the critical care pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to optimize safety and outcomes for critically ill patients across the continuum of care
Examination Length	150 items, which includes 125 scored items and 25 unscored items
Administration Time	3 Hours and 45 Minutes
ECO Creation Date	June 2026

This document serves as examination specifications and certification scheme according to the respective requirements of the NCCA and ISO-IEC 17024 standards. For more information about the BCCCP examination program, please refer to the candidates guide on the BPS website: www.bpsweb.org.

Eligibility Requirements

An individual must meet all three requirements listed:

- 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.
- A current, active license/registration to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction.
- One of the following within the past 7 years:
 - o At least 4 years of Critical Care Pharmacy practice experience¹, with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - o Successful completion of PGY1 pharmacy residency², plus at least 2 years of Critical Care Pharmacy practice experience¹ with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - o Successful completion of PGY2 pharmacy residency² in Critical Care Pharmacy

¹All practice experience must be completed post-licensure/registration as a pharmacist. All applicants intending to demonstrate eligibility for any BPS certification examination utilizing the practice experience pathway must provide an attestation from their employer, on company letterhead, that verifies this experience accurately represents at least 50% of time spent in some or all of the activities defined by the applicable certification content outline. In addition, this practice experience must have occurred within the seven years immediately preceding the application. For more information, [click here](#). A sample employer verification letter is available [here](#).

²Residency 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.

The rationale for the appropriateness of the requirements for BPS certification programs are based upon the following:

- BPS recognizes individuals who graduate from a recognized school or college of pharmacy within the candidate's jurisdiction. Those jurisdictions recognize and evaluate programs on the extent to which it accomplishes its stated goals and is consistent with the concept that pharmacy is a unique, personal service profession in the health science field. In the United States, the responsibility for recognizing schools and colleges of pharmacy falls to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).
- The rationale for requiring licensure or registration of pharmacists within their jurisdiction is based upon the fact that for public protection, all pharmacists must be licensed or registered. This is considered a baseline requirement to be a pharmacist specialist. In the United States, BPS recognizes the licensure process administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) aims to ensure the public's health and safety through its pharmacist license transfer and pharmacist competence assessment programs. NABP's member boards of pharmacy are grouped into [eight districts](#) that include all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and all 10 Canadian provinces.
- The experiential component is required to help assure practical application of components of the specialty knowledge being certified. There are multiple pathways to meet the practice experience requirement. The faster eligibility pathways recognize accredited residencies through the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). The ASHP residency accreditation program identifies and grants public recognition to practice sites having pharmacy residency training programs that have been evaluated and found to meet the qualifications of one of the ASHP's residency accreditations standards. Thus, accreditation of a pharmacy residency program provides a means of assurance to residency applicants that a program meets certain basic requirements and is, therefore, an acceptable site for postgraduate training in pharmacy practice in organized health care.
- Passing the BPS pharmacy specialty examination helps assure knowledge consistent with the validated content outline for the BPS specialty.

The appropriateness of the BPS program requirements are consistent with the Council on Credentialing in Pharmacy's Resource Paper titled: Scope of Contemporary Pharmacy Practice: Roles, Responsibilities, and Functions of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.

Examination Content Outline

1	Patient Assessment and Care Planning	22%
1.01	Triage and Prioritization	
1.02	Medical Emergencies	
1.03	Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing	
1.04	Therapeutic Targets and Endpoints	
1.05	Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics	
1.06	Healthcare Access, Quality, and Equity	
1.07	Shared Decision-Making and Patient Advocacy	
1.08	Special Populations (e.g., pregnancy/peripartum, extremes in weight, immunocompromised)	
2	Pharmacotherapy for Critically Ill Patients	43%
2.01	Pharmacotherapy for Respiratory Conditions	
2.02	Pharmacotherapy for Cardiovascular Conditions	
2.03	Pharmacotherapy for Nephrology Conditions	
2.04	Pharmacotherapy for Neurological Conditions	
2.05	Pharmacotherapy for Gastroenterology Conditions	
2.06	Pharmacotherapy for Toxicology	
2.07	Pharmacotherapy for Infectious Diseases	
2.08	Pharmacotherapy for Trauma and Dermatology	
2.09	Pharmacotherapy for Hematology, Oncology, and Immunology	
2.10	Pharmacotherapy for Endocrine Conditions	
2.11	Pharmacotherapy for Hepatic Conditions	
2.12	Pharmacotherapy for Supportive Care	
2.13	Pharmacotherapy for End-of-Life Care	
2.14	Pharmacotherapy for Patients with Organ Transplants	
2.15	Fluids, Electrolytes, and Nutrition	
3	Implementation, Outcomes, and Monitoring	23%
3.01	Medical Therapies and Devices (e.g., ECMO, mechanical circulatory support, RRT, mechanical/assisted ventilation)	
3.02	Medication Delivery (e.g., routes of administration, delivery devices, anatomic alterations)	
3.03	Perioperative Care	
3.04	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring	
3.05	Physiologic Response Monitoring	
3.06	Drug Interactions and Adverse Reactions	
3.07	Interdisciplinary Care Coordination	
3.08	Transitions of Care (e.g., medication reconciliation, disposition, stepdown, PICS)	
4	Professional Practice	12%
4.01	Medication Safety and Risk Mitigation	
4.02	Pharmacoeconomics and Formulary Management	
4.03	Informatics and Clinical Decision Support Systems	
4.04	Healthcare Regulations and Standards (e.g., FDA, TJC, CMS, NIOSH, USP<800>)	
4.05	Literature Evaluation (e.g., statistics, research methods, publications, applicability, IRB/IEC)	
4.06	Quality Management and Process Improvement	

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.

Maintenance of Certification

Recertification Requirements	Credential-holders will be required to maintain their certification over a 7-year period by completing one of the following recertification pathways: <u>Option One: Recertification Examination</u> • <u>BCCCP with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination • <u>BCCCP with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Achieve a passing score on the specialty certification examination and report 20 units of continuing professional development (CPD) (assessed CPE can also satisfy this requirement) by the end of the 7-year recertification cycle <u>Option Two: Professional Development Program</u> • <u>BCCCP with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Complete 100 units of BPS-approved, assessed continuing pharmacy education (CPE) provided by the professional development programs offered by: ○ The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in collaboration with The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) • <u>BCCCP with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2024 or later:</u> Earn 100 units, comprised of at least 80 units of assessed CPE from BPS-approved professional development programs and up to 20 units of self-reported CPD (assessed CPE can also satisfy this requirement), by the end of the 7-year recertification cycle. Assessed CPE is provided by the professional development programs offered by: ○ The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in collaboration with The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) <i>To maintain an active certification in good standing, a minimum of two units of BPS-approved, assessed CPE or self-reported CPD must be reported each year. Credential-holders may participate in recertification from any BPS-approved programs identified for the credential.</i>
Ethics and Professionalism	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. Please refer to the BPS Ethics and Professionalism Policy: https://www.bpsweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ethics.pdf