



Examination Specifications Oncology Pharmacy Board of Pharmacy Specialties

Name of Credential	BPS Board-Certified Oncology Pharmacist
Certification-Issuing Body	Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Designation Awarded	BCOP
Level of Proficiency	Specialty Certification
Target Population	Pharmacists who design, implement, monitor, and modify pharmacotherapy, including investigational therapies, associated with the treatment of cancer and/or classical hematologic conditions
Program Purpose	To validate that the pharmacist has the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience to provide treatment, supportive care, and education that optimizes safety and outcomes for individuals with cancer and/or classical hematologic conditions
Examination Length	150 items, which includes 125 scored items and 25 unscored items
Administration Time	3 Hours and 45 Minutes
ECO Creation Date	May 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 BCOP 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:
 - At least 4 years of Oncology Pharmacy practice experience after licensure/registration as a pharmacist¹, with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - Successful completion of PGY1 pharmacy residency², plus at least 2 years of Oncology Pharmacy practice experience after licensure/registration as a pharmacist¹ with at least 50% of time spent in the scope defined by the exam content outline
 - Successful completion of PGY2 pharmacy residency² in Oncology 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	19%
1.01	Cancer Detection, Prevention, and Risk-Reduction	
1.02	Genomic and Genetic Testing (e.g., genomic alterations, gene amplification, types of mutations, NGS)	
1.03	Prognostic and Predictive Testing (e.g., IPI, FLIPI, Oncotype DX)	
1.04	Biomarker Testing (e.g., PDL1, TMB, TPS, CPS)	
1.05	Clinical Assessment (e.g., laboratory testing, diagnostic testing, comorbidities)	
1.06	Shared Decision-Making and Goals of Treatment	
1.07	Healthcare Access and Quality	
2	Treatment for Oncology and Classical Hematology	31%
2.01	Chemotherapy	
2.02	Targeted Therapy	
2.03	Hormone Therapy	
2.04	Immunotherapy	
2.05	Surgery	
2.06	Radiation Therapy	
2.07	Radiopharmaceuticals	
2.08	Stem Cell Transplantation	
2.09	Cellular Therapy	
2.10	Treatment for Classical Hematology (e.g., anticoagulants, anti-anemics, thrombopoietins, gene therapy)	
2.11	Complementary and Alternative Therapies (e.g., exercise, acupuncture, supplements)	
3	Implementation, Monitoring, and Outcomes	32%
3.01	Medication Delivery (e.g., routes of administration, delivery devices)	
3.02	Pharmacogenomics	
3.03	Drug Interactions	
3.04	Mechanisms of Drug Actions/Resistance	
3.05	Complications of Treatment and Adverse Events	
3.06	Oncologic Emergencies	
3.07	Palliative and Supportive Care	
3.08	Hospice and Comfort Care	
3.09	Survivorship Care	
3.10	Interdisciplinary Care Coordination	
3.11	Patient Education, Counseling, and Resources	
4	Professional Practice	18%
4.01	Investigational Drug Management	
4.02	Research Methods and Statistics (e.g., phases, objectives, endpoints, research study design, clinical trial design)	
4.03	Regulations and Ethics (e.g., IRB/IEC, compassionate use, IND process, right-to-try)	
4.04	Medication Inventory Management (e.g., pharmacoeconomics, procurement, allocation, tracking, biosimilars)	
4.05	Drug Handling and Disposal (e.g., USP<800>, radiopharmaceuticals)	
4.06	Medication Safety (e.g., REMS, VAERS, barcodes, ISMP)	

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| 4.07 | Risk Mitigation (e.g., failure mode effects analysis, root cause analysis) |
| 4.08 | Quality Management and Process Improvement |
| 4.09 | Informatics and Clinical Decision Support Systems |

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>BCOP with certification cycle beginning January 1, 2023 or earlier:</u> Achieve a passing score on the examination • <u>BCOP 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>BCOP 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 Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) ○ The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) • <u>BCOP 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 Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in collaboration with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) ○ The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) <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