BPS Board Certification
Information for Student Pharmacists

From the Board of Pharmacy Specialties
What is BPS?

- The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)
  - Autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
  - The mission of BPS is to improve patient care by positioning BPS Board-Certified Pharmacy Specialists as integral members of healthcare teams, through recognition and promotion of specialized training, knowledge, and skills for pharmacists in the United States and internationally.
About BPS

Governance and Credentials

Board of Directors

Specialty Council on Nuclear Pharmacy (1978) [BCNP]


Specialty Council on Pharmacotherapy (1988) [BCPS]

Specialty Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy (1994) [BCPP]

Specialty Council on Oncology Pharmacy (1996) [BCOP]

Specialty Council on Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (2009) [BCACP]

Specialty Council on Critical Care Pharmacy (2013) [BCCCP]

Specialty Council on Pediatric Pharmacy (2013) [BCPPS]

Specialty Council on Geriatric Pharmacy (1997) [BCGP]

Moved to BPS in 2017

Specialty Council on Cardiology Pharmacy (2017) [BCCP]

Specialty Council on Infectious Diseases Pharmacy (2017) [BCIDP]

Specialty Council on Compounded Sterile Preparations Pharmacy (2018) [BCSCP]

Specialty Council on Solid Organ Transplantation Pharmacy (2018) [BCTXP]

Specialty Council on Emergency Medicine Pharmacy (2020) [BCEMP]

Pain Management Pharmacy

Anticipated First Exam TBD
Value of BPS Board Certification

Career Advancement  Financial Incentives  Peer Recognition  Stay Up-to-Date  Personal Gratification
BPS Eligibility Criteria

When is someone eligible to sit for an exam?

Graduation from a pharmacy program

Achieve and maintain current, active license/registration to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or another jurisdiction and provide demonstration of practice experience

Fulfilled BPS eligibility requirements for board certification of interest
**BPS Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility (except BCPS, BCNP, BCNSP, BCSCP)

- Completion of a PGY1 residency (ASHP or CPRB accredited) **AND** completion of 2 additional years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in activities relevant to the Content Outline.

- Completion of a PGY2 residency (ASHP accredited) **OR** completion of 4 years of practice experience with at least 50% of time spent in activities relevant to the Content Outline. **AND** achieve a passing score on the Certification Examination.

*ASHP: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
CPRB: Canadian Pharmacy residency Board
BPS Psychometric Process

Independence and Rigor

- Job analysis
  - Mixed-methods research
  - Literature searches
  - Focus group interviews
  - Surveying
  - Informs definition of the specialty practice area
  - Results from domains of the examination
  - Occur approximately every five years

- Content Outline is available on the BPS website
BPS Examination Content Outlines

Pharmacotherapy

Domain 1 (65%): Patient-Centered Pharmacotherapy

Domain 2 (25%): Application of Evidence to Practice and Education

Domain 3 (10%): Healthcare Systems and Population Health
BPS Recertification

- Once a board-certified pharmacist achieves certification, they must maintain that certification.

- BPS certification follows a 7-year recertification process.

- Recertification helps to ensure that a board-certified pharmacist is staying up to date on their pharmacy specialty practice.

- BPS offers different paths to maintain certification. More information can be found at https://bpsweb.org/recertification-overview/
Opportunities to get involved with BPS
The American Pharmacists Association and Board of Pharmacy Specialties offer a one-year Executive Fellowship in Association Management for early career post-PharmD graduates.

- Exposure to high priority issues from the perspective of a certification agency
- Work with the P.A.C.E Team
- Enhance skills in communication and project management
- Contribute to global strategic goals and initiatives
- Network with pharmacy leaders and subject matter experts in both APhA and BPS

For more information you can check out: APhA/BPS Executive Fellowship
The American Pharmacists Association and Board of Pharmacy Specialties offer a rotational experience.

- Experience a unique and highly individualized experience in association management.
- Participate in leadership meetings
- Identify and analyze high priority issues in pharmacy
- Develop skills in project management, communication, information gathering, and analysis within a certification agency
- Expand your network with staff and pharmacists from various settings.

For more information you can check out: APhA Experiential Program Page
Questions?

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