

Credentialing Guidelines and Requirements

A Candidate Guidebook

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Maintaining PTCB Certifications

Certification Renewal

PTCB certificants are required to recertify to maintain active certification. Many employers and/or State Boards of Pharmacy require CPhTs to maintain their PTCB Certification. The purpose of recertification is to ensure that pharmacy technicians stay current in pharmacy practice through the completion of Continuing Education (CE) and/or training, skill and competency assessments. CPhTs must have an NABP e-Profile ID on file with PTCB that is visible in their PTCB Account in order to recertify. Certificants who do not have an e-Profile ID will not be able to recertify or reinstate their credential. To obtain an NABP e-Profile ID, visit [NABP.pharmacy](https://nabp.pharmacy). The complete Recertification Policy is available in [Appendix H](#).

What is Continuing Education?

According to the [Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education \(ACPE\)](#), continuing pharmacy education is, “a structured educational activity designed or intended to support the continuing development of pharmacists and/or pharmacy technicians to maintain and enhance their competence. Continuing pharmacy education (CPE) should promote problem-solving and critical thinking and be applicable to the safe practice of pharmacy.”

Approved Activities

Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences. Credit may be earned by attending seminars, workshops, conferences, or other educational programs that contain subject matter contained within the PTCB Certification Program's Exam Content Outline. These activities may include a live, web-based, or recorded presentation, teleconference, virtual meeting, panel discussion, or workshop.

College Courses. A maximum of 10 hours may be earned by completing a relevant college course equal to 3 academic credit hours with a grade of “C” or better. Relevant coursework must contain subject matter contained within the PTCB Certification Program's Exam Content Outline.

Service to PTCB. Credit may be earned for unpaid participation in certain PTCB activities and functions that are essential to maintaining the Certification Program. The activities and functions that are eligible for CE hours and the amount of CE hours that will be granted are at the discretion of the PTCB Certification Council.

Continuing Education (CE) Documentation

PTCB certificants must maintain their own records of continuing education hours earned during each recertification period and are responsible for maintaining these records for at least one year after the certification cycle ends. Acceptable documentation of participation in a college course may be either a transcript or a grade report. Certificants are randomly selected for an audit of their continuing education (CE) and PTCB has the discretion to audit the recertification eligibility of a PTCB certificant at any time.

Applying for Recertification

Certificants apply online from within their PTCB Account. A paper application is only available to those with a disability or

hardship that precludes using the online application. Requests to use the paper application must be submitted in writing to PTCB and include appropriate documentation of the disability or hardship.

Certificants can apply for recertification 60 days prior to their certification expiration date. PTCB will notify certificants via email when their Recertification Window has opened. Certificants must submit their application by 11:59 PM ET of their Application Deadline, which is the first day of the certification expiration month. Applications submitted after the Application Deadline will incur the \$25 late application processing fee. PTCB will still accept recertification applications up until the expiration date but cannot guarantee that applications submitted after the application deadline will be processed before the expiration date.

All applications are processed by PTCB in the order in which they are received. Once an application is accepted, PTCB will verify the CE activities in [CPE Monitor](#) for up to 60 days. PTCB will then notify certificants via email when their application is approved and the CEs have been verified. Certificants will be able to log into their PTCB Account to download and print an updated certificate and wallet card.

Returned Applications

Applications that are incomplete, contain errors, do not meet CE requirements, provide inadequate CE information (e.g., do not include the full name of the course and provider), or are accompanied by an incorrect payment amount will be returned for correction. Returned renewal application notifications will be sent via email and the certificant will have 30 days to submit corrections and the \$10 nonrefundable reprocessing fee to PTCB. PTCB will not accept CEs completed outside of the applicable recertification cycle during this return period.

Current Renewal Fees

Review [PTCB's Refund Policy](#) for additional information.

CPHt/CPHt-Adv RENEWAL FEES	CSPT RENEWAL FEES	MISCELLANEOUS
Recertification Application Fee: \$55	Recertification Application Fee*: \$20	Recertification Late Application Processing Fee**: \$25
Reinstatement Fee: \$95	Reinstatement Fee: \$40	Reprocessing Fee***: \$10

*Only applies when renewing CSPT® only (mid-cycle reporting).

**Applies to applications received after the Application Deadline.

***Applies each time an application is returned for corrections. This fee is nonrefundable.

CPhT Recertification Requirements

PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs) are required to recertify every two (2) years to maintain certification. PTCB's CPhT recertification requirements correspond to the biennial renewal schedule for professional pharmacist licensure as governed by State Boards of Pharmacy. CPhTs must complete all continuing education hours within the two (2) year recertification cycle (on or before the expiration date). No CE hours completed before certification is granted may be used to satisfy recertification requirements. In addition, CE hours cannot carry over to a future recertification cycle.

CPhT Continuing Education Requirements

During each two (2) year recertification cycle, CPhT Certificants are required to complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours of CE containing subject matter listed within PTCB's [Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam® \(PTCE®\) Content Outline](#). For recertification candidates, one (1) hour of the twenty (20) hours must be in the subject of pharmacy law and one (1) hour must be in the subject of patient safety (refer to Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) definition of patient safety, defined in the ACPE Policy and Procedures Manual). For reinstatement candidates, two (2) of the twenty (20) hours must be in the subject of pharmacy law and one (1) hour must be in the subject of patient safety. A maximum of ten (10) hours of the twenty (20) CE hours may be earned by completing a relevant college course equal to 3 academic credit hours with a grade of "C" or better. Relevant coursework must contain subject matter contained within the PTCE Content Outline.

Pharmacy Technician Subject Matter

To qualify as pharmacy technician subject matter, a CE activity must contain subject matter listed in PTCB's PTCE Content Outline. Accepted CE are described in the following statements:

1. CE activities offered by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited providers with the target audience designation 'T' satisfy the requirement of pertaining to pharmacy technician subject matter found within the PTCE Content Outline.

- PTCB accepts CE from ACPE-accredited providers with the target audience designation 'P' (pharmacist-specific; 'P-specific') not to exceed five (5) hours for CPhTs if the CE activity contains subject matter found within the PTCE Content Outline.
- CE activities from non-ACPE-accredited providers will be accepted if PTCB determines that the activity contains subject matter listed within the PTCE Content Outline.

For renewal applications submitted after September 1, 2020, PTCB requires a minimum of 15 T-specific CE hours and accepts a maximum of 5 P-specific CE hours completed from ACPE-accredited providers. At least one (1) hour of CE activity must have the '03' ACPE topic designator for pharmacy law, and at least one (1) hour of CE activity must have the '05' ACPE topic designator for patient safety.

CSPT Recertification Requirements

CSPTs are required to recertify every year to maintain certification. This annual requirement is consistent with the training and competency requirements required by USP and other authoritative bodies. To be eligible for recertification, a CSPT must be an active PTCB CPhT or CPhT-Adv in good standing. CSPTs must complete and submit the CSPT Competency Attestation Form during each one-year recertification cycle (on or before the expiration date).

Once a PTCB CPhT earns the CSPT certification, the CSPT certification expiration month will align with the CPhT expiration month.

If the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is within 6 months of the initial certification date, the CSPT certification expiration will be 1 year from the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date. For example, if the CSPT is earned on January 31, 2023, and the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is April 30, 2023, the CSPT expiration date will be April 30, 2024. The CSPT certification will need to be renewed the following year.

If the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is between 6 months and 18 months after the initial CSPT certification date, the CSPT certification expiration date will be equal to the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration year. For example, if the CSPT is earned on January 31, 2023 and the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is August 31, 2024, the CSPT expiration date will be August 31, 2024. Both certifications will need to be renewed by August 31, 2024.

If the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is more than 18 months from the CSPT initial certification date, the CSPT expiration date will be 1 year before the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date. For example, if the CSPT is earned on January 31, 2023, and the CPhT or CPhT-Adv expiration date is October 31, 2024, the CSPT expiration date will be October 31, 2023. The CSPT certification will need to be renewed by October 31, 2023.

EARNED CSPT	WITHIN EXPIRATION DATE	CPhT or CPhT-Adv EXPIRATION DATE	CSPT EXPIRATION DATE
January 31, 2023	6 months	April 30, 2023	April 30, 2024
January 31, 2023	6-18 months	August 31, 2024	August 31, 2024
January 31, 2023	More than 18 months	October 31, 2024	October 31, 2023

When a PTCB CPhT or CPhT-Adv certification is renewed along with the CSPT certification, a minimum of 10 Compounding CEs (earned any time over the two-year CPhT or CPhT-Adv renewal cycle) and the CSPT Competency Attestation Form are required to be submitted at the time of renewal. No CE hours and/or CSPT Competency Attestation Forms completed before certification is granted may be used to satisfy recertification requirements. In addition, CE hours/CSPT Competency Attestation Forms cannot carry over to a future recertification cycle. A loss of CPhT or CPhT-Adv certification due to failure to recertify, revocation, or any other reason will result in the loss of CSPT certification.

CREDENTIAL	REQUIREMENTS
CSPT (only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual attestation form
CPhT + CSPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 sterile compounding CEs (earned any time during two-year renewal cycle) annual attestation form CPhT-required CEs
CPhT-Adv + CSPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 sterile compounding CEs (earned any time during two-year renewal cycle) annual attestation form CPhT-Adv-required CEs

Sterile Compounding Subject Matter

To qualify as sterile compounding, a CE activity must contain subject matter related to compounding sterile preparations.

CPhT-Adv Recertification Requirements

CPhT-Adv certificants must satisfy the CPhT CE requirements plus an additional five (5) hours of CE in any pharmacy topic for a total of twenty-five (25) during each two (2)-year recertification cycle. For recertification candidates, one (1) hour of the twenty-five (25) hours must be in the subject of pharmacy law and one (1) hour must be in the subject of patient safety. For reinstatement candidates, two (2) of the twenty-five (25) hours must be in the subject of pharmacy law and one (1) hour must be in the subject of patient safety.