

A Comparison of National Certifications Across School Professionals

| | NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER (NBCT) | NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NCSP) | NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR (NCSC) | CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (ASHA - CCC) | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED (OTR) & CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT COTA(COTA) |
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| AWARDED BY | The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) | National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) | National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) | American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA) | The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, (NBCOT) |
| PURPOSE | The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization created in 1987, whose purpose is to improve student learning in America's schools by developing a new system of advanced voluntary certification for elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers. | The NCSP is a credential awarded through the National School Psychology Certification System of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), which is an independent, not-for-profit professional organization who created the NCSP for the purpose of credentialing school psychologists who meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards of training and continuing professional development. | The NCSC is a credential awarded through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The NBCC is an independent, not-for-profit credentialing body, which was incorporated in 1982, whose purpose is to establish and monitor a national certification system, to identify for professionals and the public those counselors who have voluntarily sought and obtained certification, and to maintain a register of those counselors. | American Speech Hearing Association's national credential, the Certificate of Clinical Competence (ASHA - CCC) is the only universally recognized credential in the profession. This widely recognized and well-respected symbol of quality offered to qualified audiologists and speech-language pathologists heads the list of valuable benefits and services provided to members by ASHA. | The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) is a not-for-profit credentialing agency that provides national certification for the occupational therapy profession. NBCOT provides national standards for OTR® and COTA® certification. NBCOT® serves the public interest by developing, administering and continually reviewing a certification process that reflects current standards of competent practice in occupational therapy. |

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| WHY BECOME NATIONALLY CERTIFIED | <p>NBPTS Certification is a way for the <i>teaching</i> profession to define and recognize highly accomplished practice. A certificate awarded by the National Board attests that a <i>teacher</i> has been judged by his or her peers as one who meets high and rigorous professional standards in five core propositions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning 2. Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students 3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning 4. Teachers think systemically about their practice and learn from experience 5. Teachers are members of the learning communities | <p>The NCSP certification aims to promote excellence in the field of school psychology by acknowledging school psychologists who meet rigorous nationally recognized standards of training and competency. Specially, national certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advances training and practice standards to promote best practices in service to children and youth 2. Provides uniform national standards to measure professional qualifications of individuals 3. Encourages continuing professional growth and development 4. Enhances professional opportunities for credentialed school psychologists 5. Facilitates state certification through reciprocity with states that accept the NCSP | <p>NBCC National Board Certification is a continuing source of pride and career enhancement for counseling professionals. The purpose of national certification is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote professional accountability and visibility 2. Identify to the public and professional peers those counselors who have met specific professional standards 3. Advance cooperation among groups and agencies actively involved in professional credentialing activities 4. Encourage the continuing professional growth and development of National Certified Counselors 5. Ensure national standard developed by counselors | <p>ASHA's Certificates of Clinical Competence, the CCCs, are the nation's most widely recognized symbols of competency for speech-language pathology and audiology professionals. Advantages of certification include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certification is the public's assurance that an individual has met rigorous, peer-developed and reviewed standards endorsed by a national professional body 2. Employers welcome and respect certification by a national body 3. The certification agency is often used to verify credentials. 4. Certification limits liability claims 5. Certification is a fundamental standard among major health professions in this country 6. Certification is important for internal professional recognition, external verification, and accountability | <p>NBCOT certifications are nationally recognized symbols of quality for OT professionals. The purpose of pursuing the national credentialing process is to further affirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the practitioner's professional achievements 2. the practitioner's credibility 3. the practitioner's meeting of all national standards by a nationally recognized certification board |

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| PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS | To qualify for national certification candidates must have a bachelor's degree, a state teacher certification, and 3 years teaching experience. | To qualify for national certification NCSP candidates must have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate study in "School Psychology," culminating in a MA, Ed.S., Ph.D. or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree. All candidates must also complete a rigorous program of study including supervised practica and a culminating 1,200 clock-hour supervised internship. Graduates of NASP approved programs have met all national coursework requirements. All other applicants must provide documents of having met these pre-requisite standards. | To qualify for national certification candidates must complete a post-baccalaureate degree with a major study in counseling from a regionally accredited college or university and pass a challenging national application and examination process. They also must meet specific semester or quarter hour requirements and content area requirements. Requires 100 hours of face-to-face counseling supervision . | To qualify for national certification candidates must have completed 75 semester credit hours culminating in a master's, doctoral, or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree. The graduate education in speech-language pathology must be initiated and completed in a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association | To qualify for NBCOT - OTR certification, candidates must demonstrate successful completion of and graduated from a post-baccalaureate accredited occupational therapy professional program recognized by NBCOT; complete all fieldwork requirements; and; agree to abide by the NBCOT Candidate/Certificant Code of Conduct. |

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| REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION | <p>To determine if a teacher meets the standards to become Nationally Board Certified, the following two-part assessment process must be completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first component, done at a teacher's school, is a portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios may include videotapes of classroom interactions or discussions, and collections of certain kinds of student work. • An analysis of the teaching reflected in the videotape or student work is also required. • The portfolio also documents teachers' work outside the classroom with families, colleagues, and the community. • The second component involves a written assessment which is comprised of six exercises designed to demonstrate content knowledge, up to 30 minutes per exercise. | <p>NASP Standards require that school psychology candidates demonstrate competency in 11 domains of professional practice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data-based Decision-Making and Accountability 2. Consultation and Collaboration 3. Effective Instruction and Development of Cognitive/Academic Skills 4. Socialization and Development of Life Skills 5. Student Diversity in Development and Learning 6. School and Systems Organization, Policy Development, and Climate 7. Prevention, Crisis Intervention and Mental Health 8. Home/School/Community Collaboration 9. Research and Program Evaluation 10. School Psychology Practice and Development 11. Information Technology | <p>To qualify for national certification, candidates must complete coursework that includes at least one course in each of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Growth and Development 2. Social and Cultural Foundations 3. Helping Relations 4. Group Work 5. Career and Lifestyle Development 6. Appraisal 7. Research and Program Evaluation 8. Professional Orientation 9. Field Experience/ 10. Internship (two semesters which include video and audio tape critiques and in-vivo performance critiques). Coursework must be at least 2 semester hours or 3 quarter hours in length. 11. An NBCC applicant must document two years of post-master's supervised counseling experience with a minimum of 3,000 client | <p>To qualify for national certification candidates must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 27 semester credit hours in basic science course work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 credit hours in the biological/physical sciences and mathematics ▪ 6 semester credit hours in the behavioral and/or social sciences ▪ 15 semester credit hours in the basic human communication processes • At least 36 semester credit hours in professional coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30 credits in the major area of concentration ▪ 6 credits the minor area of concentration ▪ 30 credits at the graduate level with 21 in the major area of concentration. • 375 Clock Hours of Supervised Clinical Observation/Practice, 325 hours at graduate | <p>Candidates applying for OTR certification after January 1, 2007, must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have successfully completed and graduated from a post-baccalaureate accredited* occupational therapy professional program recognized by NBCOT 2. Have completed all fieldwork requirements; and 3. Agree to abide by the NBCOT Candidate/Certificant Code of Conduct. 4. Achieved passing score on NBCOT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED OTR® Certification Examination <p>*Accredited occupational therapy programs recognized by NBCOT include education programs accredited by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association; or 2. The World Federation of |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must complete a NCSP Case Study. This requirement demonstrates that the candidate possess the professional skills necessary to deliver effective services that result in positive, measurable outcomes for clients. • Candidates must have completed a 1,200 clock-hour supervised internship in school psychology of which 600 hours must be in a school setting. <p>Candidates must achieve a passing score on the National School Psychology Examination, administered by the Educational Testing Service (Praxis II: NTE Test #10400)</p> | <p>contact hours and 100 hours of direct supervision.</p> <p>12. An NBCC applicant must provide two professional reference assessments – one being from a recent supervisor and the other from a National Board Certified Counselor.</p> <p>13. An NBCC applicant must pass the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE).</p> | <p>level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Fellowship: 36 weeks of full-time professional experience under the supervision of an individual who holds the CCCs in the area for which certification is sought. • Passing score on National Examination | <p>Occupational Therapists (WFOT).</p> <p>Foreign-educated candidates must also complete the NBCOT pre-screening requirements prior to being eligible to take the Certification Examination and complete the obligatory U.S. Department of Homeland Security requirements to be issued on a health care work Visa.</p> |
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| COST | The cost of the NBPTS National Board Certification is \$2,500.00 with an additional \$65 non-refundable processing fee. There are federal, state, and local funding sources as well as scholarships from corporations and organizations that will reimburse up to \$2000 | There are two separate fees for the initial certification process; the application fee is \$95 for NASP members, \$50 for student or transition members, and \$195.00 for non-members, and the examination fee \$115 (\$40 registration fee plus \$75 test fee) payable to ETS. There is also a renewal fee (\$80 for NASP Members & \$180 for non-members). | The NCSC application and examination fee varies depending upon postmark date and exam status. NCSCs must adhere to the NBCC Code of Ethics, and must pay, on a yearly basis, the annual maintenance fee of \$60.00 for NCE and \$30.00 for NCSC. There is also an Examination fee. | The fees for certification include an application fee for non-members of \$430 (\$486 for membership and certification) and a yearly maintenance fee of \$174 for members and non-members. There is also an examination fee for the PRAXIS. | There is a total fee of \$450 for online application and exam fees Renewal fee is \$ 60 |

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| RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National board certification is valid for a period of 10 years • NBCT holders can only renew certification in the original certificate area. • NBCT holders can only formally begin working on certification renewal as early as year eight of the certification period. • The total fee for certificate renewal is \$1,150.00, which includes a \$300.00 nonrefundable application fee. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is also a renewal fee of \$180 (\$80 for NASP Members). • NCSPs must engage in activities designed to maintain, expand, and extend their professional training and skills • Specifically, each NCSP must be renewed every three years with 75 contact hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities The hours must be fulfilled through a variety of NASP, state affiliate, or equivalent programs. | <p>National Certified School Counselors are required to provide documentation to completion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual maintenance of \$30.00 during each 5-year certification period • 100 contact clock hours from the 10 approved content areas of continuing education Or take and pass again the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certified (NCE). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual maintenance fee of \$174 for members & non-members Certification renewal every three years which requires 30 contact hours of professional development activities during each 3-year maintenance interval | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification renewal every three years • 36 Professional Development Units (18 must be directly related to service delivery and the remainder can be obtained from activities related to the delivery of occupational therapy services) • Certification is required for initial state licensure The fee for the 3-year renewal cycle is \$60.00. If "inactive," the late fee is \$50.00 for a total of \$110.00 due to renew. |