

## A Comparison of National Certifications Across School Professionals

	<b>NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER (NBCT)</b>	<b>NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NCSP)</b>	<b>NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR (NCSC)</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE IN SPEECH - LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (ASHA-CCC)</b>	<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED (OTR)</b>
<b>AWARDED BY</b>	The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)	National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)	National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)	The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
<b>ABOUT</b>	The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental organization. It was created in 1987, with the purpose of advancing the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching, and creating a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts.	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 graduate preparation, ethical and professional practice, 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.	The Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) is a nationally recognized professional credential that represents a level of excellence in the field of Audiology (CCC-A) or Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP). The standards for certification for audiology and speech-language pathology are established by ASHA's Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC).	The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT) is a not-for-profit credentialing agency that provides certification for the occupational therapy profession. NBCOT serves the public interest by developing, administering and continually reviewing a certification process that reflects current standards of competent practice in occupational therapy. NBCOT also works with state regulatory authorities, providing information on credentials, disciplinary actions, and regulatory and certification renewal issues.

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<b>WHY BECOME NATIONALLY CERTIFIED</b>	<p>NBPTS Certification is a way for the teaching profession to define and recognize highly accomplished practice. Teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met high standards through study, expert evaluation, self- assessment and peer review.</p> <p>The process of applying for and earning National Board Certification through the NBCT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthens practice.</li> <li>2. Helps students succeed.</li> <li>3. Builds leadership skills.</li> <li>4. Helps expand influence and expertise with regard to curricular decisions and policies.</li> <li>5. Helps advance careers.</li> <li>6. Provides portability.</li> <li>7. Offers higher salary potential.</li> <li>8. Enhances education.</li> <li>9. Meets most states' definition of "highly qualified teacher" under NCLB.</li> </ol>	<p>The NCSP credential aims to promote excellence in the field of school psychology by acknowledging school psychologists who meet rigorous nationally recognized standards of graduate preparation, ethical practice, and competency.</p> <p>Specially, national certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advances graduate preparation and practice standards to promote best practices in service to children and youth</li> <li>2. Provides uniform national standards to measure professional qualifications</li> <li>3. Encourages continuing professional growth and development</li> <li>4. Enhances professional opportunities for credentialed school psychologists</li> <li>5. Facilitates state certification through reciprocity with states that accept the NCSP</li> </ol>	<p>The National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) is a specialty credential which recognizes counselors who possess a minimum of a master's degree in counseling with coursework in school counseling and who have passed a challenging national application and examination process. NCSCs have a strong commitment to the school counseling profession and to providing high quality services to students, parents, teachers and communities.</p> <p>Some advantages of this certification include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification as master's level counseling practitioners who work in school settings</li> <li>2. Recognition by other mental health professionals as experts on the mental health needs of today's school children and adolescents</li> <li>3. Demonstration of an ongoing commitment to high quality school counseling services through continuing education</li> <li>4. Salary increases in an increasing number of states and school systems across the country</li> </ol>	<p>Those who have achieved the CCC—ASHA certification have voluntarily met rigorous academic and professional standards, typically going beyond the minimum requirements for state licensure.</p> <p>Why Choose ASHA Certification?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ASHA is the nation's leading professional, credentialing, and scientific organization for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech/language/hearing scientists.</li> <li>2. ASHA initiated the development of national standards for the professions, and has been certifying since 1952.</li> <li>3. ASHA's certification standards are based on skills validation studies and practice analyses involving employers, leaders in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, and practitioners in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.</li> <li>4. ASHA provides verification of certification to state regulatory agencies.</li> <li>5. You can be sure you will meet state licensure requirements because many states use the ASHA Standards for Clinical Competence as a model for their regulatory requirements</li> </ol>	<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"> <li>1. The practitioners' professional achievements</li> <li>2. The practitioner's credibility</li> <li>3. The practitioner's meeting of all national standards by a nationally recognized certification board</li> </ol>

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<b>REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION</b>	<p>To qualify, candidates must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a Bachelor's degree.</li> <li>2. Have completed three full years of teaching/counseling experience.</li> <li>3. Possess a valid state teaching or counseling license for that period of time, or, if teaching where a license is not required, have taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the state.</li> </ol> <p>In all 25 certificate areas, candidates are required to complete an assessment comprised of four components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component 1 - Content Knowledge</li> <li>• Component 2 - Differentiation in Instruction</li> <li>• Component 3 - Teaching Practice and Learning Environment</li> <li>• Component 4 - Effective and Reflective Practitioner</li> </ul>	<p>To qualify, candidates must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours (i.e., specialist-level) in an organized program of study officially titled "School Psychology".</li> <li>2. Complete a supervised practica and a culminating 1,200 clock-hour supervised internship, with a minimum of 600 hours in a school setting.</li> <li>3. Obtain a passing score on the Praxis National School Psychologist Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service.</li> </ol> <p>Graduates of NASP approved/accredited programs have met all coursework requirements for the NCSP.</p> <p>All other applicants must provide a portfolio documenting knowledge and skills across all domains of professional practice, defined in the NASP Practice Model.</p>	<p>To qualify, candidates must complete the following:</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Master's degree in counseling consisting of at least 48 semester hours of graduate-level credit, with specific required coursework across 9 content areas</p> <p><b>Supervision:</b> at least 100 hours of post-graduate school counseling supervision.</p> <p><b>Professional Endorsement:</b> obtain endorsement from a professional colleague who holds a master's degree or higher in a mental health field</p> <p><b>Work Experience:</b> 3,000 hours of post-graduate counseling work experience over a two-year period.</p> <p><b>Examination:</b> passing score on the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)</p> <p>Several requirements are waived for graduates from CACREP-accredited programs.</p>	<p>To qualify, candidates must meet the following standards:</p> <p>Standard I—Master's, doctoral, or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree</p> <p>Standard II—All graduate coursework and clinical experience must have been completed in a speech-language pathology program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).</p> <p>Standard III—Complete a program of study (a minimum of 36 semester credit hours at the graduate level) that includes academic coursework and supervised clinical experience (minimum of 400 hours) to achieve knowledge skills as specifically described in Standards IV and V.</p> <p>Standard VI—Pass the Praxis examination in speech-language pathology from the Educational Testing Service (ETS).</p> <p>Standard VII—Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship consisting of no less than 36 weeks of full-time professional experience or its part-time equivalent.</p>	<p>To sit for the NBCOT certification exam, candidates must meet the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graduate from a post-baccalaureate accredited* occupational therapy program recognized by NBCOT</li> <li>2. Complete all fieldwork requirements (1,000 hours)</li> <li>3. Achieve a passing score on NBCOT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED OTR® Certification Examination</li> <li>4. Agree to abide by the NBCOT Practice Standards and Code of Conduct</li> </ol> <p>*Accredited occupational therapy programs recognized by NBCOT include education programs accredited by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association; or</li> <li>2. The World Federation of Occupational Therapists</li> </ol>

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<b>COST</b>	<p>\$75 registration fee for each assessment cycle, and \$475 for each of the four component (total \$1900)</p> <p>Retake attempts require an additional fee (\$475 per attempt for components 2-3) Component 1 retake: \$125 per exercise and/or the Selected Response section</p>	<p>Initial certification fees range depending on membership status and whether the applicant graduated from a NASP-approved or accredited program.</p> <p>NASP-approved/accredited program graduate fees for initial certification are \$60 (student, 1<sup>st</sup> year, leave of absence), \$85 (2<sup>nd</sup> year in practice), \$110 (full member); \$210 (nonmember).</p> <p>Fees for graduates from non-approved programs are \$160, \$210, \$260, and \$360 respectively for the categories listed above.</p> <p>There is also an examination fee payable to ETS.</p>	<p>Application fee of \$295.</p> <p>The NCSC application and examination fee may vary depending upon postmark date and exam status. Please check the website for the most up to date information.</p> <p>There is also an Examination fee.</p>	<p>NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) Conversion: \$286</p> <p>Recent Graduate: \$461</p> <p>Certification and ASHA Membership: \$511</p> <p>Certification without ASHA Membership: \$455</p> <p>Dual Certification: \$256</p> <p>There is also a fee for taking the Praxis exam.</p>	<p>There is a total fee of \$515 for the online application and exam fees.</p> <p>Paper applications require a fee of \$555.</p>

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<b>RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	<p>NBCT achieved before 2017 is valid for a period of 10 years. Certifications after 2017 are valid for a period of 5 years. The National Board has revised its policy from renewal to Maintenance of Certification (MOC).</p> <p>Renewal applicants must currently hold a valid teaching license in the state in which they are working, and must demonstrate their Pre-k–12 teaching experience.</p> <p>Renewal submission is called the Profile of Professional Growth (PPG). This can begin as early as your first year of certification and consists of a single submission composed of three interrelated components and a reflection.</p> <p>The total fee for certificate renewal is \$1,250.00 for each attempt.</p>	<p>NCSPs must engage in activities designed to maintain, expand, and extend their professional training and skills</p> <p>Specifically, each NCSP must be renewed every three years with 75 contact hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities. 10 of the 75 CPD hours must come from NASP- or APA-approved providers. NCSPs must also accrue 3 hours of CPD regarding ethical practice and/or the legal regulation of school psychology</p> <p>The renewal fees are \$99 for NASP Members, or \$199 for non-members.</p>	<p>Nationally Certified School Counselors are required to provide documentation of completion of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual maintenance of \$30.00 during each 5- year certification period</li> <li>2. 125 contact clock hours from the 10 approved content areas of continuing education over the five year period.</li> </ol>	<p>Annual maintenance fee</p> <p>Certification renewal every three years which requires 30 contact hours of professional development activities during each 3- year maintenance interval</p>	<p>Certification renewal occurs every three years, and requires 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)</p> <p>The fee for the 3-year renewal cycle is \$65.00.</p>