

What is the Certified Prevention Professional (CPP) Credential?

The CPP is a certification focused on professionals who work in the prevention field. The CPP is also referred to as the Prevention Specialist (PS) credential, which was adopted in 1994 by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). According to IC&RC, the PS is one of the fastest growing credentials in the field of addiction-related behavioral health care.

IC&RC has more than 50 member boards throughout the U.S. states, territories and other countries that offer a reciprocal PS credential.



As the field of prevention expands, certified professionals are increasingly in demand. Obtaining the CPP credential may help with gaining access into the field of prevention and advancing professionally in the field. The certification serves to:

- Demonstrate your high level of commitment to the field of prevention
- Increase opportunities for career advancement and increased earnings
- Attest to an individual's knowledge and skills
- Establish professional development.
- Assist employers in identifying qualified practitioners
- Promote continued professional development

Need a Stepping Stone to a CPP?

PSCBW developed the Associate Prevention Professional (APP) entry level certification, which is targeted toward students or beginning professionals who are learning prevention skills and entering the field.

An APP is a professional that uses specific knowledge and skill sets to provide services and/or programs aimed at preventing or reducing problems caused by the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). The APP is designed to support an applicant's progress toward becoming a CPP in Washington State. Unlike the CPP, the APP is not eligible for reciprocity with the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium.

Compared to the CPP, the APP requires less prevention-related experience (a minimum of 500 hours) and less ATOD training/ education (a minimum of 70 hours). The APP application fee is also lower. Find out more about the APP at www.pscbw.com.

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A Guide for Obtaining the Certified Prevention Professional (CPP) Credential



Steps to Gaining and Retaining a CPP Credential

1. Candidate Portfolio

Must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the scheduled testing date. This portfolio includes a completed Application Checklist, current criminal history background check, signed Code of Ethical Conduct, current certification fee, and an application form, documenting:

- ✓ **Verification of at least 2,000 hours (approximately 1 year full time)** of prevention-related experience. A minimum of 50% of these hours must be alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) prevention-specific experience. The balance may be other types of general behavioral health prevention, such as suicide prevention, HIV prevention and bullying prevention. Of the 2,000 required hours of prevention experience, a minimum of 120 hours of supervised experience must be in the following domains (10 hours minimum in each domain):
 - Planning and Evaluation
 - Prevention Education and Service Delivery
 - Communication
 - Community Organization
 - Public Policy and Environmental Change
 - Professional Growth and Responsibility
- ✓ **Minimum of a high school diploma (or GED) and documentation of a minimum of 120 clock hours of prevention specific education/training** and *50% of the required 120 education hours (60 hours) must be earned within the last ten years, with 40 of those 60 hours earned within the last two years:*
 - 24 hours drug education
 - 6 hours prevention-specific ethics training/education
 - 45 hours ATOD prevention education
 - 45 hours general prevention education/training

2. Examination

The candidate must achieve a passing score on the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium written prevention examination.

3. Notification

The PSCBW will notify all candidates about the outcome of their application. For those awarded a CPP, the credential remains in effect two years from the date of certification.

4. Renewal

Documentation of 40 continuing education units total to be earned in two years, to include 20 hours of general prevention and 20 hours of ATOD prevention. Submittal of current criminal history background check and current renewal fee.

PSCBW

Prevention Specialist Certification
Board of Washington

Dedicated to ensuring an exemplary,
professional prevention workforce
since 2002

The mission of the Prevention Specialist Certification Board of Washington is to conduct certification of prevention professionals, to uphold ethical standards, and to promote professional development and growth.

PSCBW was established March 6, 2002 as a Washington State non-profit corporation. The PSCBW became a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(6) effective May 15, 2010.

PSCBW is a peer-led board and a member board of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium.

**Application materials can
be obtained from the
PSCBW website at:
www.pscbw.com**

