

Pathways to Board Certification for Pharmacists

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Interactive session



HOW MANY OF YOU HOLD A
BOARD CERTIFICATION?



HOW MANY OF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN BECOMING BOARD
CERTIFIED?



HOW MANY OF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF BECOMING BOARD CERTIFIED?



Objectives

- Provide a general overview of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)
 - History and Mission
- Explain the value and benefits of obtaining BPS board certification
- Describe requirements for pursuing and maintaining board certification
- Identify exam preparatory and recertification resources for BPS board certification

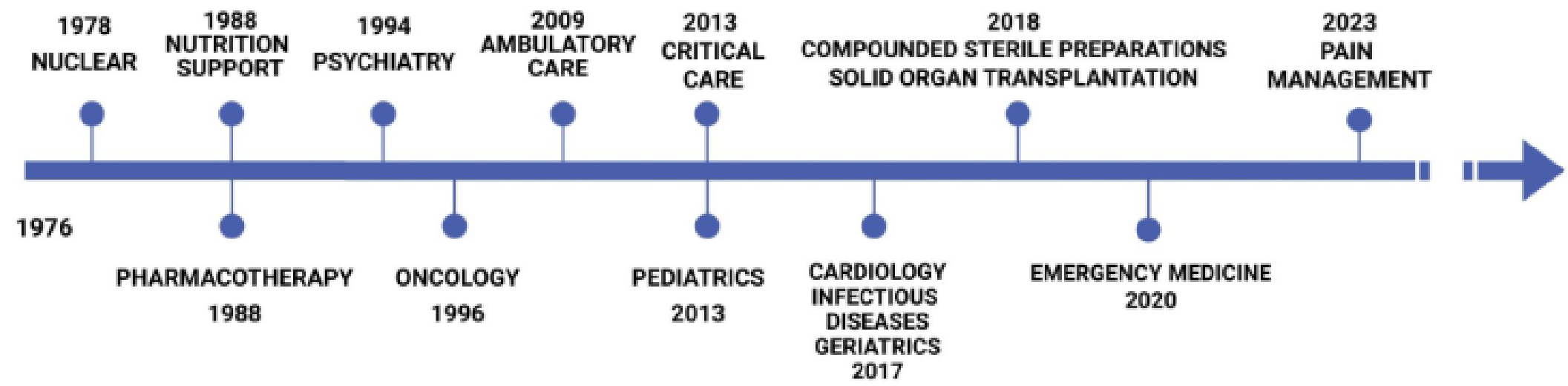


BPS: History

- Established in 1976 as an autonomous division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).
- Designated as the Premier Post-Licensure Pharmacist Certification Agency
 - Ensure that BPS Board Certified Pharmacists are recognized



BPS: Mission



The Mission of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties is to improve patient care by promoting the recognition and value of specialized training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy and specialty board certification of pharmacists.

BPS Certifications

**Nuclear
Pharmacy**
(1978) [BCNP]



**Nutrition Support
Pharmacy**
(1988) [BCNSP]



Pharmacotherapy
(1988) [BCPS]
AQ-ID and
AQ-Cardiology



**Psychiatric
Pharmacy**
(1994) [BCPP]



**Oncology
Pharmacy**
(1996) [BCOP]



**Ambulatory Care
Pharmacy**
(2009) [BCACP]



**Critical Care
Pharmacy**
(2013) [BCCCP]



**Pediatric
Pharmacy**
(2013) [BCPPS]



**Geriatric
Pharmacy**
(1997) [BCGP]
*Moved to BPS
in 2017*



**Cardiology
Pharmacy**
(2017) [BCCP]
AQ-Cardiology
Discontinued



**Infectious
Diseases
Pharmacy**
(2017) [BCIDP]
AQ-ID Discontinued



**Compounded
Sterile
Preparations
Pharmacy**
(2018) [BCSCP]



**Solid Organ
Transplantation
Pharmacy**
(2018) [BCTXP]

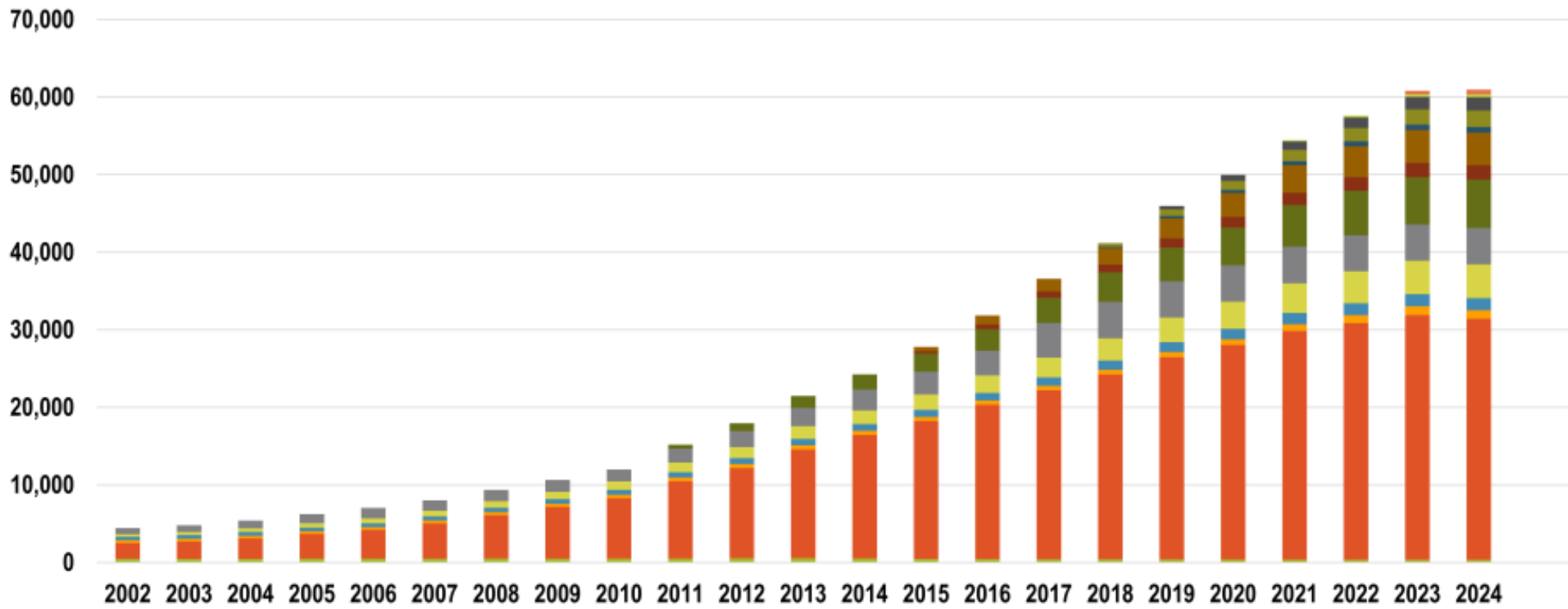
**Emergency
Medicine
Pharmacy**
(2020) [CEMP]

**Pain Management
Pharmacy**
[2023]



Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties
 by Specialty Area in the U.S. and Abroad
 as of June 2024 (Total=60,981)

- BCNP
- BCPS
- BCNSP
- BCPP
- BCOP
- BCGP
- BCACP
- BCPPS
- BCCCP
- BCCP
- BCIDP
- BCSCP
- BCTXP
- BCEMP

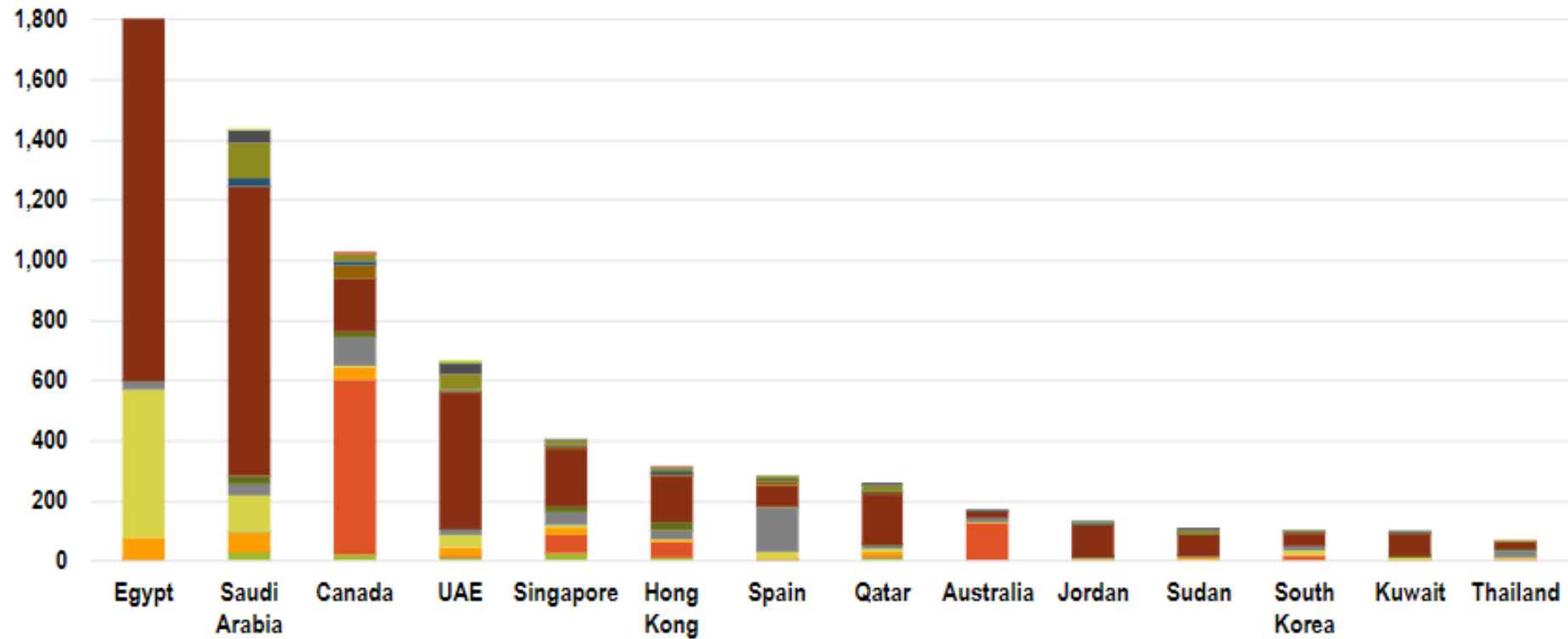




Number of Active Certifications Issued by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties by Specialty Area Outside of the U.S. as of June 2024

(7,422 Total Active Certifications Outside of the U.S., with the Top 14 of 58 countries listed below)

- BCACP
- BCGP
- BCCCP
- BCNP
- BCNSP
- BCOP
- BCPPS
- BCPS
- BCPP
- BCCP
- BCIDP
- BCSCP
- BCTXP
- BCEMP

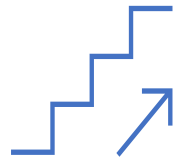




Top 8 Countries with BPS Board Certification in Africa

Country	Total Number of Board-Certified Pharmacists
Egypt	2,001
Sudan	101
Libya	8
Kenya	3
Algeria	1
Morocco	1
Nigeria	1
Tunisia	1

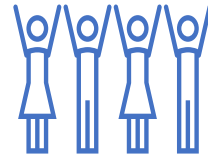
BPS Board Certification: Value & Drivers



Career
Advancement



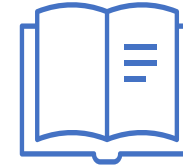
Financial
Incentives



Recognition
amongst
colleagues



Personal
Gratification



Recertification:
stay up-to-date



MY JOURNEY TO BOARD CERTIFICATION

Graduation from a Pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction



Achieve and maintain current, active license to practice pharmacy



Fulfill BPS eligibility requirements for board certification of interest



Tips for Applicants Outside the U.S.

BPS certification is oriented primarily toward pharmacists licensed and practicing in the U.S.; however, BPS encourages international applicants to apply.

Required Documentation

- Official graduation transcript and/or official graduation certificate from the university where they obtained their pharmacy program degree
- Electronic documentation of current active legal authorization to practice pharmacy in their country of origin or residence.

BPS certification does not confer the privilege to practice pharmacy in the U.S. or in any other country.

MY JOURNEY TO BOARD CERTIFICATION

Graduation from a Pharmacy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or a program outside the U.S. that qualifies the individual to practice in the jurisdiction

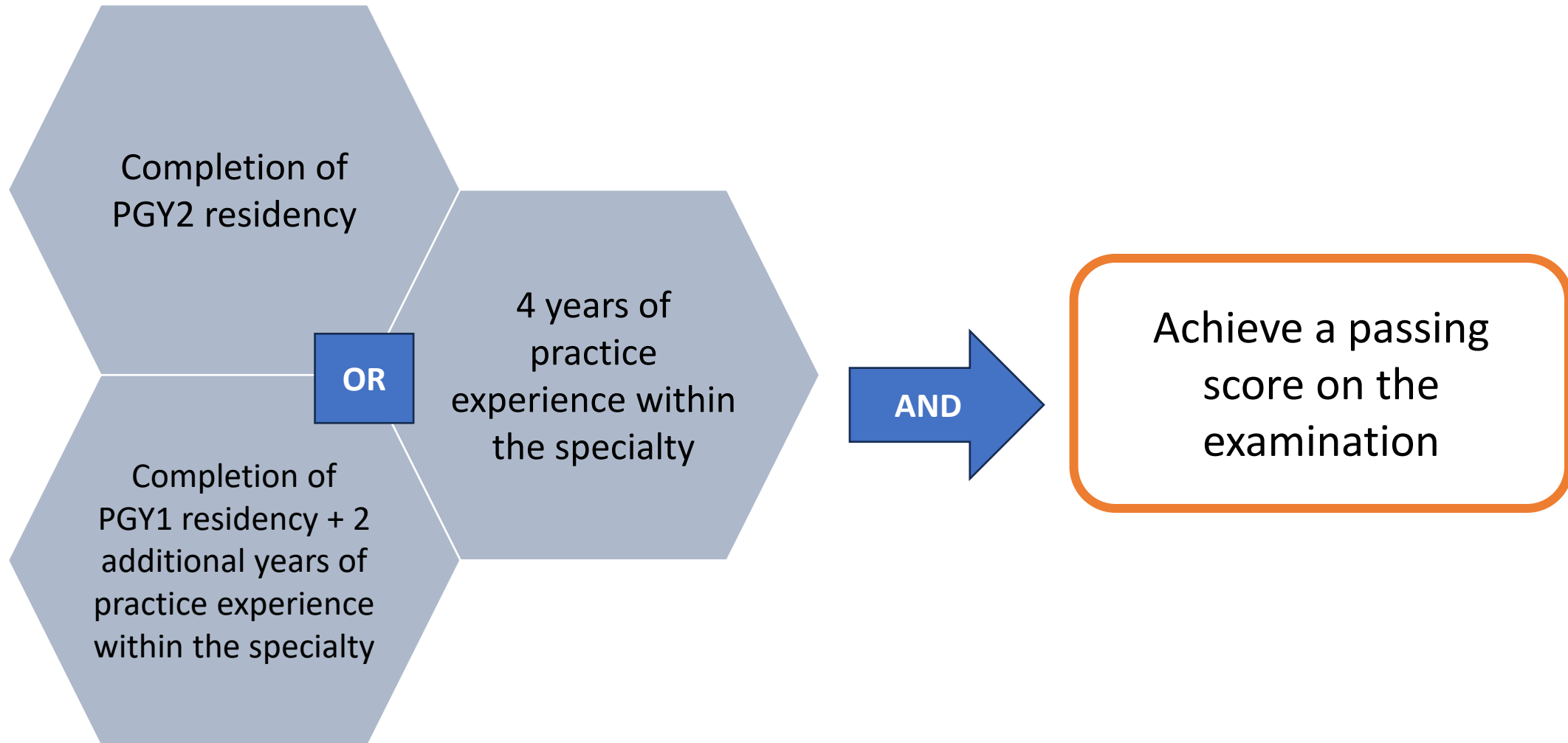


Achieve and maintain current, active license to practice pharmacy

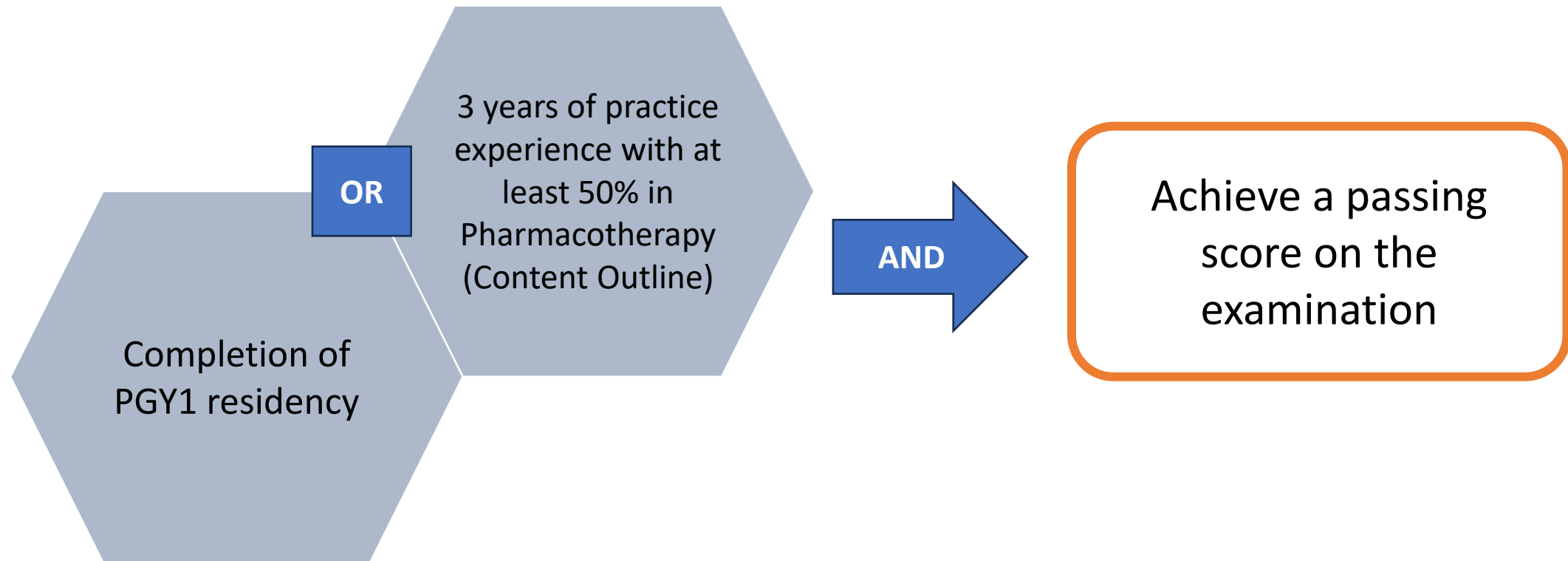


Fulfill BPS eligibility requirements for board certification of interest

General eligibility (except BCPS, BCNP, BCNSP, BCSCP)

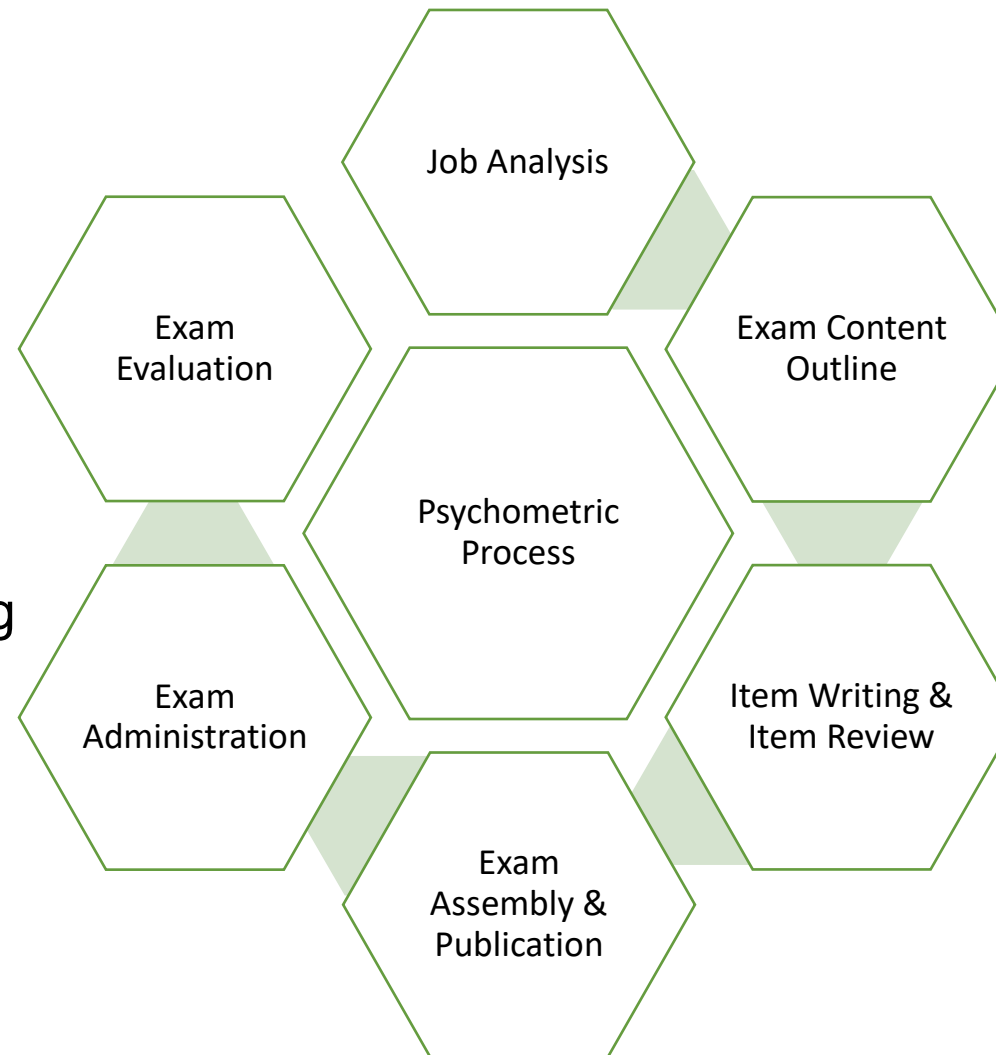


Pharmacotherapy (BCPS) Eligibility



Examination content

- Peer-developed, peer-reviewed
- 150 Multiple choice questions
- 3 hours, 45 minutes
- Exam offered in both windowed testing format and continuous testing format



BPS Examination Content Outlines

Oncology

Domain 1 (23%):

- Oncology Diagnosis and Testing

Domain 2 (49%):

- Therapeutics and Patient Management

Domain 3 (28%):

- Professional Practice

1	Oncology Diagnosis and Testing	23%
1A	Oncology Diagnosis	9%
1A1	Cancer Etiology and Pathophysiology	
1A2	Types of Cancer	
1A3	Cancer-Related Molecular Biology	
1A4	Mechanisms of Tumor Resistance	
1B	Oncology Testing	9%
1B1	Genomics (e.g., genomic alterations, gene amplification, types of mutations)	
1B2	Prognostic and Predictive Testing (e.g., IPI, FLIPI, Oncotype DX)	
1B3	Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS)	
1B4	Biomarker Testing (e.g., PDL1, TMB, TPS, CPS)	
1C	Cancer Detection and Prevention	5%
1C1	Cancer Detection (e.g., screening frequency, early detection)	
1C2	Cancer Prevention and Risk-Reduction	
1C3	Cancer-Support and Cancer-Education Resources	

**Effective January 2024, but subject to change following the next Job Analysis*



Preparing for the Examination

Suggested preparation for the examination might include the following:

- Residency or other formal training;
- Journal articles, textbooks, or other publications related to the content outline;
- Continuing pharmacy education programs;
- Study groups;
- Examination preparation courses; and/or
- Sample examination items, which are provided on the [BPS website](#) for candidates to familiarize themselves with the various item formats that are presented on the examination; and are not to be interpreted as an indicator of examination performance

Candidates may contact organizations noted on the [BPS Recertification by Continuing Pharmacy Education webpage](#), which offer materials for the specialty or specialties listed.

The listing is provided as a convenience for candidates; **BPS does not create, sponsor, nor endorse training or educational opportunities for any BPS examinations.** BPS does not have any official agents outside of the U.S. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of sources and candidates using any preparatory resources agree to abide by all U.S. copyright laws in the use of examination preparation materials.

Maintaining board certification: cycles beginning 2024 & beyond

Required every 7 years

2 paths to recertification

Examination

Achieve a passing score on the recertification exam + 20 units of self-reported CPD activities

+ submit annual reflection/plan

(minimum of 2 CPE or CPD units must be recorded each year)

OR

Professional Development

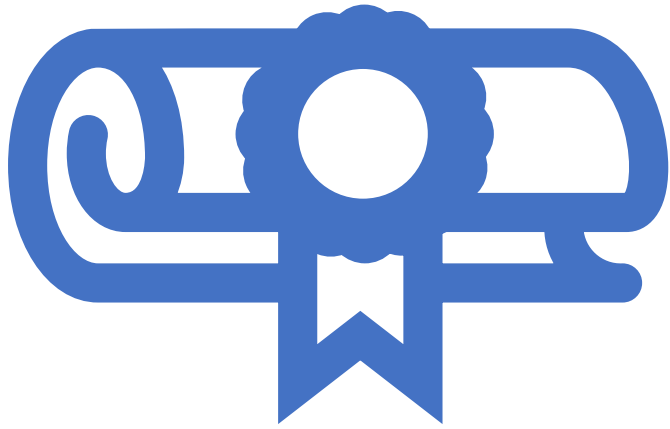
At least 80 assessed CPE (BPS-approved program) + up to 20 units of self-reported CPD activities

+ submit annual reflection/plan

(a minimum of 2 CPE or CPD units must be recorded each year)

Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Providers





Conclusion

- Board certification through BPS is recognized as the **gold standard** for determining which pharmacists are qualified to contribute at advanced practice levels.
- Through the rigorous standards mandated by BPS board certification and recertification, the BPS specialty-credentialed pharmacist stands out as the most qualified to take on today's expanding expectations of patients, physicians, insurance companies, employers and others who recognize the increasing need for a team approach to healthcare.



What does BCPS stand for?

- a) Board-Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist
- b) Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist**
- c) Board-Certified Pediatric Pharmacist Specialist
- d) Board-Certified Pain Pharmacist
- e) The BCPPS credential does not exist



True or false: a pharmacist must complete residency training to be eligible for board certification.

a) True

b) False



True or false: a pharmacist must reside within the U.S. to be eligible for BPS Board Certification.

a) True

b) False



How many active BPS Certifications exist worldwide?

- a) Approximately 100,000
- b) Over 150,000
- c) Less than 30,000
- d) Over 60,000



For more information:

Phone: 202-946-5026 (Phone)

www.bpsweb.org or email info@bpsweb.org



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