

## What is the CPP?

The CPP is a certification for professionals who work in the prevention field. It 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 the IC&RC, the PS is one of the fastest growing credentials in the field of addiction-related, behavioral health care.

The IC&RC has more than 50 member boards throughout the United States, its territories and other countries that offer a reciprocal PS credential.

## Why Become a CPP?

As the field of prevention expands, certified professionals are increasingly in demand. Obtaining the CPP credential may help with gaining access to and advancing professionally in the prevention 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 and promote continued professional development
- \* Assist employers in identifying qualified practitioners

## ABOUT PSCBW

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

PSCBW was established on March 6, 2002, as a Washington State non-profit corporation. PSCBW is a peer-led board and a member board of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium.

## CONTACT

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**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT**

[www.pscbw.com](http://www.pscbw.com)



# A GUIDE FOR OBTAINING THE

**CERTIFIED  
PREVENTION  
PROFESSIONAL  
(CPP)  
CREDENTIAL**





## Step 1: Candidate Portfolio

Applications may be submitted at any time. The Application 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** 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 six IC&RC domains (10 hours in each domain). The domains are listed on the CPP application.
- ✓ **Documentation of a minimum of 120 clock hours of prevention-specific education/training.** Sixty of these hours must be earned within the last 10 years, with 40 of those 60 hours earned within the last two years.
  - 24 hours of Drug Education
  - 45 hours of ATOD prevention education/training
  - 45 hours of general prevention education/training
  - 6 hours of prevention-specific ethics education/training

Once an application is reviewed and approved by PSCBW, a process which typically takes 1.5- 2 months, PSCBW notifies IC&RC that the applicant is approved for testing.

## Step 2: Examination

The candidate must achieve a passing score on the computer-based International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium examination.

## Step 3: Notification

The PSCBW will notify all candidates about the outcome of their application. For those awarded a CPP, the credential will become effective on the date the candidate passes the examination. It will remain in effect until the candidate's birthday, two years after the year in which the certificate was awarded.

## Step 4: Renewal

Documentation of 40 hours of 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 a current criminal history background check and current renewal fee.

PSCBW developed the Associate Prevention Professional (APP) entry-level certification. It targets 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 & Reciprocity Consortium.

Compared to the CPP, the APP requires less prevention-related experience and less ATOD training/education. The APP application fee is also lower. Find out more about the APP at [www.pscbw.com](http://www.pscbw.com).

# Steps to Gaining & Retaining a CPP Credential

Application Materials Can Be Obtained At: [www.pscbw.com](http://www.pscbw.com)

**NEED A STEPPING STONE  
TO A CPP?**