SAFETY CERTIFICATIONS
THE PATH TO SUCCESS

BCSP | Board of Certified Safety Professionals
Since 1969
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ABOUT BCSP
Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, BCSP is a not-for-profit corporation recognized as a leader in high-quality, accredited credentialing for safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) practitioners. BCSP establishes standards and certifies competency criteria in professional safety practice. Since 1969, over 72,000 of BCSP’s CSP, SMS, ASP, OHST, CHST, STS, STSC, or CET certifications have been achieved.

Visit the BCSP website at bcsp.org to browse online applications, career information, certification/recertification requirements, the BCSP academic database, and more!
BCSP CERTIFICATION
Achieving certification is important because it demonstrates your level of competency in the safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) fields. Certifications advance safety professionalism, and they provide a competitive advantage for the certificate holder. It’s also important to remember that credentials like the ones BCSP offers demonstrate credibility in your chosen field, and they set the standard for safety that helps keep everyone safe in the workplace. A BCSP certification can also lead to better pay and job mobility, as possessing a greater knowledge base and having more experience can lead to better careers in safety.

CAREERS
The value of safety certification continues to grow. In the U.S., numerous laws, regulations, and standards cite it. More importantly, many companies include it in position standards, government agencies rely on it, and contracts for safety services require it.

The primary focus of safety practice is to prevent incidents that may lead to injuries, illnesses, damage to property and equipment, or harm to the environment. Many companies have SH&E matters in a single department.

While there are many opportunities for people to participate in safety matters on a part-time basis, most career positions are on a full-time basis.

The safety career path includes positions with various levels of responsibility. Higher levels of education and experience are typically required as responsibilities increase. An increased knowledge and skills base in leadership, business practices, health, safety, communication, and information technology is also generally needed.

Safety practitioners receive higher salaries when they hold accredited, high-quality certifications. To learn more about salaries in the safety industry, visit the BCSP website for the most recent salary survey data. Use our Salary Survey Calculator to filter the data results by education, certification held, years in practice, and many more searchable options. Visit bscp.org/resources/salary-survey.

OTHER CERTIFICATIONS
Other certifications and licenses can supplement quality safety certifications (i.e., a professional engineering license complements the CSP credential). With specialized roles in safety, health, and environmental practices, professionals may choose the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM), or other designations to complement their CSP. Certificants holding BCSP credentials can list these specialties along with their certification(s) on their digital badge(s).

ACCREDITATION
When choosing a certification, it is important to verify that it is accredited through independent, third-party evaluations. Only a few organizations have met recognized national and international standards to demonstrate quality. All BCSP certifications are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

NEW FEATURE!
Digital Badging for Credential Holders
BCSP credential holders receive a digital badge for each credential they have earned. The badges are accessed via My Profile and can be used to provide credential information in users’ email, social media, web pages containing their professional information, and more.
CAREER PATHS
If you’re unsure of the best way to begin a career in safety, there are several different ways to enter the field and advance along a career path. Here are a few ways you can begin:

SAFETY AND HEALTH DEGREES
A common career path is to obtain a bachelor’s or master’s degree in safety and enter the field as a professional. Some may begin with an associate’s degree in safety.

SAFETY BY ASSIGNMENT
Some people get involved in safety at various levels because their employer or union assigned them safety responsibility. The assignment may be on a safety committee, as a collateral duty or part-time assignment, or as a full-time safety person. These assignments often progress in responsibility. Some people may start in other roles like human resources where safety is part of their job duties. The responsibility grows with the effort to improve safety performance and compliance.

CRAFT-TO-PROFESSIONAL
A number of people begin their involvement in safety through a leadership role in their craft or work-group. As a supervisor or team leader, they may have responsibility for the safety of others. Interest in advancing safety may lead to a greater safety assignment.

SAFETY BY EXPERIENCE
Sometimes people get involved in safety because they were part of a significant incident in which they or others were injured or became ill. The experience moves them to pursue safety as a career field.

BECOMING CERTIFIED
One of the most common questions asked by potential candidates is “What do I have to do to become certified?” The certification process has several stages, each one building on the other.

1. Pick a Certification Right for YOU
Whether you are in the construction field or involved with industrial hygiene, BCSP offers a certification that’s right for you. Based on your knowledge, job duties, education, and work experience you can earn a certification that meets your needs for your career.

2. Meet the Education Requirement
The education requirement varies for each certification. For instance, the Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®) requires a bachelor’s degree or higher in any field from an accredited university recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Where as the Safety Management Specialist (SMS) requires 10 years experience but not a college degree.

*Degrees earned outside the U.S. must be evaluated for equivalency. Further details on these requirements and the evaluation of international degrees can be found at bcsp.org.

3. Meet Work Experience Requirement
Just like the education requirement, the experience requirement varies for each certification. For instance, the CSP® requires 4 years of work experience where as the Associate Safety Professional® (ASP®) requires 1 year of work experience.

More information on each certification can be found at bcsp.org.

4. Apply Online
Visit bcsp.org and click on My Profile to create an account and begin the application process. After completing the application process, BCSP’s certification services department will review your application.
5. Purchase Your Exam

Once your application is approved, new candidates may register and pay for the examination online by logging into My Profile and selecting “Purchase Exam” from the menu. Candidates will have one year once their application has been approved to purchase, schedule, and sit for the examination.

You may purchase an exam or an exam bundle at any time during your one-year eligibility. The exam bundle includes an examination authorization, self-assessment, and a second exam attempt if the first is unsuccessful.

6. Sit for Your Exam

After the exam is purchased, you will receive an examination authorization notice that is used to schedule the exam through Pearson VUE testing centers. Examinations are delivered via computer. As soon as candidates submit their exam, results are available. More details on purchasing, scheduling, and sitting for your examination can be found at bcsp.org.

7. Meet Recertification Requirements

Once you pass the examination BCSP will award you with your certification. To maintain your certification, an annual fee is required, and certificants must remain up-to-date with changes in professional practice by compiling recertification points every five years. For more information on recertification visit bcsp.org/safety-certifications/recertification.
SAFETY CULTURE
A Safety Continuum.

Different roles with one common goal...
Create a safer workplace.

BCSP fulfills industry and global demand for validating highly competent safety practitioners with varying amounts of formal education and with significant amounts of experience.

BCSP certifications complete the continuum of those impacting the safety culture of their organizations.
Certified Safety Professional®

Certificants who hold the CSP mostly work in private industry, which could include being a government contractor. A CSP who works in the government sector may work in the military, federal, state, or local agencies. Safety at this level is virtually in every industry including petroleum exploration, production and refining, construction, healthcare, and insurance. A CSP’s professional time is spent on safety management systems, occupational health and ergonomics, emergency response and preparedness, fire prevention and protection, and security responsibilities. A CSP may also have environmental management system responsibilities, including managing safety, health, and environmental programs that can cover up to 1,000 or more employees.

VISIT BCSP.ORG/CSP

JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Calculate required containment volumes and hazardous materials storage requirements
- Calculate statistics from data sources
- Analyze and interpret sampling data (i.e., exposure, release concentrations)
- Apply management principles of authority, responsibility, and accountability
- Compare management systems with benchmarks
- Conduct root cause analyses
- Develop and implement environmental, safety, and health management systems
- Perform gap analyses
- Demonstrate business need via financial calculations (i.e., ROI, engineering economy, financial engineering)

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:

- Safety Executive
- Safety Engineer
- Safety Consultant

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor’s degree in any field
- At least 4 years of experience where safety is at least 50%, preventative, professional level with breadth and depth of safety duties
- Hold a BCSP qualified credential

Visit bcsp.org/CSP for the list of qualified credentials.
Safety Management Specialist

Most certificants who hold the SMS work for a private or public entity (i.e., government department, public agency, or military). Safety at this level is virtually in every industry including manufacturing, petroleum production and refining, construction, and insurance. As an SMS, you may hold positions at the manager level or director level and may directly supervise employees.

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JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:

► Analyze safety, health, and environmental risk (i.e., severity and likelihood/frequency matrix, historical information, industry data, “what if” analysis, process safety)

► Apply the hierarchy of controls to various types of hazards while considering likelihood and severity

► Recognize unsafe conditions or acts that can cause slips, trips, and falls (from all levels)

► Recognize unsafe conditions or acts working with electricity, confined spaces, machinery equipment (i.e., caught in, struck by, pinch points), and vibration (i.e., whole body, hand/arm)

► Recognize conditions that could lead to unsafe exposures to molds, allergens, blood-borne pathogens, lead, asbestos, radiation (ionizing and non-ionizing), temperature extremes (i.e., cold or heat stress, contact with extreme temperatures, thermal stress), and noise

► Calculate incident and injury rates

► Interpret cost/benefit analysis

► Interpret leading and lagging indicators (i.e., training metrics, safety initiatives, incident and injury rates)

► Assess training needs (regulatory and risk-based)

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:

► Safety Manager

► Safety Director

► Safety Specialist

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

► 10 years of occupational safety or health management related experience where a minimum 35% of job tasks must be related to the management of safety related programs, processes, procedures, personnel, etc.
The ASP is a mid-level certification that fulfills the credential requirement leading to the CSP. As an ASP, you may hold positions at manager level or director level and may direct supervise employees. Your knowledge of safety concepts and expertise in fundamental safety assurance methodologies can make you a key member of a project, operational, or design team. An ASP may be called upon to coordinate safety activities, conduct basic safety analyses, identify hazardous situations, and recommend or oversee implementation of risk reduction measures.

**JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:**
- Conduct safety analyses
- Identify hazardous situations
- Participate in safety audits
- Assist with incident investigations
- Conduct safety training
- Recommend means of reducing risk
- Track identified hazards to closure
- Perform industrial hygiene monitoring
- Prepare safety reports
- Develop and assist in managing safety programs

**JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:**
- Safety Supervisor
- Safety Technician
- Safety Specialist

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Bachelor’s degree in any field or an associate’s degree in the safety, health, and environmental field. Associate degree must include at least four courses with at least 12 semester hours of study in the safety, health, or environmental domains covered in the ASP examination blueprint
- At least 1 year of experience where safety is at least 50%, preventative, and at a professional level with breadth and depth of safety duties

VISIT BCSP.ORG/ASP
A Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP) is a designation available to safety degree graduates from programs that meet BCSP Qualified Academic Program (QAP) standards. The GSP designation is an alternate path to the Certified Safety Professional (CSP). The GSP is not a certification, but does provide a waiver for the ASP examination.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Bachelor’s degree or higher from a Qualified Academic Program (QAP)
- Must apply within 1 year of graduation (limited exception for new QAPs)
- Must achieve the CSP within eligibility time period and meet the CSP experience requirement

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The Transitional Safety Practitioner (TSP) is an additional path to the CSP available to individuals completing curriculum-based safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) programs which meet BCSP Qualified Equivalent Program (QEP) standards. Those awarded the TSP designation meet the requirement of holding a BCSP approved credential when applying for the CSP certification.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Hold a credential from a Qualified Equivalent Program (QEP)
- Must apply within 1 year of program (limited exception for new QEPs)
- Must achieve the CSP within eligibility time period and meet the CSP experience requirement

VISIT BCSP.ORG/TSP
Certificants who hold the OHST may work for private entities, public entities, government agencies, or the military performing such duties as oil and gas extraction, manufacturing, and construction or consultative services for the safety, health, and environmental fields. Positions vary from manager level to technician level or consultant.

**VISIT BCSP.ORG/OHST**

**JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- Calculate performance metrics (i.e., incidence rates, injury rates, key performance indicators)
- Assess external risks to facilities (i.e., property, systems, processes, equipment, and employees)
- Assess internal risks to facilities (i.e., property, systems, processes, equipment, and employees)
- Participate in emergency response drills and exercises
- Influence behavior related to safety (i.e., group dynamics, motivational strategies, coaching strategies)
- Participate in organizational teams
- Effectively communicate with internal and external stakeholders
- Develop and deliver effective presentations or trainings
- Manage conflict resolutions through basic techniques
- Basic work in ergonomics (i.e., proper lifting techniques, cumulative trauma disorders, neutral posture, workspace design)
- Oversee, manage, or direct industrial hygiene work

**JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:**

- Safety Administrator
- Safety Trainer
- Safety and Hygiene Technician

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 3 years of experience where SH&E is at least 35% of job duties
Most certificants with the CHST are working in building construction or the general contracting sector. Some may also work in the heavy and civil engineering sector.

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**Construction Health & Safety Technician®**

**JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- Apply the hierarchy of controls
- Verify effectiveness in corrective actions in eliminating or mitigating hazards
- Recognize and address hazards over changing construction site conditions (i.e., excavations after weather events, changing site entrances)
- Develop job/hazard safety analyses
- Prioritize identified hazards based on level of risk (i.e., order of severity, probability, frequency)
- Plan for emergencies
- Identify health and safety programs (i.e., fall protection, ladders, respiratory) that are relevant to site-specific safety plan
- Apply relevant standards to worksite conditions
- Identify trends related to incidents and accidents
- Evaluate construction means and methods and their impact on safety

**JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:**

- Safety Manager
- Safety and Health Technician
- Safety Leader

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 3 years of experience in construction where SH&E is at least 35% of job duties
Certificants who hold the STS may work in large petrochemical/oil and gas, construction, manufacturing, or processing companies. Their positions might include manager, safety professional, foreman, or supervisor.

VISIT BCSP.ORG/STS

**JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- Pre-plan work and manage cross-functional hazards associated with a project
- Address changing conditions or tasks in the job safety/hazard analysis process
- Effectively communicate the findings of audits or inspections (i.e., follow-ups)
- Recognize potential violations relating to waste, emissions, or storm water pollution (i.e., spills, releases)
- Effectively communicate safety information to employees, management, contractors, or other affected personnel
- Coach or mentor employees on safe behavior and practices
- Influence behavior within a diverse and changing workforce (i.e., motivational techniques for different personalities or learning styles, ability to empathize with workers)
- Manage worker limitations and apply accommodations as required by company or regulatory standards
- Identify relevant compliance aspects of a project or job task (i.e., blood-borne pathogens, ladder safety)

**JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:**

- Safety Coordinator
- Safety Supervisor
- Safety Committee Member

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 30 hours of formal safety, health, and environmental training
- 2 years supervisory experience or 4 years work experience in any industry (work experience must be a minimum part-time [18 hrs/week] to qualify).
Certificants with an STSC have positions in construction, building construction, general contracting, subcontracting, or special trade. Their position might include superintendent, project manager, or safety professional. These individuals may also have supervisory duties.

VISIT BCSP.ORG/STSC

JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:

► Evaluate worker qualifications, trainings, or certifications for job tasks (i.e., power industrial trucks, aerial work platforms, confined space, lockout/tagout, respiratory protection)

► Identify and evaluate whether a worker is fit for duty (i.e., sick, under influence of controlled substances, fatigued)

► Identify safe and at-risk workplace behaviors

► Conduct a safety inspection or audit

► Correct hazards or risks found in a safety inspection or audit

► Implement corrective actions based on the outcome of an incident investigation

► Implement appropriate controls for job site hazards

► Identify risks or hazards associated with the site layout

► Verify that personal protective equipment (PPE) is adequate for the job task and hazards

► Recognize ergonomic hazards on the worksite (i.e., vibration, repetitive motion)

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:

► Safety Coordinator

► Construction Safety Supervisor

► Safety Project Manager

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

► 30 hours of formal safety, health, and environmental training

► 2 years supervisory experience or 4 years work experience related to construction (work experience must be a minimum part-time [18 hrs/week] to qualify)
Certified Environmental Safety and Health Trainer®

Most certificants who hold the CET work for a private or public entity (i.e., government department, public agency, or military). Safety training at this level is virtually in every industry including petroleum production and refining and construction. As a CET, you may hold positions at the manager level or director level and may have other duties including training.

VISIT BCSP.ORG/CET

JOB DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:

► Develop learning objectives
► Conduct a training needs assessments
► Define expected participant learning outcomes (i.e., behavior change, transfer of knowledge, skill development)
► Define prerequisites and competencies (i.e., skills, knowledge)
► Match instructional methods to training content, delivery, and target audience needs
► Identify required supplies and equipment for practical exercises (i.e., PPE, environmental monitoring devices and equipment, vehicles)
► Align evaluation instruments to the learning objectives, outcomes, and target audience (i.e., selecting format, delivery of evaluation, validation, maintenance)
► Prepare training reports (i.e., attendance, interim and post-training documentation)
► Write training program evaluations (i.e., job performance)

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES:

► Industrial Safety and Health Trainer
► SH&E Consultant
► Emergency Response Trainer

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

► Delivery of 135 hours of training/teaching in safety, health, and environmental-related areas
► Hold a BCSP qualified credential
Visit bcsp.org/CET for the list of qualified credentials.
MISSION
BCSP sets and certifies technical competency criteria for safety, health, and environmental practitioners worldwide; enhancing careers, advancing the profession, protecting the public.

VISION
Creating a safer world through safety, health, and environmental certification.
For more details and up-to-date information, visit us online at BCSP.org.