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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 68,000 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, a comprehensive list of U.S. academic programs, the BCSP academic database, and more!

If you have questions, please email us: bcsp@bcsp.org.

#choosesafety
BCSP CERTIFICATIONS

BCSP has third party accreditation for all certifications. All BCSP logos are either registered trademarks ® or in the application process.

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI)

CERTIFIED SAFETY PROFESSIONAL®

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

ASSOCIATE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL®

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGENCIES (NCCA)

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE & SAFETY TECHNICIAN®

SAFETY TRAINED SUPERVISOR CONSTRUCTION®

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & SAFETY TECHNICIAN®

SAFETY TRAINED SUPERVISOR®

CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & HEALTH TRAINER®

*CSP and ASP are also NCCA accredited
CAREERS

The primary focus of safety practice is to prevent incidents and accidents that may lead to injuries, illnesses, damage to property and equipment, or harm the environment. Many companies have combined safety, health, and environmental matters into 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.

There are safety positions with different levels of responsibility in a safety career path. As responsibilities increase, this typically requires higher levels of education and experience, as well as knowledge and skills in leadership, business practices, health and safety, and communication and information technology.

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 including education, certification held, years in practice, and many more search options. Visit bcsp.org/SH-E-Practice/Salary-Survey.

Many looking to advance in a safety career want to know where to get academic training. BCSP maintains a list of over 870 academic programs at accredited U.S. colleges and universities on bcsp.org. Individuals can search by subject, state, and program level. Many programs offer online courses or full degrees.

The academic database can be accessed at bcsp.org/Resources/Academic-Database.
CAREER PATHS
Safety is both a challenging and rewarding career. There are many ways to enter the safety field and advance along a career path. Here are a few paths of entry:

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 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 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. Roles and responsibilities may increase over time.
Certification
Value for You
Industry, and the world
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, to create a knowledgeable safety practitioner.

1. Are You Eligible?
First thing potential candidates need to do is determine application eligibility. It’s recommended that candidates view the Safety Certifications at a Glance webpage and download the Complete Guide on the webpage of any certification that interests them for more detailed information.

2. Do You Meet the Education Requirement?
The Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®) requires the minimum of a bachelor’s degree. The Associate Safety Professional® (ASP®) requires either a bachelor’s degree in any field or an associate in safety, health, or the environment. The associate degree must include at least four courses with at least 12 semester hours/18 quarter hours of study in the safety, health, or environmental domains covered in the CSP or ASP examination blueprint.

There is no waiver of the academic requirement and proof of a minimum qualifying degree must be provided. For U.S. degrees, BCSP requires the educational institution hold institutional accreditation from an accreditation body with institutional accrediting authority recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and/or the U.S. Department of Education. Degrees earned outside the U.S. must be evaluated for equivalency. Unaccredited degrees are disqualified. The degree must be awarded during the period of accreditation. Further details on these requirements and the evaluation of international degrees can be found on our Education Standard or Application with an International Degree webpages.
3. Do You Have Enough Experience?
In addition to the academic requirement, certification candidates must meet experience requirements, as outlined in the Safety Certifications at a Glance webpage and certifications’ complete guides. Certain certifications, the Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®) and Certified Environmental, Health and Safety Trainer® (CET®), require applicants to hold a BCSP-approved SH&E credential.

4. Apply Online
Apply online by selecting the My Profile button on the BCSP website, your login for BCSP’s Certification Management System (CMS). BCSP reviews application materials determining eligibility for the certification examination. BCSP randomly selects applications for audit. If selected for audit, you must submit supporting documentation.

5. Purchase Your Exam
Once their application is approved, new candidates may register and pay for 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 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. After you purchase either option, you will receive an examination authorization notice that is used to schedule the exam through Pearson VUE testing centers.

6. Sit for Your Exam
BCSP’s examination provider, Pearson VUE, has hundreds of test centers located around the world, which are open every business day (some also have weekend and holiday hours). Examinations are delivered via computer at the test center. As soon as candidates submit their exam, results are available. More details on purchasing, scheduling, and sitting for your examination can be found in the Pearson VUE brochure.
7. Meet Recertification Requirements
After completing all of the requirements, BCSP will award candidates who successfully demonstrated their skills and knowledge with their BCSP certification. To continue holding the 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.

AT-A-GLANCE

7 STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1. DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY
2. MEET EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
3. MEET EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS
4. APPLY ONLINE
5. PURCHASE EXAM
6. SIT FOR EXAM
7. MEET RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Certification
Which ones fit into your career?
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 includes 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.

To learn more about this certification 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 and a BCSP approved credential.

For the entire BCSP approved credential list visit bosp.org/CSP.
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 manager level or director level and may directly supervise employees.

To learn more about this certification visit bcsp.org/SMS.
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, bloodborne 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.
Associate Safety Professional®

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 directly 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.

To learn more about this certification visit bcsp.org/ASP.
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 degree in the safety, health, and environmental field

- At least 1 year of experience where safety is at least 50%, preventative, professional level with breadth and depth of safety duties
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 achieve the CSP within eligibility time period and meet the CSP experience requirement

To learn more about this designation visit bcsop.org/GSP.
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 achieve the CSP within eligibility time period and meet the CSP experience requirement

To learn more about this designation visit bcsp.org/TSP.
Occupational Hygiene & Safety Technician®

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, or environmental fields. Positions vary from manager level to technician level or consultant.

To learn more about this certification visit bcs.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)

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
Construction Health & Safety Technician®

Most certificants with the CHST are working in building construction or the general contractor sector. Some may also work in the heavy and civil engineering sector.

To learn more about this certification visit bcsp.org/CHST.
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
Safety Trained Supervisor®
Certificants who hold the STS may work in large petrochemical/oil and gas, construction, manufacturing, or processing companies. Their position might include manager, safety professional, foreman, or supervisor.

To learn more about this certification visit bscp.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., bloodborne 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 related to the specific supervisory certification for which candidate is applying
  (Work experience must be a minimum part-time [18 hrs/week] to qualify.)
To learn more about this certification visit bcsp.org/STSC.

Safety Trained Supervisor Construction®
Certificants with an STSC have positions in construction, building construction, general contractor, subcontractor, or special trade. Their position might include superintendent, project manager, or safety professional. These individuals may also have supervisory duties.
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 in construction related to the specific supervisory certification for which candidate is applying
  (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.

To learn more about this certification 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 approved credential

For the entire BCSP approved credential list visit bcsp.org/CET.
Certification
The Missing Piece.
Certification
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 esafetySource.org—the Who’s Who of SH&E practice.

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. The organizations below list the certification bodies holding their accreditation:

• American National Standards Institute (ANSI), ansi.org

• National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), credentialingexcellence.org
For more details and up-to-date information, visit us online at BCSP.org.