

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Certification**

### 1. Is there a Canadian certification process?

Yes, in May 2009 at the annual CTRA conference in Calgary it was presented to the membership that there is now a signed agreement between CTRA and the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation (NCTRC) that CTRA recognizes and endorses the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) as the certification for Canada.

### 2. Is certification mandatory?

Certification is a voluntary process in that one cannot be forced into becoming certified. However, now that CTRA is endorsing the CTRS credential, facilities will start increasing their standards and may not hire unless the prospective employee is a CTRS.

### 3. How do I become certified?

There are two paths to becoming a CTRS: the academic path and the equivalency Path.

#### Academic Path Highlights:

- Bachelor's degree or higher with a major in TR, Recreation and leisure or option in TR
- Applicants are required to have a certain amount of TR and general recreation course work
- Applicants must also have completed coursework in anatomy, physiology, abnormal psychology and human growth and development
- Applicants must also complete a 480 hour (12 week) internship placement under a CTRS

#### Equivalency Path A Highlights:

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Applicants are required a certain amount of TR and general recreation coursework
- Applicants are also required to have a certain amount of supportive coursework, which could include adaptive physical education, related biological/physical sciences, human services, psychology, and sociology.
- Minimum of five years work experience

#### Equivalency Path B Highlights:

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Certain amount of coursework in TR and general recreation
- Applicants must also have completed coursework in anatomy, physiology, abnormal psychology and human growth and development
- One full year of work experience under the supervision of a CTRS

For more detailed information about the paths to certification please go to [www.nctrc.org/newapplication.htm](http://www.nctrc.org/newapplication.htm)

4. How do I know if I have all the coursework required to apply for certification?

You can call NCTRC at 845-639-1439 and ask your specific questions. For a small fee, NCTRC also provides a service that allows you to send in all your transcripts and information for review. They will then tell you what, if anything, you require to apply for certification.

5. What is the cost to become a CTRS?

The cost for review of application submitted and sitting for the exam is \$400 USD.

6. Once I become a CTRS am I required to pay annual dues?

Yes, you are required to complete an annual maintenance form as well as submit an annual fee of \$80 USD.

7. What are CEUs?

CEUs are Continuing Education Units. CEUs are collected during educational opportunities such as conferences and in-services and by completing coursework.

8. Why do I need to collect CEUs?

Once you have obtained your CTRS credential, you are required to recertify every five years. NCTRC does a random audit of the recertifying CTRS each year. If you are chosen for the audit you must submit your CEUs; you are required to obtain at least 50 CEUs within the five-year window. The other way you can recertify is to rewrite the exam.

9. If certification is not mandatory, why should I become certified?

Certification is the minimum standard set for a discipline. It shows that the therapist has met a minimum standard set for knowledge and competency. It is also a way to protect the public and is a natural process in the maturity of a profession.

10. Where can I take the exam?

The exam is now electronic and there are sites all over Canada where you can access it four times per year.

11. How long will it take to find out if I passed the exam?

The electronic exam means the individual knows immediately after completing the exam whether or not they passed.

12. How can I prepare to take the exam?

- Go to NCTRC's website for exam resources and study aides
- Review NCTRC's standards

As stated above, this overview is meant to serve as a general information guide. We strongly suggest you contact NCTRC directly with your specific questions and concerns around certification and becoming certified.

You can contact NCTRC via:

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