



**Chemical Dependency Professionals Board  
77 S. High Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43215**

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**PROPOSED STATUTORY CHANGES TO THE OCDP PREVENTION CERTIFICATION**

**BACKGROUND**

As part of its ongoing work force development efforts to encourage growth in the number of individuals holding the Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist (OCPS) Certification and increase the proficiency of its entry level professionals, the Board has identified a number of statutory changes that will increase access to its prevention certification by reducing barriers and strengthening the foundational knowledge of its entry level workforce.

**PURPOSE**

Counter the current and anticipated shortage of prevention professionals due to an aging workforce

Create a pathway and incentive for new and existing behavioral and public health professionals to obtain the OCDP Prevention Specialist Certification

Ensure the continued development of a qualified and knowledgeable prevention workforce.

Create a more flexible, relevant and achievable Prevention Specialist Certification

Reduce excess certification requirements relative to other behavioral and public health professions

**KEY CHANGES**

Establishes a new two year renewable, entry level certification, the Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Assistant (OCPSA)

Require 45 hours of foundational prevention-related education for the OCPSA

Realigns from three years to one year the amount of work experience required for the OCPS I

Establishes new supervisory/administrative experience and education requirements for the highest level of prevention certification (OCPS II)

Accept 100 hours of prevention related education for OCPS levels, realigned from 180 hours

**OCDP BOARD PREVENTION CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT COMPARATIVE MATRIX and SUMMARIES  
as of February 21, 2012**

**Current Requirements**

**Proposed Requirements**

**Significant Changes**

<b>Registered Applicant (RA)</b>		
<p>Submit application and Education/Professional Development Plan</p> <p>RA can reapply without a two year waiting period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit application</li> <li>• Submit Education/Professional Development Plan</li> <li>• Be 18 years of age with a High School Diploma or G.E.D.</li> </ul> <p>RA would be a two year status not eligible for renewal</p>	<p>RA status would be for two years only and not renewable. Once expired, a person will not be able to obtain RA status again. A person will need to complete requirements for OCPSA, OCPS I or OCPS II in order to practice as an OCDP Board prevention professional.</p>

## **Registered Applicant**

### **Current**

A person applying for Registered Applicant status must do the following:

- Submit an application and Education/Professional Development Plan

If a Registered Applicant's status expires, that person can reapply for RA status and is not subject to any waiting period before they are eligible to reapply.

### **Proposed**

There are no substantive changes to the application requirements to become an RA. As is current practice a person must submit an application, an Education/Professional Development Plan and the appropriate fee in order to obtain RA status.

A person applying for Registered Applicant status must do the following:

- Submit an application and Education/Professional Development Plan
- Be a minimum of 18 years of age with a high school diploma or G.E.D.

Additionally,

- RA status would become a two year, non-renewable status
- Once expired, a person will not be allowed to obtain RA status again.
- Once expired, a person will have to obtain one of the following credentials in order to practice as an OCDP Board certified prevention professional:
  - Ohio Prevention Assistant (OCPSA)
  - Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist I (OCPS I)
  - Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist II (OCPS II)

**Current Requirements**

**Proposed Requirements**

**Significant Changes**

<b>Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Assistant (OCPSA)</b>		
<p>N/A – Credential does not currently exist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit application</li><li>• Submit Education/Professional Development Plan</li><li>• 18 years of age with a High School Diploma or G.E.D.</li><li>• 100 hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services. This must be supervised experience.</li><li>• 45 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule</li><li>• 20 hours of prevention-related continuing education every two years</li></ul> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There would be no exam requirement for this level</li><li>• There would be no degree requirement for this level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New entry level certificate between RA status and the OCPS levels</li><li>• Requires 100 hours of compensated or volunteer supervised work experience in prevention services</li><li>• Requires 45 hours of prevention related education in specified content areas related to the five domains</li><li>• Would be a renewable level</li><li>• 20 hours of prevention related continuing education every two years</li></ul>

## **Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Assistant (OCPSA)**

### **Current:**

The OCPSA level does not currently exist.

### **Proposed:**

The OCPSA is a new two year, renewable, entry-level certification intended to:

- Bridge the gap between the RA status and the OCPS levels,
- Establish a clearer career glide path and
- Offer an opportunity for those without a college degree to obtain a renewable prevention credential in the State of Ohio.

Although available to any and all who apply and meet the qualifications, it is an ideal credential for those just starting out in the prevention profession or who routinely volunteer or work part time in a prevention setting.

A person applying to become an OCPSA must do the following:

- Submit an application and Educational/Professional Development Plan
- Be a minimum of 18 years old with a High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- Have one-hundred (100) hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services. This experience must be acquired under supervision
- Forty-five (45) hours of prevention-related education in areas to be specified in rule
- Twenty (20) hours of prevention-related continuing education every two years
- Pay the appropriate application fee

Additionally,

- The 100 hours of supervised work experience and 45 hours of prevention-related education is intended to provide a prospective OCPSA foundational knowledge.
- There is no exam or degree requirement for this level.

## Current Requirements

## Proposed Requirements

## Significant Changes

<b>Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist I (OCPS I)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in which not less than 20% of the individual's time was devoted to planning or delivering alcohol and other drug prevention services;</li><li>• Have one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) At least six thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;</li><li>(2) An associate's degree in a behavioral science and at least four thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;</li><li>(3) A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a behavioral science and at least two thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services.</li></ul></li><li>• 180 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule;</li><li>• 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule;</li><li>• Obtain a registered applicant certificate;</li><li>• Pass the CPS written examination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least an associate's degree from an accredited educational institution in a field of study specified in Board rules;</li><li>• 2,000 hours (One Year) of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services, including at least 400 hours of planning or delivering the services;</li><li>• 100 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule;</li><li>• 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule;</li><li>• Pass the IC&amp;RC CPS examination</li><li>• 40 hours of prevention-related continuing education every two years</li></ul> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>These requirements meet IC&amp;RC reciprocity requirements for Certified Prevention Specialists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires minimum of an associates degree in a specified field of study</li><li>• Aligns all OCPS I requirements with the IC&amp;RC CPS requirements</li><li>• Realigns required work experience to one year (2,000 hours)</li><li>• Realigns required education hours to 100 hours of prevention-related education in areas related to the five domains</li></ul>

## Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist I (OCPS I)

### Current

A person applying to become an OCPS I must do the following:

- Have compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in which not less than 20% of the individual's time was devoted to planning or delivering alcohol and other drug prevention services
- Have one of the following:
  - At least six thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;
  - An associate's degree in a behavioral science and at least four thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;
  - A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a behavioral science and at least two thousand hours of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services.
- 180 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule
- 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule
- Obtain a registered applicant certificate
- Pass the CPS written examination
- 40 hours of prevention-related continuing education every two years

### Proposed

The intent is to realign the OCPS I education and experience requirements with those of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). Essentially, the purpose of the realignment is to create a more accessible, flexible and relevant OCPS certification for a broader sector of professionals working in prevention. A realigned OCPS I will create a pathway and incentive for new and existing behavioral and public health professionals to obtain prevention certification. Although not limited to any one group, the realigned OCPS I will be the mainstay certification for those providing direct prevention services.

Under the proposed realignment, a person seeking the OCPS I must do the following:

- At least an associate's degree from an accredited educational institution in a field of study specified in Board rules;
- One year (2,000 hours) of compensated or volunteer work, field placement, intern, or practicum experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;
- 100 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule;
- 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule;
- Pass the IC&RC Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) written or computer based examination
- 40 hours of prevention-related continuing education every two years

## Current Requirements

## Proposed Requirements

## Significant Changes

<b>Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist II (OCPS II)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have compensated work experience in which not less than fifty per cent of the individual's time was devoted to planning, coordinating, or delivering alcohol and other drug prevention services;</li><li>• Have one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) A bachelor's degree in a behavioral science and at least six thousand hours of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;</li><li>(2) A master's or doctoral degree in a behavioral science and at least four thousand hours of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services.</li></ul></li><li>• 270 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule;</li><li>• 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule;</li><li>• Obtain a registered applicant certificate;</li><li>• Pass the CPS written examination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least a bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution in a field of study specified in rule;</li><li>• 6,000 hours (three years) of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services, including 4,000 hours (two years) of administrating or supervising the services;</li><li>• 100 hours of prevention-related education specified in rule;</li><li>• At least the number of hours of administrative or supervisory related education specified in rule; number of hours expected to be 90, 45 hours each in human resource management and fiscal management;</li><li>• 120 practical experience hours in performance domains specified in rule;</li><li>• 40 hours of continuing education every two years; a portion of the 40 hours will be in administrative or supervisory continuing education, the remainder will be prevention related; The portion of the 40 hours devoted to administrative or supervisory education is TBD by the Board;</li><li>• Pass the IC&amp;RC CPS examination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is intended to be a distinct level designed for advanced prevention practitioners who are responsible for the management and supervision of prevention related services.</li><li>• Establishes required administrative /supervisory work experience at two years (4,000 hours).</li><li>• Establishes specific prevention administrative /supervisory education hours.</li><li>• Will establish a specific portion of continuing education hours devoted to administrative or supervisory education</li></ul>

## **Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist II (OCPS II)**

### **Current**

A person applying to become an OCPS II must do the following:

- Have compensated work experience in which not less than fifty per cent of the individual's time was devoted to planning, coordinating, or delivering alcohol and other drug prevention services;
- Have one of the following:
  - A bachelor's degree in a behavioral science and at least six thousand hours of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services;
  - A master's or doctoral degree in a behavioral science and at least four thousand hours of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services.
- 270 hours of prevention-related education in areas specified in rule;
- 120 practical experience hours in the performance domains specified in rule;
- Obtain a registered applicant certificate;
- Pass the CPS written examination

### **Proposed**

In order to truly delineate the OCPS II from the OCPS I, the Board is proposing to realign the OCPS II requirements to include administrative or supervisory experience and education. The realigned OCPS II is intended to be a distinct level designed for advanced prevention professionals who are responsible for the management and supervision of prevention related services. Requirements that are listed as TBD will be established in Board rules.

Under the proposed realignment, an applicant seeking the OCPS II must do the following:

- A bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited educational institution in a field of study to be specified in rule;
- 6,000 hours (three years) of compensated work experience in alcohol and other drug prevention services, including at least 4,000 hours (two years) must be in the administration or supervision of prevention services;
- 100 hours of prevention-related education to be specified in rule;
- At least the number of hours of administrative or supervisory education specified in rule; number of hours expected to be 90, 45 hours each in human resource management and fiscal management;
- 120 practical experience hours in performance domains specified in rule;
- 40 hours of continuing education every two years; a portion, to be specified in rule, of the 40 hours will be in administrative or supervisory education, the remainder will be prevention related; The portion of the 40 hours devoted to administration/supervision is still TBD;
- Pass the IC&RC CPS exam