

National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) Certification Cheat Sheet:

How does the NCPS compare to state peer specialist certifications? The NCPS is a national, advanced certification that builds upon existing state certification. Most individuals will complete their state certification prior to qualifying for the NCPS.

TRAINING:

State Certification	NCPS Certification
<p>Training for peer support specialist certification varies from 32 hours to 100 hours. The most common training length is 40 hours.</p>	<p>The NCPS approved trainings must be a minimum of 40 hours. Our approved trainings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI International Peer Employment Training • Institute for Recovery and Community Integration Certified Peer Specialist Training • DBSA Peer Specialist Training • Project Return Peer Support Network’s Peer Professional Training & Placement Program • NorCal MHA WISE U Peer Support Training Academy • Appalachian Consulting Group Peer Specialist Core Recovery Curriculum Training • Intentional Peer Support • Cal Voices WISE Advanced Peer Certification Training • Mental Health Association of San Francisco National Certification for Peer Specialists Training • COPE (Co-Occurring Peer Education) Training • Mental Health and Addiction Association of Oregon Peer Wellness Specialist Training <p>The focus of the MHA NCPS examination is on knowledge not training. While we only require a minimum of 40 hours, applicants must have expanded their knowledge base beyond basic trainings through experience and continuing education.</p>

EXPERIENCE:

State Certification	NCPS Certification
The amount of paid or volunteer experience required to obtain peer support specialist certification varies from 0 hours to 2,000 hours. Most states have no experience requirement for certification.	The NCPS certification requires a minimum of 3,000 hours experience providing paid or volunteer supervised peer support services over the past six years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

State Certification	NCPS Certification
Eighteen states require one or more letters of recommendation for certification.	The NCPS requires one professional letter of recommendation for certification and one supervisory letter of recommendation for certification as part of the application process.

EXAMINATION:

State Certification	MHA NCPS Certification
Training and examination content varies significantly around the country. Some states do not require an examination to obtain certification.	The NCPS examination covers six domains of practice: Foundations of Peer Support; Foundations of Healthcare Systems; Mentoring, Shared Learning, and Relationship Building; Activation and Self-Management; Advocacy; and Professional and Ethical Responsibilities. Specific topics on the examination that are not addressed in most certification examinations include whole health, healthcare systems, trauma-informed care, and adult learning.

CERTIFICATION:

State Certification	NCPS Certification
Currently, 48 states have or are in the process of developing state certification.	The NCPS requires prior state certification. In states without certification, the NCPS requires a minimum of 40 hours training with one of our approved training organizations. If a specific training is not listed, peer training organizations are welcome to submit their training for review to see if it meets the NCPS standards.

STANDARDIZATION:

State Certification	NCPS Certification
The training and experience required to achieve certification in peer support varies significantly from state to state and, in those without certification, county to county.	The NCPS creates a single uniform standard that guarantees high levels of experience and knowledge no matter where a person is in the country.