

Continuing Education Policy for Certified Nutrition Specialists

Goal: To assure the proficiency of Certified Nutrition Specialists (CNS) by requiring that each CNS participate periodically in continuing nutrition education (CNE) to refresh existing knowledge and skills, and to acquire knowledge and skills pertaining to new advances as well as state of the art information over the full spectrum of nutrition science and nutrition care. During each 5-year period of certification, every CNS is required to accumulate 75 CNE credits, in addition to paying the recertification fee and satisfying other requirements.

CNE includes, *but is not limited to*, the following activities:

1. Participation as a learner in a professional and structured educational activity that is related to nutrition and nutrition care. Activities offering continuing medical education (CME) or other continuing professional education (CPE) that are recognized by professional organizations, e.g., medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dietetics or other health professions organizations and societies, are recognized by CNE, if the nutrition content of the activities is equal to or greater than 50%. The number of CNE credits so recognized is the same as that offered by the sponsor of the activity.

The recognized activities include, *but are not limited to*, attendance at classes and teaching activities offered in association with educational opportunities hosted by organizations such as the American Society of Nutrition, American College of Nutrition, American Medical Association, American College for the Advancement of Medicine, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, American Osteopathic Association, American Dietetic Association, American Pharmacists Association, and American College of Sports Medicine.

Other learning activities may be recognized at the discretion of the President of the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists (CBNS) or, in his/her absence, the Executive Director, or the Credentials Council, if the activities are primarily educational in nature, the presentations have scientific quality, and the nutrition content is equal to or greater than 50%.

Training classes and activities with the primary purpose of the promotion of the sale of medical, nutritional or other products, or that promote certain aspects of nutrition but lack scientific quality (e.g., sound methodology and statistical analysis, lack of objectivity or balance) are not eligible for CNE credits.

Documentation of CNE will consist of a copy of each CNE certificate.

2. Teaching nutrition courses at an institution recognized by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the US Department of Education will be eligible for CNE credits if the submitting CNS contributed 50% or more of the classroom lectures or teaching load. Each graduate course (including seminars) is eligible for 15 CNE credits per semester or

quarter. Each undergraduate upper division course (including seminars) is eligible for 10 CNE credits per semester or quarter. Each undergraduate lower division course (including seminars) is eligible for 2 CNE credits per semester or quarter.

Documentation of eligible teaching will consist of a letter describing the course(s), the number of lecture hours per course and the percentage of lectures (or other classroom or teaching time) taught by the submitting CNS.

3. Authoring or co-authoring an advanced level professional book or graduate level textbook in the field of nutrition will be eligible for 25 CNE credits. Authoring or co-authoring an undergraduate level textbook in the field of nutrition will be eligible for 15 CNE credits. Authoring or co-authoring a professional review article in the field of nutrition that is published in a peer-reviewed journal or in an advanced professional book will be eligible for 15 CNE credits. The primary author of a full original research article in the field of nutrition that is published in a peer-reviewed journal will be eligible for 10 CNE credits. A contributing author of a full original research article in the field of nutrition that is published in a peer-reviewed journal will be eligible for 5 CNE credits. The primary author of an abstract of a scientific work in the field of nutrition that is published in a peer-reviewed journal will be eligible for 2 CNE credits. The primary author of a case history in the field of nutrition that is published in a peer-reviewed journal will be eligible for 2 CNE credits. Contributing authors to scientific abstracts or case histories are not eligible to receive CNE credits for those publications. Non-professional publications and publications in journals that are not peer-reviewed will not be eligible for CNE credits. In rare situations, the President of the CBNS, Executive Director or Credentials Council may assign more or fewer CNE credits in order to more accurately reflect the scientific quality of an individual publication.

Documentation of CNE will consist of a copy of each publication.

4. Editorship. An individual serving as editor-in-chief of a professional nutrition journal is eligible to receive 25 CNE credits per annum. An associate editor of a nutrition journal is eligible to receive 10 CNE credits per annum, while an individual serving on the editorial board of a nutrition-related journal is eligible to receive 2 CNE credits per annum. Service as an editor or co-editor of an advanced professional book in the field of nutrition, or of a graduate level textbook in the field of nutrition, will be eligible for 15 CNE credits.

Documentation of CNE will consist of a letter describing the editorial activity and a copy of the Editorial Board listing published in each journal or a copy of the book.

5. Organizing and Chairing a scientific session at a professional meeting will be eligible for 2 CNE credits, if the nutrition content of the activities is equal to or greater than 50%.

Documentation of CNE will consist of a copy of the meeting program listing the organizing/chairing activity and the presentations given during the activity.