

The Value of Specialty Certification

Advanced Levels of Practice and Outcomes

As healthcare evolves, the technical knowledge and skills required to practice successfully in a complex service environment increase significantly. Although a broad range of professional skills is essential, there is an increasing expectation to develop specialized knowledge and skills that are distinctive to specific populations and service sectors. Specialty certification distinguishes professionals who practice at higher levels in areas of specialization.



Specialty Certification: Recognition and Added Value

Recreational therapy professionals who acquire a higher level of education, knowledge, and advanced skills in specific areas of specialization stand out among their peers and provide the consumer and employers with a greater depth of service.

Through CTRS Specialty Certification, CTRSs are provided with the opportunity to acquire a formalized credential recognizing their advanced knowledge and skill in a specialized area of practice.

CTRS Specialty Certification recognizes advanced knowledge and skill in focused areas of service and provides verification of established expertise to other professionals, patients/consumers, employers and the general public.

NCTRC: Dedicated to Professional Excellence

Established in 1981, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to professional excellence for the protection of consumers through the certification of recreational therapists.

Professional recognition is granted by NCTRC to individuals who apply and meet established standards for certification, including education, experience, and continuing professional development. The Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential is offered to qualified individuals based on these stringent requirements.

NCTRC supports quality human service and healthcare standards and maintains recognition by the Joint Commission, the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and Accreditation Canada. NCTRC provides credential verification services to employers and healthcare agencies. These services are strongly encouraged by NCTRC to monitor personnel adherence to the standards of the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

NCTRC is a charter member organization of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). NCTRC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

For more information about NCTRC and to review current certification standards refer to our website:

www.NCTRC.org



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Therapeutic Recreation
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NCTRC is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) and the CTRS Credentialing Program is accredited by National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

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NCTRC does not warrant or guarantee the provision of competent services by CTRSs; NCTRC certification helps to demonstrate the certificant has met the entry-level requirements for the profession.

CTRS is a trademark of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification "NCTRC®", "National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification®", "CTRS®" and "Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist®" are the trademarks of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. All rights reserved. 2014.



CTRS Specialty Certification

Recognition of
Competence Beyond
the CTRS® Credential



CTRS: The Qualified Provider

A Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist® (CTRS) is the most qualified professional to provide recreational therapy services. Recreational therapists who possess the CTRS credential have demonstrated the necessary competencies, skills and abilities for practice in a wide variety of healthcare and human service settings.

Highly skilled and professionally trained, the CTRS often serves as a member of the healthcare treatment team in concert with other professionals. Through an acquired body of knowledge, applied methodology, and practice that spans a wide range of disabling conditions and illnesses, the CTRS treats the total person and the life factors that may be associated with a disability or illness, significantly contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of patient care and service outcomes.

Why CTRS Specialty Certification?

Specialty Certification establishes formal recognition of competence beyond the CTRS credential by acknowledging the CTRS whose practice has achieved an advanced professional level in an area of specialty. CTRS Specialty Certification provides a higher level of assurance to patients, consumers, and employers in the delivery of quality recreational therapy services.

Achieving Specialization

Distinguishing recreational therapy professionals who practice at an advanced level is essential to ensure expected outcomes, quality of care and risk management.

Advanced knowledge and skill in TR/RT can be acquired through several methods including education programs, conferences focused upon specific skills or diagnostic populations, and the successful acquisition of expert skills that have been mastered over a substantial period of practice.

Specialty Certification Areas

NCTRC awards specialty certification in the following five designated areas of practice. Each is considered a distinct and separate segment of the TR/RT delivery system.

- **Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation**
- **Geriatrics**
- **Developmental Disabilities**
- **Behavioral Health**
- **Community Inclusion Services**



Eligibility

CTRS Specialty Certification is a direct extension of the CTRS credential. Only individuals who possess active CTRS certification are eligible to apply.

Multiple Specialty Certifications

An active CTRS can apply and be awarded multiple specialty certifications. A separate application must be submitted for each specialty certification designation.

Recertification Requirements

Specialty recertification is required every five (5) years and must be submitted at the scheduled time of the CTRS recertification.

Consult www.nctrc.org for detailed descriptions of qualifications, application and renewal requirements, and fees.

How to Qualify for Specialty Certification

Path A Option

CTRS: Active status

Education: Completion of 75 continuing education hours with a minimum of three (3) professional certificate trainings within a designated specialty area. Each professional certificate training must be for a minimum of six (6) CE hours. The CE hours must be completed during the five year period prior to application.

Experience: Completion of five (5) years of full-time professional TR/RT experience within a designated specialty area.

References: Submission of two professional references: one from a peer professional and one from a recent employment supervisor.

–OR–

Path B Option

CTRS: Active status

Education: Graduate Degree in TR/RT; Completion of nine (9) graduate-level credit hours within a designated specialty area.

Experience: Completion of one (1) year of full-time professional TR/RT experience within a designated specialty area.

References: Submission of two professional references: one from a peer professional and one from a recent employment supervisor.

