



March/April 2012

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**National Council  
For Therapeutic  
Recreation  
Certification**

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## Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

### May 2012 Exam Registration Tops 700 Candidates

NCTRC has experienced a significant increase in the number of applicants for the May 2012 exam. The total number of candidates scheduled to complete the May exam is 741, a 20 percent increase over the 600 candidates who enrolled in each of the May 2011 and October 2011 exams. This level of enrollment is the highest number of applicants for a NCTRC exam since the program initiated three test administrations per year. The May 2012 exam enrollment figure is the first time since 1998 that a NCTRC exam had more than 700 candidates.

### New Continuing Education Pre-Approval Process

NCTRC has established a new CEU Pre-Approval program to be used in conjunction with the required recertification renewal process. The new program was initiated on April 15, 2012 with Phase I of the program conducted through the ATRA CEU program. NCTRC CEU pre-approval is available to all TR conferences and workshops that receive CEU sponsorship via ATRA. The NCTRC CEU Pre-Approval Program was approved by the NCTRC Board of Directors after a series of successful pilot programs using ATRA sponsored CEU events.

The purpose of the NCTRC CEU Pre-Approval Program is to establish a viable mechanism for the approval of continuing education opportunities for CTRSs in their pursuit of advanced professional knowledge and recertification. More specifically, the rationale for the NCTRC CEU Pre-Approval Program is based upon the following objectives:

- Improved service to CTRSs who are pursuing recertification by assuring that potential CEU opportunities are approved by NCTRC prior to enrollment.
- Improved level of CEU opportunities available to CTRSs by pre-screening CEU sessions so that inappropriate choices are eliminated prior to enrollment.
- Improved provision of service delivered to consumers by ensuring that CTRSs are completing recertification requirements in an appropriate and thoughtful manner.
- Improved opportunities for CEU offerings to be aligned with specialty certification requirements thus encouraging more CTRSs to pursue higher level credentialing.

It is envisioned that the NCTRC CEU Pre-Approval Program will eventually serve three distinct categories of potential consumers who may benefit from a CEU pre-approval process:

1. **TR Organization Sponsored CE Programs (Phase I):** This category is the most common and the largest continuing education provider group that represents regional symposia, state conferences, and single focus workshops related to TR practice.
2. **Non-TR Organization Sponsored CE Programs (Phase II):** This category group is a fairly low volume provider group for CTRS recertification but potentially represents an emerging market given NCTRC specialty certification requirements. This provider group is characterized by allied health professions, disability specific advocacy groups, health care agencies, and educational institutions.
3. **Individual CTRS CEU Pre-approval Requests (Phase III):** This category group represents CTRSs who seek CEU pre-approval for potential coursework or training related to their work as recreational therapists and who wish to apply it to their CTRS

recertification. The CEU activities in question usually lie outside the mainstream of TR conferences and workshops.

## **NCTRC Welcomes New Board Member**

NCTRC is proud to announce the addition of a new consumer representative member to the Board of Directors. Mr. Duane "Red" Jensen will officially join the NCTRC Board on April 21, 2012 and will serve a three-year term from 2012-2015. Red is currently employed at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, FL. He works as a Program Support Assistant for the Recreation Therapy Department coordinating a cyber café and assisting patients with e-communication and computer repair. Red is a former recipient of TR services within the VA system. He is very supportive of Recreation Therapy and has served on the Board of Directors for multiple non-profit organizations that assist individuals with disabilities, such as the local chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and local centers for independent living. Red is very active in outdoor recreation as an avid kayaker, hunter and fisherman. He also enjoys camping, hand cycling and biking as much as possible. Red has participated for the last seven years in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. NCTRC is proud to have Red as a member of the Board of Directors and looks forward to his contributions during the next three years.

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for the NCTRC Board or committee involvement please contact the NCTRC Nomination and Elections Committee via Bob Riley at (845) 639-1439 or [briley@nctrc.org](mailto:briley@nctrc.org).

## **Marketing the CTRS Credential**

In an effort to continuously promote the CTRS credential and educate individuals about TR/RT, NCTRC has planned a preliminary travel schedule with presentations at the following conferences:

- May 6-8: Mid-East Therapeutic Recreation Symposium, Lancaster, PA
- June 13-15: Canadian TR Association, Halifax, Canada
- August 25: Therapeutic Recreation Institute, Orlando, FL
- October 12-15: ATRA Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ

Please plan to visit NCTRC at any of the above listed conferences.

## **Recertification and Annual Maintenance Deadlines Approaching**

NCTRC would like to remind you that if your five year recertification cycle ends on May 1, 2012, you will need to submit your recertification application postmarked by June 30, 2012. NCTRC does not accept recertification applications postmarked after this date. Annual maintenance applications are also due no later than June 30, 2012. To submit your application online, log in to [MY NCTRC LOGIN](#) or visit [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org) for more information.

## **Helpful Reminders to Ensure a Successful Internship**

The summer months often serve as an opportunity for students to complete their academic internships. In order to provide a smooth transition to obtaining the CTRS credential, the following requirements must be met during the internship experience:

- The length of the internship must be a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks and 480 hours. **PLEASE NOTE: This Standard is changing as of January 1, 2013. Any applications postmarked on or after January 1, 2013 will need to complete a minimum of 14 consecutive weeks and 560 hours.**
- The intern must work a minimum of 20 hours per week and no more than 45 hours per week.
- The field placement supervisor must be employed full-time at the sponsoring agency and work a minimum of 32 hours per week. At least 50% of the supervisor's duties must be in

therapeutic recreation and he/she must be an active CTRS on the first day of the internship.

- The field placement supervisor must be certified for at least one year prior to supervising interns.
- The internship experience must be based on the therapeutic recreation process as defined by the current [NCTRC Job Analysis](#).

Please visit NCTRC's website to review and download the [NCTRC Field Placement Standards](#).

### **Did you know ...**

#### **The CTRS Credential is Important in Healthcare Today**

The CTRS credential is viewed as a strong and viable credential in healthcare today. The CTRS credential has been developed and accredited by nationally accepted standards for certifying agencies. The following specific criteria have established the CTRS credential as an acceptable and viable healthcare credential:

1. NCTRC certification standards are based on the knowledge and skill necessary for competent practice in the delivery of recreational therapy services as verified by international research pertaining to the CTRS job analysis.
2. Every CTRS has passed a national certification exam which has established norms for both validity and reliability.
3. Every CTRS completes recertification designed to measure continued competence to hold the credential.
4. Every CTRS complies with NCTRC disciplinary code to retain the credential. The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification has been the main focal point for addressing the disciplinary codes for the profession of recreational therapy.

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or [nctrc@nctrc.org](mailto:nctrc@nctrc.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.**