



National Council for  
Therapeutic Recreation  
Certification

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☐ Menu

| CTRS Certification | New Applicants | CTRS Renewal | Exam | Employers | CTRS Verification

# September/October 2015 e-News

Posted on October 9, 2015

Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

## NCTRC Welcomes New Executive Director

On August 3, 2015, NCTRC welcomed the new Executive Director, Anne Richard, MS, LRT/CTRS. Anne has come to NCTRC with a wide array of experience in the TR field.

“It is a tremendous honor to be here and I hope to use the skills that I’ve learned through many years of practice as an educator, consultant, clinical specialist, director, therapist, internship supervisor and manager, to continue the tradition of excellence at NCTRC.”

## NCTRC Responds to CMS Proposed Rule Change

According to the 2014 NCTRC Job Analysis, 29% of the responding CTRSs indicated that they serve a Geriatrics population and 19% noted a Skilled Nursing Facility as the employment site. NCTRC welcomed the opportunity to provide a comment regarding the CMS Proposed Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities. Specifically, NCTRC focused the response to the qualifications for the director of activities position. Please click on the link below to see the comment posted to the Federal Register.

[www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=CMS-2015-0083-0167](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=CMS-2015-0083-0167)

## Certificate Programs are Not the Same as Certification

In the pursuit of the 50 hours of continuing education required for NCTRC Recertification, CTRSs utilize a variety of options. These options can include attending online webinars, attendance at professional workshops or conferences, and participation in college courses just to name a few. The criterion for any continuing education opportunity that is used for recertification is the ability to relate to one of the knowledge domains of the NCTRC Job Analysis. There are some activity certificate based programs claiming to be recreational therapy, so it is important that you understand the difference between a certificate and a certification. According to the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) document entitled, *“DEFINING FEATURES OF QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT-BASED CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS”* Copyright 2010 (p. 4), the “primary focus of an assessment-based certificate program is on facilitating the accomplishment of intended learning outcomes.” “The certificate awarded designates that participants have completed the required education/training and demonstrated accomplishment of the intended learning outcomes.” The “primary focus of a professional/personnel certification program is on providing an independent assessment of the knowledge, skills, and/or competencies required for competent performance

of an occupational or professional role or specific work-related tasks and responsibilities.”

In summary, the certificate program is focused on specific learning outcomes as a result of the content covered in the program, while the certification program (like NCTRC) is focused on the independent evaluation of knowledge, skills, and/or competencies required for competent practice of a profession. So, as you explore the many continuing education opportunities available to you, please remain cognizant of the NCTRC Job Analysis domains (Foundational Knowledge, Assessment Process, Documentation, Implementation, Administration of TR/RT Service, and Advancement of the Profession), as well as the hours earned and how they will be documented (CEU document, Certificate, Verification Letter, etc.). Please see the NCTRC Certification Standards for details on Continuing Education requirements.

### Recreation Therapy in the News

<http://www.cosozo.com/article/bridging-gap-recreational-therapy-and-its-place-healthcare>

### NCTRC Recertification Deadline

Whether you're a CTRS veteran or a recently certified CTRS, it is imperative to know the facts about NCTRC Recertification. However, if your five year expiration date is December 31, 2015, you should definitely be aware of the rules and standards governing NCTRC Recertification. A complete copy of the NCTRC Recertification Standards can be viewed at [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org). Please submit your recertification application postmarked no later than December 31, 2015 with the appropriate fee. Please be aware that the Recertification review process can take from 4-6 weeks for NCTRC to complete. If you are required to be certified for your employment, do not wait until the deadline to submit your application. For your convenience the recertification application can be completed online by visiting [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org) and logging into My NCTRC Login. Please be advised that NCTRC can NOT accept recertification applications after the December 31, 2015 deadline.

### Important NCTRC Recertification reminders:

- Please do not submit Continuing Education documents with your application. If your application is randomly pulled for audit you will be sent a letter requesting that you submit your original, official documents to NCTRC.
- Make a copy of the completed application and keep it for your records.
- If you mail your application by postal mail, it is advisable to send it by certified, return-receipt mail.
- A letter of verification is required if your 480 hour TR work requirement has been met with either part time or volunteer work.
- All continuing education hours must be related to one of the NCTRC Job Analysis Knowledge Codes (FKW – Foundational Knowledge, ASP – Assessment Process, DOC – Documentation, IMP – Implementation, ADM – Administration of TR/RT Service, ADV – Advancement of the Profession) and need to total 50 hours completed over the five year period.

### Continuing Education: the Opportunities are Endless

\*NEW\* Internship Supervision: The new standard allows for up to two (2) CE credit earning internship

supervisory experiences per recertification cycle. Each internship supervisory experience will be awarded five (5) CE credit hours for a maximum award of 10 credit hours per recertification cycle. The application of the new standard is retroactive for up to five (5) years thus allowing CTRSs to count past internship supervision as part of their current CEU portfolio as long as all terms and conditions are met in accordance to the new standards. For additional information, please review the Guidelines for Continuing Education for NCTRC Internship Supervision and the NCTRC Internship Supervision Continuing Education Form

**Hospital/Agency Education:** Many work-related educational sessions or in-services may be appropriate for recertification. (Please note: topics such as Infection Control, CPR, First Aid and Life Saving are not accepted.)

**Academic Coursework:** Coursework can be audited (8 hours per academic credit) or taken for credit (15 hours per academic credit). Academic courses may be taken online or through correspondence.

**Teleconferences/Audio Seminars:** A growing number of continuing education providers sponsor teleconferences.

**Home Study Programs:** Several organizations provide continuing education via professional journal review and home study courses. Similar to many online programs, educational material can be purchased for completion over an extended time period.

**Internet:** A simple search for “continuing education” will provide many opportunities for consideration. Many of the internet/online-based continuing education programs can be purchased for a reasonable fee.

**Conferences:** Therapeutic Recreation, Recreation, or CE sessions in related disciplines are accepted as long as the content relates to the NCTRC Job Analysis Knowledge Areas.

Please contact NCTRC directly if you have any questions or concerns about Recertification.

### It's Time for the NCTRC Board Election

NCTRC will be conducting the 2015 Board of Directors Election online from November 1st to November 30th, 2015. There are three (3) open positions to be filled via this year's election.

The 2015 NCTRC Election Candidates include:

C. Armstrong Beyerlin, MS, CTRS/R, FDRT (WA)

Colleen A. Cooke, EdD, CTRS (PA)

Cecilia Y. Rider, MS, CTRS (GA)

Deborah J. Tiger, MS, CTRS (IL)

Melissa L. Zahl, PhD, CTRS/L (OK)

*Please take the time to exercise your right to vote!*

Between November 1st and 30th log in to [MY NCTRC LOGIN](#) and click “Vote Online”. You will be able to review information about each of the candidates by clicking “Candidate Information”. Once you have selected your three (3) candidates, complete the ballot and submit it directly to NCTRC. All e-ballots will be sent anonymously to NCTRC.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact NCTRC at (845) 639-1439.

Did you know ...

- There are CTRSs residing in more than 12 different countries
- The highest number of CTRSs (1020) reside in North Carolina
- There are 543 CTRSs residing in Canada within 13 provinces and territories

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.

#### CONTACT US

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#### HOME

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#### LINKS

[American Therapeutic Recreation Association](#)

[Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association](#)

[Institute for Credentialing Excellence](#)

[Therapeutic Recreation Directory](#)

[US Dept. of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

Recreation Therapy Licensure Boards:

[New Hampshire](#)

[North Carolina](#)

[Oklahoma](#)

[Utah](#)



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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