

## What is a CDCES?

### A Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES)

is a health professional who possesses comprehensive knowledge of and experience in diabetes prevention, prediabetes, and diabetes management. The CDCES educates, supports, and advocates for people affected by diabetes, addressing the stages of diabetes throughout the lifespan. The CDCES promotes self-management to achieve individualized behavioral and treatment goals that reduce risks and optimize health outcomes.

The CDCES certification is designed and intended for health professionals who have responsibilities that include the direct provision of diabetes care and education (DCE), as defined by the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE).

CBDCE is a national, independent, not-for-profit certification organization that administers the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) credential. A tradition of excellence, the CDCES certification process is built on over 34 years of integrity and has become a standard of excellence for the delivery of quality diabetes care and education.

The CDCES credential is held by registered and advanced practice nurses, registered dietitian nutritionists, pharmacists, physicians, PAs, and other health professionals who provide diabetes care and education. Just over 19,900\* individuals hold the CDCES credential. (\*April 2021).



## Why Certify?

The CDCES credential is a professionally recognized achievement and a sought-after mark of excellence in the diabetes community. Obtaining certification will expand your career opportunities, provide you with credibility and recognition on the diabetes care team, and will help increase your marketability!

**It is crucial to have a CDCES as a team member in the hospital, as well as, outpatient setting. The credential empowers the person with diabetes to implement care that the physician prescribed and learn day-to-day lifestyle management.**

### Current CDCES



The program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).



## Mission

To promote comprehensive and ongoing quality diabetes clinical management, education, prevention and support by defining, developing, maintaining and protecting the certification and credentialing processes.

**Please note:** The Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) certification was formerly known as the Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) certification.

### Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education

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Arlington Heights, IL 60005

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[www.cbdce.org](http://www.cbdce.org)

Connect with us!



**Commitment,  
Confidence  
and Excellence  
in Certification**



## What are the Eligibility Requirements to Apply for the Certification Examination?

**Note:** The following is a general overview of the eligibility requirements. For full details, visit the CBDCE website and access the current Certification Examination for Diabetes Care and Education Handbook (Handbook).

- **Discipline:** Qualifying health professional license/ registration including, but not limited to: RN, NP, RD/ RDN, RPh, PA, and ACSM-CEP®. See Handbook for all qualifying disciplines. \*
- **Professional practice experience** (work or volunteer)\*\*:
  - **General:** 2 years
  - **Diabetes education:** 1,000 hours - within a maximum of 4 years (with 400 of those hours in the last 12 months)
- **Continuing education (CE):** 15 hours of diabetes-related CE within past 2 years

\* **What if I Don't Meet the Discipline Requirement?**  
Visit the CBDCE website to learn about the "Unique Qualifications" pathway (UQP) for health professionals holding advanced degrees in a health-related area or concentration. Pre-approval is required.

\*\* **NEW!** COVID-19 pandemic adjustments established for initial CDCES certification requirements. Visit [www.cbdce.org](http://www.cbdce.org) for current information.

## Examination

The Examination is computer-based and delivered year-round at approximately 300 Assessment Centers throughout the United States. After meeting the eligibility requirements, you apply for the Examination online at <https://schedule.psiexams.com/>. When you submit an application, you will either be approved and issued a 90-day window in which to schedule and take the Examination or selected for an audit requiring you to verify that you have met all of the eligibility requirements.

## How to Apply

When you meet the requirements and are ready to test, most individuals can apply online through the testing agency's website at <https://schedule.psiexams.com/>.† Review the Handbook for detailed information on applying for the Examination, including the few instances when a paper application is required.

† Does not apply for those applicants who qualify via the UQP. Visit the website for information.

## What is the Examination Fee?

The examination fee is \$350. The CDCES certification is valid for five (5) years.

## How to Prepare for the Examination

Refer to the current Handbook for information on how to prepare for the Examination. It includes the Examination Content Outline (Outline) where you can gauge your current knowledge and experience in relation to what's covered on the Examination. There's also a list of references, sample questions, and other information. You'll also want to take a look at CBDCE's Suggestions & Tips Brochure on the website for ideas in preparing for the Examination.

Another resource for preparing for the Examination is provided through CBDCE's voluntary practice examination (PE). The PE, available for \$55, is composed of 50 multiple-choice questions that are illustrative of the type and format of questions included on the Examination and its focus is practice, rather than self-assessment.

## When Will I Receive the Examination Results?

In most instances, you'll receive the results right after you've taken the Examination. The Handbook has important information on interpreting the score report.

## Handbook

Download the Handbook for free at [www.cbdce.org](http://www.cbdce.org) or request a mailed copy (upon publication). Send your request and provide your name and address via mail, phone, fax, or email to **PSI, CBDCE's testing agency:**

**PSI Services**  
Attn: CBDCE Coordinator  
18000 W. 105th St.  
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