



NASPO Fact Sheet: UPPCC Certification

- Certification through the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) is an established process through which you can demonstrate your qualifications and public procurement knowledge. Over thirty-five years ago, NASPO, in collaboration with the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), jointly established the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) as a separately incorporated entity to independently and objectively administer certification for public procurement professionals.¹
- As noted on the UPPCC website, the functions of the organization are as follows:
 - to establish, monitor, and revise requirements for certification
 - to continue research efforts relating to the certification of public buyers and procurement officers
 - to coordinate with other NIGP and NASPO programs in order to further the certification of public procurement officers
 - to do all things necessary and proper to promote and insure professionalism in public procurement
- The UPPCC offers two designations: Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO) and Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB). Each credential is valid for a period of five (5) years.
 - Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO): Intended for supervisors of public purchasers/buyers and Managers of public purchasing functions.
 - Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB): Intended for professionals that perform public purchasing functions (buyers), non-managerial or supervisory.²
- In order to be eligible, applicants must meet the education, coursework/training and experience requirements for the designation they are applying. The applicant must then successfully complete the examination, comprised of 190 multiple-choice questions. The examination is administered via computer at Prometric testing centers during the last two full weeks in October and the first two full weeks in May.³
- The [2013 UPPCC Body of Knowledge](#) (BOK) is the basis of the examination. The BOK represents the knowledge and skills that an individual possesses or should possess in order to competently perform the duties of a manager or supervisor of the public procurement function.

Benefits of Certification ⁴	
Professional recognition	Personal satisfaction
Increased knowledge through exam preparation	New employment/advancement opportunities
Increased credibility with clients	Indicator of expertise



- In order to maintain certification status, UPPCC recertification is required every five (5) years. Each candidate for recertification must complete the Recertification Application within the specified five (5) year time frame. The application consists of three (3) categories for involvement hours, Continuing Education - Accredited, Continuing Education - Non-Accredited, and Professional Contributions. Total contact hours required to recertify are as follows: CPPO or CPPB - 45 contact hours, Dual Status - 45 contact hours, and Lapsed Status (*one or both certifications*) - 55 contact hours.⁵

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- As of April 2015 there were 1,802 CPPOs and 4,959 CPPBs currently certified.⁶
- As of April 2015 over 180 NASPO members held CPPO or CPPB designations (this includes all forms of membership).
- Results of the 2015 NASPO Procurement University Survey indicate that 25 of 36 responding states promote/encourage UPPCC certification.⁷

Conclusion:

Completion of UPPCC Certification demonstrates a standard of competency in public procurement and the ability to make sound decisions that result in the maximum value of the taxpayer's dollar. This aligns with NASPO's mission of furthering excellence and professionalism within public procurement.⁸

Resources

UPPCC Website: <http://www.uppcc.org/>

NASPO Certification Webpage: <http://www.naspo.org/dnn/ProcurementUniversity/Certification.aspx>

2014 NASPO State and Local Government Procurement: A Practical Guide; Chapter 21

NASPO Procurement University Trainings: <http://www.naspo.org/dnn/ProcurementUniversity.aspx>

Procurement University is a multi-faceted professional development platform to assist state procurement officials and staff in building their skills, knowledge, and professional practice. Procurement University will provide UPPCC exam preparation courses, study groups and trainings that are eligible for recertification contact hours.

References:

¹ About UPPCC: UPPCC Website <http://www.uppcc.org/about/index.aspx>

² Become Certified: UPPCC Website <http://www.uppcc.org/certified/process.aspx>

³ Exam Preparation: UPPCC Website <http://www.uppcc.org/certified/preparation.aspx>

⁴ Become Certified: UPPCC Website <http://www.uppcc.org/certified/index.aspx>



⁵ Current Certificant, Recertification: UPPCC Website <http://www.uppcc.org/current-certificants/recertification.aspx>

⁶UPPCC Current Certificants: UPPCC Website <http://uppcc.org/current-certificants/certificants-search-results.aspx?cppbID=All%20>

⁷The 2015 NASPO Procurement University Survey

⁸2014 NASPO State and Local Government Procurement: A Practical Guide; Chapter 21

For more information on this fact sheet contact Policy Analyst, Matt Oyer, moyer@naspo.org