



National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators

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Summary of the 2016 Certification Examinations and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education

05/2017

The mission of the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) is to define, develop, maintain and protect the certification and credentialing process to promote ongoing quality diabetes education and support.

To inform the public, potential candidates, and those currently holding the Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®) credential, NCBDE each year publishes a summary of the results of the certification examination for diabetes educators (Examination) administered the previous year, and the results of renewal of certification by continuing education.

Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators — 2016

The current Examination Content Outline was implemented beginning with the 2014 Examinations reflecting the results of a 2013 practice analysis, which surveyed Certified Diabetes Educators about the tasks they performed. Questions on the Examination are linked directly to a task or tasks. Each question, therefore, is designed to test if the candidate possesses the knowledge necessary to perform the task or has the ability to apply it to a job situation.

Beginning in mid-January 2016, NCBDE moved from two two-month testing windows (spring and fall) to year-round testing. Individuals were able to apply to take the examination year-round at a time convenient to their own schedule. After approval of eligibility, a 90 day window for taking the examination was provided.

A total of 1,589 candidates took the exam in 2016. Of the total, 66% took the examination for the first time, 14% had previously taken the examination, but had not passed, 2% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 6% renewed certification status.

Pass/Fail Statistics for 2016 Calendar Year

Category of Candidates	Total	Pass	Fail
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-standard pathway	1040	66.73%	33.27%
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-unique qualifications pathway	7	57.14%	42.86%
Candidates renewing certification by examination	91	96.70%	3.30%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2015	27	88.89%	11.11%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2015	31	74.19%	25.81%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	390	42.31%	57.69%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	3	66.67%	33.33%
Total Testing Candidates in 2016	1589	62.93%	37.07%

2016 Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education

Renewal by continuing education in 2016 required that CDEs hold the license or registration for the same discipline held at the time of initial certification and, during the five year recertification cycle, a) meet the renewal practice requirement of 1,000 hours of professional practice, and b) earn 75 hours of continuing education in content areas applicable to diabetes. For those CDEs who meet the practice experience requirement, the renewal by continuing education option may be used each time recertification is due. A CDE[®] who cannot document meeting the practice requirement must accrue the required hours of continuing education at the time of application for the Examination and successfully pass the Examination.

A total of 2,759 CDEs submitted applications for renewal of certification by continuing education; more than 99% successfully completed the process.

NCBDE

NCBDE was established in 1986 to promote the interests of diabetes educators and the public at large by granting certification to qualified health care professionals involved in teaching persons with diabetes through the establishment of eligibility requirements and development of a written examination. When the first examination was offered in 1986, 1,248 health care providers successfully completed the certification process to become the inaugural group of CDEs. The NCBDE certification process is a voluntary testing program used to assess the qualified health care professional's knowledge in diabetes self-management education. There were 19,323 credentialed CDE[®] health care providers as of January 1, 2017.

CDE[®] Credential



The credential demonstrates to people with diabetes, employers, and third party payers that the CDE possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for patients with diabetes. This certification has become the recognized standard for competence in diabetes self-management education. As the number of individuals diagnosed with diabetes continues to increase, it is important for them to have access to the services of CDEs. NCBDE is committed to maintaining the quality and integrity of the CDE[®] credential. In March 2016, the certification program received accreditation by the [National Commission for Certifying Agencies \(NCCA\)](#).