

You Earned It! Now Keep It!

Certification Maintenance through
the Board of Registry (ASCP)

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What is Certification Maintenance?

- Mandatory Continuing Education required to keep your Board of Registry or NCA Certification
- MT(ASCP) / CLS(NCA)
- MLT(ASCP) / CLT(NCA)

ASCP/BOR Certification Maintenance

- Not the same as being a member of ASCP
- Membership in ASCP is voluntary and maintenance of certification is not contingent upon same.

NCA Certification

- Since 1978
- Always had mandatory CE requirements
- 36 CEU's every three years

ASCP/BOR Certification

- Mandatory Continuing Education implemented for those passing the exams in 2004 and after
- Required for entry level categories
 - MT
 - MLT
 - MP
 - Categoryals – H, M, BB, PBT

Voluntary ASCP/BOR Certification Maintenance

- Mandatory Continuing Education not required if your certification was earned prior to 2004
- Participation in Voluntary certification maintenance program encouraged
- Same in all ways except there are no penalties if you choose not to participate

Why Require Mandatory CE ?

- Demonstrates to the public that continued competence of medical laboratory personnel is assured
- Keeps you current on developments in your field
- Provide opportunities for both professional and personal enrichment

What if I don't do this?

- Your certificate will no longer be valid if you fail to recertify after the 3-year time period printed on your original certificate
- Can't use (ASCP)^{CM} after your name!

What if I don't do this?

More importantly

- Inquiries into your certification status by potential employers will be answered that you are no longer certified.

What do I have to do?

- Earn a minimum of 36 points (CEUs - Continuing Education Units) every three years starting from the day you become certified, i.e Pass your exam

What is considered a point?

- 1 contact hour = 1 point
 - In formal CE courses
 - Employer sponsored in-services
 - Teleconferences
- 1 PACE credit = 1 point
- 1 CME = 1 point

What kinds of CEUs do I need to maintain MT and MLT certification?

Minimum Distribution of Points for Generalists

- 1 Point in Safety
- 2 Points in each of the following:
 - Blood Banking
 - Chemistry
 - Hematology
 - Microbiology

Distribution of Points (con't)

- Remaining Points (25) in area(s) of lab specialty, immunology, molecular diagnostics, management, education, or other related laboratory areas of interest

Important Note

- Continuing Education activities may not be carried over from one 3-year period to the next.
- i.e. If you pass your exam on June 1, 2008 all activities must occur between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2011

How can I get these Points?

- Formal Continuing Education Courses such as this annual meeting!
- Sponsored by various organizations:
 - ASCP, AACC, ASCLS, CACMLE, ASH, ASM, JCAHO, American Red Cross, CAP, SWACM

How can I get these Points?

- Employer-offered courses such as in-services, instrument training, vendor-sponsored, etc
 - 1 contact hour = 1 Point
 - This is where your Safety requirement point will most likely come from

How can I get these Points?

- College/University coursework
 - 1 semester hour = 15 Points
 - 1 quarter hour = 10 Points

How can I get these Points?

- Teleconferences, subscription or online self-instructional courses for which CME, CMLE, ACCENT, and PACE credits are awarded
 - 1 contact hour = 1 Points

How can I get these points?

- Competence Assessment by Employer
 - Requires the ASCP/BOR Employer Assessment Form (found in CMP Booklet)
 - 2/year with a maximum of 4 in this category

How can I get these points?

- Serving on committees/boards related to the profession at the national, state, regional, or local level (ASCLS [KSCLS], CLMA)
 - 2 points for each year served

- There are other activities that can earn you points but they are more likely to be used by MT/MLTs who have been in the field for a while
- As a new graduate you may not be able to utilize these other activities
- Check the CMP Booklet for a complete listing.

Documentation

- Certificates of Participation
- PACE Certificates
- Program Syllabi

- Keep copies of these in a safe place where you will be able to find them when you need them!
- Make sure the date is on them!

Procedure

- At least 2 months before your certification expires complete the Declaration Form
- Just list what you have done for Continuing Education on the form
- Send to ASCP Board of Registry along with applicable fees*

*Applicable Fees

- If you join ASCP when you graduate, and remain a member for 3 consecutive years, you get a voucher that covers the fee for the renewal of one certification
- So you would not ever have to pay for your CMP renewal if you join.

Procedure (con't)

- If your documentation is accepted without audit you will get a new certificate valid for 3 years and a new CMP packet for the next time period

Procedure (con't)

- You only have to send your documentation if contacted by the ASCP Board of Registry
- Differs from NCA requirements where you send copies of your certificates with your renewal form

Double Certifications

- For those with multiple certifications (i.e. MT/CLS and MP) you can use some of the same activities for both certifications
- i.e. Safety training, and the elective continuing education activities

Paying for Double Certifications

- A second certification requires an additional \$15 fee to be sent with your renewal
- So if you use the voucher, you will only have to pay \$15
- If you don't use the voucher, you will pay \$50 for the first certification and \$15 for the second.

Some activities can be used for different categories

- "Molecular Comparisons Between Thalassemias and Hemoglobinopathies" can be used as either Hematology point or as a molecular diagnostics point, but not both

Some activities can be used for different categories

- A case study in Immunohematology worth 2 CEUs can be used in several ways:
 - 2 pts in either Hematology, immunology, or blood bank
 - 1 pt in blood bank & 1 pt in immunology, or any other combination of the 3 areas

What if you can't recertify?

- You can request inactive status for one year if you have extenuating circumstances
 - Serious, incapacitating illness over one year in duration
 - Military assignment overseas in a location with no access to on-line workshops

What if you can't recertify?

- Financial hardship and personal/family-related responsibilities are not considered extenuating circumstances!

What if you let your Certification Expire?

- You can seek reinstatement
- Requires:
 - Declaration form
 - Pay current CMP fees
 - Pay an additional \$50 reinstatement fee
- If more than 10 years has elapsed you will need to retake and pass the exam

Examples of Face to Face Continuing Education

- Multi-day Meetings
- One day workshops
- College Coursework
- Hospital Grand Rounds & Lectures

- Prices vary

Examples of Paper-Based Continuing Education

- Journal Article-based activities
 - *Lab Medicine* – journal of the ASCP that you get if you join ASCP
 - *Clinical Laboratory Science* – journal of ASCLS that you get if you join ASCLS
 - Advance for MLPs (free subscription)
- Read the article/case study; answer the questions, send in the answer sheet with fee (\$15-20)

Colorado Association for
Continuing Medical Laboratory
Education

- www.cacmle.org
- Paper-based CE
 - Anticoagulant Therapy – 5 CH for \$60
- Teleconferences
 - Interactive Micro series with optional wet unknowns
 - \$178/session

CACMLE (con't)

- Workshops & Seminars
 - “Micro in the Mountains”
 - Multiday workshop in Breckenridge, CO held annually

ASCP On-line Activities

- www.ascp.org
- Case Studies over Various topics
 - Cost is \$13 for 1 CMLE
- Short Courses over various topics
 - \$33-54 for 2-4 CMLE

ASCP Teleconferences

- Teleconferences that can be purchased individually or in a series (by topic)
- Usually purchased by a lab
- Can be attended by many lab personnel

ASCP – CheckSample, CheckPath, & LabQ

- Materials sent out monthly, quarterly, or as single events
- Printed material plus slides and other diagnostic materials
- CheckSample – most like to be purchased by the lab as a whole
- CheckPath & LabQ priced to be purchased by individuals

ASCLS On-line CE Activities

- www.ASCLS.org
- The Learning Scope (Advance Magazine)
- Can earn up to 6 CEUs
 - Read article
 - Take quiz (paper or on-line)
 - Pay fee
 - Certificate is sent to you

ASCLS On-line CE Activities

- www.ASCLS.org
- Westgard Quality Corporation
- Earn 8 CEUs for \$40
- Topics on quality control, method validation & verification

Media Lab Inc

- Link to from the ASCLS webpage
- Subscription series for on-line courses
- Earn up to 70 Contact Hours for \$95/year

National Lab Training Network

- www.cdc.gov/nltn
- Face to face training
- Workshops in a box
- Self study modules
- Lending Library
- Audio conferences & webcasts

- Free to about \$60

Medical Lab Training

- www.medtraining.org
- Institutional subscriptions
- Covers all topics in the lab
- Unlimited use once you subscribe

Clinical Lab Standards Institute (CLSI)

- Link to from the ASCLS webpage
- Teleconferences
- Prices range from FREE to \$195/teleconference

College Classes On-line

- Great for CLT/MLT who want to complete their B.S.
 - University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
 - University of Cincinnati
 - Weber State University
 - Michigan State University (Molecular Diagnostics)
