# QAP Becoming a Qualified Academic Program

## Key Terms

### Qualified Academic Program (QAP)

A Qualified Academic Program (QAP) is an academic degree program in safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) practices meeting BCSP standards for participation in the Graduate Safety Practitioner® (GSP®) program. Currently, BCSP defines a QAP as a bachelor's or master's degree program in safety, health, and/or environmental practices whose curriculum has been determined to be a substantial match to the Associate Safety Professional® (ASP®) Examination Blueprint.

### QAP Coordinator

A QAP Coordinator is the contact person between the academic institution and BCSP. It may be the department chair, professor, or a program coordinator. This person works with BCSP to help maintain the program's QAP status. In addition, they inform students about the GSP program and promote the value of holding the CSP certification.

### Graduate Safety Practitioner® (GSP®)

The GSP is a designation available to graduates of a QAP. The GSP designation is an alternate path to the Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®), waiving the requirement to sit for the ASP exam. Students graduating from a current QAP may be eligible for the GSP.

### Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®)

The CSP is the "gold standard" in safety certification and is awarded by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP). The CSP is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). **More information about BCSP and the CSP can be found at** BCSP.ORG.

## GSP Benefits

Graduates of a QAP are eligible to apply for the GSP designation, which meets the credential requirement necessary to apply for the CSP certification. BCSP supports graduates by awarding them the GSP designation, which demonstrates their safety commitment to established professionals and potential employers.

There are numerous benefits of obtaining the GSP designation, including:

- You meet the CSP eligibility requirement of holding a BCSP qualified credential, waiving the ASP and its exam.

- Recognition for being on a path toward the CSP certification.

- Recognition for being on a path toward the STS and STSC certifications.

- Recognition for the level of preparation for professional safety practice.

- A GSP digital wall certificate.

- GSPs' names and digital badges appear on the BCSP Credential Holder Directory.

- Use of the BCSP Career Center (JOBS.BCSP.ORG) to post a resume and view career opportunities.

- Use of the BCSP Mentor Program to support the pursuit of safety certification.

# How Do You Become a GSP?

Individuals must complete an online application for the GSP designation and upload a copy of their conferred transcript within one year of graduation, or during the program's applicable dates as listed on the QAP list. The QAP list can be found at

BCSP.ORG/GSP.

Once the application is approved, the GSP designation is awarded. All GSPs pay an annual renewal fee to maintain their designation and may hold the GSP for up to six (6) years. When a GSP meets the eligibility requirements for the CSP certification, they may submit their CSP application by logging in to *MyProfile* at BCSP.ORG.

Once a GSP achieves the CSP certification, the GSP designation expires. GSPs who lose their designation before achieving the CSP must achieve the ASP certification or another BCSP qualified credential before applying for the CSP.

For more information about the GSP, ASP, and CSP, refer to the *Complete Guide to Safety Certification* at BCSP.ORG/GSP.

# QAP Benefits

Being a QAP distinguishes your SH&E program from other programs. It recognizes graduates' accomplishments with a path to professional certification.

- BCSP gives special recognition to QAP schools in our Academic Database on our website.

- There is no cost to the school for either a program review or becoming a GSP QAP.

# Institutional Requirements for Programs

Programs are reviewed by BCSP throughout the year, and new programs are added to the QAP list on a quarterly basis. Once a program is published on the QAP list, graduates of the program are eligible to apply for the GSP designation.

Note: This process of review is repeated with each new ASP examination blueprint revision.

**The ASP blueprint can be downloaded from the BCSP website at** BCSP.ORG/ASP.

## Institutional Requirements for Programs with ABET-AABI Accreditation

Academic institutions that have degree programs in SH&E accredited by ABET and/or AABI, that are interested in having a program become a QAP, must:

- Make a formal request to BCSP to be considered for the QAP program, either through email, mail, or by phone.

- Submit program information including QAP coordinator and contact information.

- Submit a listing of the degree program's required course curriculum from the current academic year.

- Submit a detailed syllabus for each required course.

## Institutional Requirements for Programs WITHOUT ABET-AABI Accreditation

Academic institutions with degree programs in SH&E, not accredited by ABET and/or AABI, that are interested in having a program become a QAP, must:

- Make a formal request to BCSP to be considered for the QAP program, either through email, mail, or by phone.

- Submit program information including QAP coordinator and contact information.

- Submit a listing of the degree program's required course curriculum from the current academic year.

- Submit a detailed syllabus for each required course.

- Provide documentation on how knowledge is assessed within each exam blueprint domain covered by the program's required curriculum. This can include quizzes, exams, assignments, and projects that demonstrate student outcomes.

**B C** ⬡ **S P**

# FOUNDATION

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## Accreditation Contributions & Scholarships

BCSP and the BCSP Foundation are committed to supporting your school's endeavors to maintain or pursue accreditation through the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). Accreditation is an important indicator of quality, and BCSP has made it part of its mission to provide monetary contributions to our QAPs to aid in accreditation costs.

The following program contributions are available for QAPs through the BCSP Foundation:

- A QAP is eligible for a grant of up to $10,000 toward full accreditation or reaccreditation under the ABET.

- The BCSP Foundation provides QAPs with scholarships for their students.

For additional information about scholarships, and to apply for grants offered, please visit bcspfoundation.org/grants.

# BCSP | Board of Certified® Safety Professionals

Name of College or University — Accreditation/Recognition

University Affiliation (if any) — Course Curricula Implementation Date

Program Name — Average Number of Graduates Each Year

College — Department — Online or Classroom

Campus Location

University Website Address

## Institution's Mailing Address

Full Mailing Address

Department Chair/Head — Title

Email Address of Department Chair/Head

## QAP Coordinator Contact Information

QAP Coordinator's Name — Title

QAP Coordinator's Mailing Address

Email Address — Telephone Number

Does the program have any program accreditation such as ABET, AABI, or ATMAE?   Y/N

Name of Accreditation

For more information, please contact *GSP@bcsp.org* or Kathleen Golding at +1 317-390-3883.