About NBPTS Certification Renewal

National Board Certification is issued for a period of 10 years, at which point an NBCT must complete the Profile of Professional Growth prior to the expiration date of his or her certificate. An NBCT can only renew certification in his or her original certificate area. An NBCT may informally begin work after achieving National Board Certification and may formally begin work on the Profile of Professional Growth as early as year eight of his or her certification period.

Certification Renewal Question and Answer

What is the basis of the Profile of Professional Growth for renewal of National Board Certification?

An NBCT’s accomplishments throughout the life of his or her certificate reflects an inherent desire to be involved in professional growth to increase impact on student learning. The professional growth activities in which an NBCT is involved are complex and include development of certificate-specific content knowledge and pedagogical and technological skills obtained through workshops, courses and readings of the latest professional literature. The pursuit of growth is ongoing, often beginning before certification and expanding like a web into a variety of professional growth areas. This ongoing process takes on new meaning from the moment of certification and continues whether the NBCT focuses on the preK-12 classroom, on mentoring other teachers or on supporting candidates for National Board Certification.

The Profile of Professional Growth is designed to promote continued professional involvement in a variety of areas consistent with the high and rigorous standards that certification represents. It provides an avenue for NBCTs to articulate and examine what certification still means. It is a healthy reminder that certification is a springboard to becoming a better educator, and it provides a singular focus that increased student learning is still what an NBCT is all about.

What does the Profile of Professional Growth look like?

Although the Profile of Professional Growth is separated into three components, its impact must be viewed as a single entity. It has been designed so that NBCTs show the connections they make between their continued professional growth and student learning:

**Component 1** requires submission of responses to prompts related to four areas of professional growth that the NBCT identifies, which may have begun before certification, but have evolved to become the focus of professional growth since certification. These professional growth experiences include current content knowledge and pedagogy, acquisition of effective and appropriate use of technology, and must be ongoing, varied and multi-faceted. They must reflect the NBCT’s continuous commitment and contributions to the professional activities that ultimately have an impact on student learning.
Component 2 requires the NBCT to choose one of the professional growth experiences featured in Component 1 and demonstrate its application. This component requires a 10-minute video in which the NBCT demonstrates preK-12 classroom teaching in the same content and developmental level as the original certification, and it must be created in the 8th or 9th year of National Board Certification. The video and accompanying written commentary must demonstrate student learning in an environment that ensures equity of access, promotes an appreciation of diversity, and demonstrates certificate-specific content knowledge.

Component 3 requires the NBCT to choose one of the remaining Professional Growth Experiences from Component 1 and demonstrate its application. This component offers several options, including the choice of featuring work with preK-12 learners or with professional colleagues. The basis for this component must be a different professional growth experience from that used in Component 2 and must demonstrate either a direct or indirect impact on student learning.

Throughout each of the three components, the NBCT's activities must demonstrate meaningful and rigorous learning experiences tied to certificate-specific content knowledge, and in responding to the prompts, the commentary must reflect the fact that the NBPTS standards continue to be embedded in the NBCT's practice.

The final section is Reflection in which the NBCT analyzes the connections and patterns among all three components of his or her Profile from the perspective of the role of an educator. The NBCT must focus on challenges encountered, and discuss plans for continued professional growth and efforts to impact student learning.

How does renewal differ from initial certification?

The process for renewal of National Board Certification is different from the initial certification process in several ways.

- The renewal instrument has several interrelated components rather than entries and exercises that are independent of each other.
- A renewal candidate’s response is evaluated holistically rather than each component being considered separately.
- Renewal is not as lengthy a process as the original certification process; however, it is still a rigorous and demanding examination of professional growth since original certification.
- Renewal candidates will receive either a "Renewed" or "Not Renewed" decision. The reports of renewal decisions will be different as will the resubmission process for renewal candidates who receive a "Not Renewed" decision.

What counts in the renewal evaluation?

No one style or approach to teaching or professional growth is mandated by the NBPTS Standards or rewarded by the evaluation process. The process is open both to NBCTs who are in the classroom and those who have left the classroom to work in some other educational capacity. However, in either case, renewal candidates have to meet the same requirements described by the rubric.
The renewal decision is based on the evidence that a candidate submits:

- Component 1 descriptions and evidence of four professional growth experiences (PGEs)
- Evidence in Components 2 and 3 that focuses on the application of two of those PGEs
- Overall reflection

Taken in its entirety, this evidence offers an opportunity to understand how a renewal candidate has grown professionally since National Board Certification.

Due to the interrelated components of the renewal instrument, a holistic scoring approach is used. That is, a single decision to renew or not renew is made based on the entire body of evidence submitted by the renewal candidate.

**What is the evaluation rubric for renewal?**

The language of the evaluation rubric is identical for all candidates seeking renewal status regardless of certificate area. The language in the rubric is constructed so that it directly values what is being asked for in the renewal instrument.

The renewal rubric governs the type of evidence that the evaluators will look for in each renewal candidate's submission. The rubric has two levels - renewed and not renewed.

**Renewed:** The renewal candidate has provided sufficient evidence of the identification of important needs in his or her professional context; of professional growth in areas which address those needs in a variety of rich and powerful contexts, including areas of content and/or pedagogical knowledge; and has provided sufficient evidence of the application of professional growth in ways that have a meaningful impact on student learning. The renewal candidate has provided sufficient evidence of the acquisition of knowledge of current technology and/or effective and appropriate incorporation of technology into teaching and learning; and has drawn on and/or contributed to the resources of the school, district and/or community. The candidate has provided evidence of teaching practice in his or her certificate-specific area in ways that recognize the needs of students, ensure equity of access and promote appreciation of diversity, and provide relevant and meaningful instruction for students. The candidate has provided evidence of professional growth that has evolved since certification and is varied and/or multifaceted. Although there may be unevenness in the level of evidence of professional growth presented, overall, there is sufficient evidence of professional growth since certification to support renewal of certification.

**Not Renewed:** The renewal candidate may have provided insufficient evidence of the identification of important needs in his or her professional context; or insufficient evidence of professional growth in areas to address those needs, or the professional growth activities may not exhibit variety or depth. The application of PGEs may not have impacted student learning either directly or indirectly. The candidate may not have demonstrated the acquisition of knowledge of current technology and/or has incorporated technology into teaching and learning areas in trivial or inappropriate ways, or not at all. The renewal candidate may not have drawn on and/or contributed to resources of the school, district and/or community. The candidate may not have
demonstrated teaching practice in his or her certificate-specific area in ways that recognize the needs of students, or may have done little to ensure equity of access, or promote appreciation of diversity, or may have provided irrelevant or meaningless instruction for students. The candidate may not have provided evidence of professional growth that has evolved since certification; professional growth may not be varied and/or multifaceted. There may be some examples of professional growth experiences or teaching practice that indicate some degree of growth, but overall there is insufficient evidence of professional growth since certification to support renewal of certification.

There are seven aspects, each of which is part of the holistic rubric. They are:

- Identification of needs
- Acquisition or deepening of content/pedagogical knowledge
- Acquisition and/or effective and appropriate use of current technology
- Involvement of others
- Demonstration of standards-based relevant and meaningful instruction
- Equity of access and appreciation of diversity
- Impact on student learning

**What is the process used in the evaluation of Renewal?**

Two evaluators independently read a renewal candidate's submission, collecting evidence for each of the above aspects as they go (although each aspect does not have to be demonstrated in every professional growth experience or in every component) They then discuss the submission, the evidence for each of the eight aspects, and come to a joint holistic decision. Evaluators are trained extensively to evaluate this body of information and to minimize the effects of personal biases on the decisions that they make when viewing the evidence. Evaluators are not permitted to evaluate a response that they do not feel they can evaluate objectively, nor can they evaluate a response from someone they know. In the instance when the evaluators agree on a "Not Renewed" decision, a trainer further reviews the evidence.

**What if I received a "Not Renewed" decision?**

If a renewal candidate receives a "Not Renewed" decision, he or she will also receive recommendations for focus generated as part of the evaluation process, to guide his or her resubmission of a renewal response. These recommendations will be specific to the renewal candidate's submission but are of a standardized nature based on the evaluation rubric. In the original certification process candidates do not receive any feedback about their submission. However, they receive scores on each entry or exercise that direct candidates to areas of strength and weakness and so guide retake decisions. Since the renewal process generates a single holistic decision, these recommendations for focus are intended to direct the renewal candidate who is not renewed on the first attempt to areas where the level of evidence needs to be strengthened.

There will be two concerns addressed in the decision letter for candidates who do not renew. The first will identify whether there were any major omissions that resulted in the "Not Renewed" decision. A major omission would include missing evidence such as failure to submit evidence for any of the three components, or to omit a major part such as video,
learner work or commentary. Additionally, the students featured in Component 2 must be in the age range for the certificate in which the renewal candidate originally certified, and the content focus of the lesson must be from the original certificate area and created in the eighth or ninth year of certification. Failure to meet this requirement will result in an automatic "Not Renewed" decision.

The second concern addressed in the "Not Renewed" decision letter is a list of the key aspects identified in the rubric and an indication of whether there was an appropriate level of evidence, or if the level of evidence for this particular area needs to be strengthened. If a candidate receives a "Not Renewed" Decision, he or she should re-read his or her submission, with the rubric and the decision letter that indicates the areas identified as in need of strengthening. For areas where the level of evidence is in need of strengthening, the candidate should consider whether there are alternative professional growth experiences that would provide richer evidence.

**When should NBCTs apply for renewal?**

NBCTs may begin the process as early as the eighth year of certification to ensure adequate time to successfully complete the renewal process.

**What is the fee for renewal?**

The total fee for certificate renewal is $1,150, which includes a $300 non-refundable application fee.

**When will renewal submissions be evaluated?**

The evaluation of the Profile of Professional Growth is expected to take place in July each year. NBCTs seeking renewal will need to plan accordingly to ensure they have adequate time to complete the process based on the timeframe for evaluation.

**When will evaluation results be reported?**

An NBCT seeking renewal should receive notification of a decision by November of the year in which he or she submits the Profile of Professional Growth.

**How long will a renewal certificate be valid?**

Once an NBCT has successfully completed the renewal process and met the evaluation standard for renewal of certification, the original certificate is extended for ten years from the date of expiration.

**Will NBCTs have an opportunity to apply for a second attempt to renew their certificate if they are not successful on the first attempt?**

NBCTs are encouraged to begin the renewal process in their eighth year of certification to allow two attempts to successfully renew their certificate in two years. Should an NBCT wait until his or her ninth year of certification, he/she will only have one opportunity for renewal.

When resubmitting a response to the renewal instrument, a candidate must present a
complete submission. Because of the holistic nature of the evaluation process, all components and the reflection need to be viewed as one entity. The renewal candidate may modify as little or as much of original submission as he or she feels necessary. For example, a renewal candidate might decide to change what was submitted only for Component 3, or a candidate might replace one or more Professional Growth Experiences. Alternatively, a renewal candidate might realize that while he or she submitted evidence of a Professional Growth Experience that was very important, the description of its relevance to renewal may not have been adequately described.

**What is the fee for the second attempt to renew?**

The fee to attempt to renew certification the second time is the same as the initial application ($1,150). NBCTs will be required to resubmit their entire profile for evaluation. Score banking is not available for the renewal process.

**Is the renewal process based on revised NBPTS standards?**

Renewal is based on the NBCT's application of the current standards within the original area of certification. Many of the standards have been revised to better reflect current teaching practices, and NBCTs will need to read and review these standards as part of the renewal process.

**What if I am teaching in a different field than I originally certified in? What if I am no longer actively teaching? Can I still attempt certificate renewal?**

Yes. However, because Renewal requires classroom teaching in the area of your original certificate, you will need to establish a relationship and work with students of a colleague as part of the renewal process.

**Can I attempt renewal after my certificate expires?**

No. If you do not successfully complete the renewal process prior to the expiration of your certificate, you will need to apply and go through the National Board Certification process as a first-time candidate.