

## **BCNS Job Analysis Survey and Exam Content Outline Overview**

The Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists (BCNS) commissioned a job analysis to be conducted for its program that certifies nutrition specialists. Candidates who pass the examination are awarded the designation Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS).

This study was previously conducted in 2013 as one of the prerequisites for program accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The twofold purpose of the current job analysis was to update the exam content outline as the guiding document for the exam structure and content, and to fulfill the requirements for re-accreditation

A representative task force of subject matter experts (SMEs) was appointed to oversee the job analysis, with guidance from a psychometric consultant and BCNS staff. An online survey was developed to administer the survey and to record the response data. A pilot version of the survey was disseminated first, primarily to ensure completeness, ease of use, and time required for completion. Subsequently, the survey was distributed to all 867 individuals who populate BCNS's database. The net response rate was 25.4%. An analysis of the respondent demographics indicated that the 220 individuals who comprised the survey sample were reasonably representative of the population.

Respondents were asked to rate each of 97 content items on the basis of frequency of being used on the job, and the importance of using the knowledge effectively. The survey provided a 4-point frequency and 4-point importance rating scale for respondents to record their opinions.

Based on survey results and statistical analyses, the exam content outline has been modified to reflect updates in clinical practice advancements. The modified content outline will be published in June 2019 and will be effective beginning with the CNS exam scheduled for November 16, 2019.

The next job analysis will be conducted in 5-7 years.