How I “ate the elephant” (not really)

My journey to Certified Safety Professional Certification.
Questions?

• Why do this?
• Can I do this?
• How did others do this?
• How do I prepare?
• When will I have time to prepare?
• When do I take the test?
• Where do I take the test?
• How much will this cost?
Overview of the Certification Process

1. Apply Online
2. Determined Eligible
3. Purchase Exam
4. Sit for Exam (Pass)
5. Receive Certification
6. Maintain Certification
7. Five Year Recertification
8. Annual Renewal Fee
9. Pay Exam Fee
10. Fail
11. One Year Eligibility
Application process

• A complete application requires candidates to provide:
  1. Contact Information
  2. A Qualifying Credential
  3. Experience Information
  4. Education Information
  5. Application Agreement and Validation
     1. acknowledging truthful information has been provided,
     2. informing BCSP of any criminal convictions or unethical behavior
     3. agreeing to adhere to BCSP Code of Ethics
  6. Payment of Application $ 160 (waived for Military veterans)
General Description of the CSP Examination

• All candidates for the CSP must pass the CSP examination to earn the credential.
• The CSP examination contains 200 multiple-choice items with four possible answers and only one correct answer.
• Data necessary to answer items are included in the item or in a scenario shared by several items.
• Each item is independent and does not rely on the correct answer to any other item.
• Formulas will be embedded into each item that requires one.
Set Your Exam Date

• Do this early!

• Pay for the Exam
  • $350 each X 2 = $700

• Schedule Your Exam
  • Pearson VUE
  • To ensure examination time and location, schedule at least six to eight weeks in advance.
  • You will need your Candidate ID
  • Examination Authorization Letter.
Set Your Exam Date

• Stick with the date!
• Take the exam
• If you pass, then great
• If you do not pass, then it is a learning experience, and you will know where you should concentrate your studying efforts
Preparing for the Examination

• Various approaches to prepare for the examination:
  
  • Complete Self-Assessment examination
  • Perform individual study
  • Participate in informal study groups
  • Attend formal review courses
Preparing for the Examination

• SPAN:
  • Test prep software,
    • $ 275 per, $400 with workbook
• DataChem:
  • Test prep software
  • $ 600 for both
• Certification Preparation Workshops: Langlois, Weigand & Associates, Inc.
  • $ 735
  • intensive three-day program
  • Gain knowledge and confidence
  • review of SH&E concepts and test-taking strategies
How did I prepare?

• BSCP self assessment exams:
  • Diagnose your strengths and weaknesses
  • Understand the examination format
  • Practice test-taking on real questions
  • Simulate test-taking times
BCSP-Published Self-Assessment Examination

- A self-evaluation helps determine how well you know various subjects.
- The self-assessment examination is based on the blueprint
- Half the length of a full examination. 100 questions
  - Includes a scoring sheet and correct answers.
  - Includes solutions to computational items,
  - References for each item.
- Cost $95 (Worth every penny !)
Online Study course

• Bowen EHS
  • Comprehensive online review course
  • Interact live in real time with instructor and other participants
  • Lectures are presented twice a week for 8 weeks and offered at multiple days and times
  • Lectures recorded for those who prefer to study at their own pace or want to review the material more than once.

• One year Premium Membership to the Bowen EHS
  • Online forums
• My class dates February 11th-April 3rd, 2014
• This worked best for me!
My reference material
Examination Study Plan

• Examination blueprint shows how the items on an examination are distributed across domains and tasks/topics. (3 domains CSP)
• The percentage of items per domain is noted on the examination blueprint
• Converting your subject strengths and weaknesses into a study plan will increase your overall examination score.
• Scoring well in one subject area can compensate for a weaker score in another subject area.
CSP EXAM BLUEPRINT

• Domain 1
  • Collecting Safety, Health, Environmental, and Security Risk Information • 28.6%

• Domain 2
  • Assessing Safety, Health, Environmental, and Security Risk • 36.6%

• Domain 3
  • Managing Safety, Health, Environmental, and Security Risk • 34.8%
Developing a Test-Taking Strategy

• Knowing your strengths and weaknesses
• Having an examination preparation plan
• Developing a test-taking strategy
• Understanding how to use your calculator
Developing a Test-Taking Strategy

• Knowing how to take the examination will help improve your score.
• 200 Multiple-choice items with only one correct answer and three incorrect answers.
• The goal is to get as many items correct as possible.
• There is no penalty for selecting an incorrect answer.
• Only correct answers count toward reaching the passing score.
Developing a Test-Taking Strategy

• Read the items carefully
• Consider the context
• Use examination time wisely
• Go back to troublesome items
• Complete all items
  • Choose “C”
Using Your Authorized Calculator(s)

• You may bring two calculators:
• Casio models FX-100, 200 or 300 series
• Hewlett Packard models HP 10, 12, or 17 series
• Texas Instruments models TI-30 series
• Make sure you know how to use your calculator(s)
• It is a good idea to practice working solutions
When to Study?

- Early morning
- Lunch
- Evening
- Any time you can squeeze in 15 minutes

“Set aside study time”
  - Schedule study time into your daily calendar
  - *Come to work early, shut your door, study for one hour.*
Stay Out of the WEEDS !
Where?
2012

- Member of a professional safety organization, noticed CSP after members name?
- Researched options and different certifications

- Joined an ASP?CSP “Study group”

- Though about it/talked about “A lot”!
2013

• Set goal for myself that I would complete process...
• “Study Group” 1 CSP, 3 individuals
  • Thought about it some more..

• September 30th, 2013, Submitted Application!
  • $160 (waived for Veteran)

• October 22nd, 2013 notified that I met eligibility requirements!
2014

• Online Class: February- April 2014 ($1145)
  • Two days a week, 2 hours, 16 weeks

• ASP Exam May 29, 2014 $350
  • 48 days
  • 6 weeks and 6 days

• CSP Exam July 15, 2014 $350
Cost

- Application: $160 (waived)
- Exam fees: $350x2 = $700
  - Practice exams: $198
- Renewal fee: $150.00 per year
- Online course: $1145 (employer)
  - Books $125

Optional:
- Prep software: $598 (borrowed)
- Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene $242 (borrowed)
My “out the door” cost

Time:
• Start to finish, (includes 2 years of dragging the feet):
  • 2.5 years

Getting down to business time:
• Start of class until CSP test.
  • 220 hours of study (10 hours a week)
  • 154 days
  • 22 weeks
  • 5 months, 4 days

Money: $1173
Final Thoughts

• Learned a little about a lot!
• Gained exposure to all areas of “what” safety professionals do in practice.
• Demonstrated knowledge of professional safety practice at the CSP level.
• Feeling of accomplishment!
• ARM is next!
"When eating an elephant take one bite at a time"

• Creighton Abrams, United States Army General

• Certification Preparation can be overwhelming
  • don’t try to get there in one big leap.
  • Your journey should be a progression of a thousands of little steps.