



# CPS APPLICATION

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Certified Prevention Specialist

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS – READ CAREFULLY

Prior to applying, all requirements must be met and documented.

**Do not apply until all requirements are met.**

**TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **Mail:** VCB, 298 S. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109
2. **Email:** [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org) *NOTE: Only PDFs are permitted. Photos of applications are not accepted.*
3. **Fax:** 717-540-4458 *NOTE: faxing is an unreliable technology. Receiving a confirmation of fax does not indicate it has been received. To confirm receipt of application, email [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org).*

## REVIEW & APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Application submitted to VCB. To confirm receipt of application, email VCB at the above email address.
2. Staff reviews application. Allow up to 10 business days for review and processing.
3. Applicant will be emailed if there is any documentation missing or there are questions regarding an application. Applications with pending problems will be held open for one year from date of receipt after which they will be closed.
4. An application is considered approved when applicant receives an email from the testing company to register for the examination.
5. Follow all instructions to register for the examination provided in the email.
6. If you have not heard from VCB regarding your application or received an email from the testing company to register for the examination after 10 business days, email [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org).
7. Once you pass the examination, you are certified.
8. A certificate will be mailed to you within 10 business days.

# CERTIFIED PREVENTION SPECIALIST REQUIREMENTS

All requirements below must be met to apply. All required documentation must be sent in with an application except for the official college transcript which is sent to VCB directly prior to application.

## FORMAL EDUCATION

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**REQUIRED:** Minimum bachelor's degree.

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**It is recommended you obtain documentation approximately three weeks prior to sending in your application. Documentation of bachelor's degree may be mailed to VCB or emailed to [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org) by the educational institution prior to application.**

The degree must be from an accredited college/university that is recognized by the US Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. An official transcript sent directly from college/university is required. If the degree is from outside the United States, a degree equivalency must be done by an organization that specializes in that process. The applicant is responsible for arranging this process and all costs.

Official transcripts are required and must be sent directly from college/university to VCB prior to application. **Official transcripts may be mailed to VCB or emailed to [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org).**

**It is recommended you request transcripts approximately three weeks prior to sending in your application.**

If you have a sealed official transcript in your possession, you may mail it in the sealed envelope to VCB prior to your application arriving or mail it in with your application.

If you have outstanding debt or other issues which prevent the college/university from releasing your official transcript, you must resolve these issues with the school prior to applying for certification.

## PREVENTION WORK EXPERIENCE

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**REQUIRED** Bachelor's degree in a relevant field: two (2) years of full-time employment or 4000 hours of part-time of employment. **OR** Bachelor's degree in a non-relevant field: three (3) years of full-time employment or 6000 hours of part-time employment.

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**Qualifying work experience** is based on a professional who has demonstrated competency related to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use prevention, and who provides services that help individuals, families, and communities to develop the capacities needed to achieve behavioral health and wellness. Prevention specialists deliver evidence-based prevention programming in a wide range of settings including schools, workplaces, health care centers, behavioral health programs, community-based organizations, and prevention coalitions. No other work experience in the drug and alcohol field can be used for prevention certification other than what is stated above.

Qualifying work experience can be from multiple employers to accumulate the required years/hours.

If the applicant's work experience requirement is not fulfilled from their current employer, they must include **documentation from previous employer(s)** verifying their title, duties and dates employed with their application. DO NOT submit a resume as proof of previous work experience. Applicant must contact previous employers and request detailed documentation of their employment from them.

The applicant **must be currently employed as a prevention specialist** at the time of application. All work experience **must have occurred within the last seven (7) years.** Volunteer work is not acceptable.

## CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION

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**REQUIRED:** Copy of current prevention specialist job description, obtained from current employer, and which must be signed by both the applicant and their immediate supervisor.

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All applicants must include a copy of their current prevention specialist job description. This **document is provided by your employer** and must be signed and dated by the applicant and their immediate supervisor.

Job descriptions determine and verify eligible current work experience. Job description must clearly delineate prevention work as a primary function of the position.

**If you have held different prevention positions with your current employer**, please provide all relevant job descriptions with the application. For instance, if you started as a prevention assistant, then you were promoted to a prevention specialist, include both job descriptions.

In lieu of job description(s), employer may provide an official position description on agency letterhead. This required documentation must include the applicants' dates of employment (to/from) employment status (full-time or part-time), title of position, a detailed description of the duties and responsibilities for the position, and the average number of hours per week the applicant worked.

## ON-THE-JOB SUPERVISION

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**REQUIRED:** 120 hours of on-the-job supervision of qualifying work experience with a minimum of 10 hours of supervision in each prevention domain.

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Supervision is a formal or informal process that is administrative, evaluative, and supportive. It ensures quality of prevention services and extends over time. Supervision includes observation, mentoring, coaching, evaluating, inspiring, and creating an atmosphere that promotes self-motivation, learning, and professional development. In all aspects of the supervision process, ethical and diversity issues must be in the forefront.

**VCB has no requirements for who provides supervision.** The person providing supervision is at the discretion of the agency.

Supervision can be provided in an individual, one-on-one setting and/or observation of skills or group supervision setting.

Supervision can be provided by **more than one supervisor**. In this case, provide a copy of page 11 of this application to all the supervisors documenting supervision on your behalf.

## EDUCATION/TRAINING

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**REQUIRED:** 120 total hours of prevention relevant education/training of which  
24 hours must be specific to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs  
6 hours must be in prevention ethics.

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**Education is defined as** formal, structured instruction in the form of workshops, trainings, seminars, in-services, college/university credit courses, and online education.

There is **no limit to the amount of online education** that may be submitted.

Most three-credit college/university courses count as 45 hours. One training CE/CEU counts as one hour.

Out of state education is acceptable.

**All education/training must be documented.** College courses are documented with an official college transcript. Trainings are documented with copies of training certificates.

Training certificates must have the applicant's name, title of training, date(s) of training, the number of hours being awarded, and the name of training organization. Training certificates submitted without this required information on them will not be accepted.

If a training title on a certificate of attendance does not clearly indicate the education content, attach a copy of the training description.

Training registration forms and/or training sign-in sheets are not acceptable forms of documentation.

**Training must be non-repetitive** meaning the same training cannot be claimed more than one time even if the training is taken on different dates from different providers.

Official employer training tracking system/learning management system reports may be acceptable forms of documentation for education/training provided that the report contains the name of the employee/applicant, titles of each training, dates of each training, the number of hours of each training, and is signed by the applicant's supervisor.

There is **no time limit** on when the education/training was received.

## EXAMINATION

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**REQUIRED:** Once application is approved, applicant must pass the IC&RC Examination for Prevention Specialists (PS examination).

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Examination information provided on page 6 and on IC&RC's website: [www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org).

## CERTIFICATION FEE

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**REQUIRED:** \$350.00 (fee includes examination and must accompany certification application)

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The **fee may be paid** by check, money order or with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

If an employer or organization is paying the fee, they must include the applicants name with the payment.

Fee payment information provided on page 8 of this application. E-receipts will be sent if using a credit card for payment. Receipts for check or money order payments must be requested by applicant to VCB.

**Applications received without payment will not be processed.**

One-half of the fee is refundable if application is denied or cancelled prior to the examination. No refund will be issued if application is denied or cancelled after examination.

# APPLICATION INFORMATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Email addresses provided to VCB must be active accounts that are checked regularly. We will not be able to contact you or register you for the examination without an email address. Please print legibly.

Applicants must either live or work in VA at the time of application.

This certification is an international, reciprocal credential recognized and transferrable to many other states and countries.

## APPEAL PROCESS

The purpose of appeal is to determine if VCB accurately reviewed an application that is denied. A letter requesting an appeal must be sent to VCB within 30 days of the notification of VCB's action. An applicant shall be considered notified three days after the relevant date of mailing. The appeal will be sent to the VCB Executive Committee who will thoroughly review the entire application and materials to determine whether or not applicant should have been denied approval. The applicant will be notified in writing as to the findings of the Executive Committee.

## FELONIES & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

While felonies and disciplinary actions from other certification/licensing entities may not prohibit certification, documentation is required to be submitted at the time of application. Certification through VCB does not mean a professional should not disclose this information to potential employers and does not in any way exonerate charges.

## REQUESTS TO CHANGE APPLICATION

Professionals who wish to have their application re-reviewed for another credential VCB offers prior to taking the examination or after an unsuccessful attempt at the examination will incur a \$50 application change/review fee.

## CERTIFICATION TIME PERIOD

Certification encompasses two calendar years beginning on the date the applicant passes the examination. The certificate issued to the professional lists the following information: name of professional, credential name, date of issue, date of expiration and certification number.

## RECERTIFICATION

To maintain the high standards of professional practice and to assure continuing awareness of new knowledge in the field, the Board requires recertification every two years. Professionals should review the Recertification Application for credential specific requirements listed on the Board website well in advance of their expiration date.

# EXAMINATION INFORMATION

## TYPE OF EXAMINATION

The successful completion of an IC&RC examination is required. The examination is computer based, 150 multiple-choice questions, and offered at approved testing sites statewide. Candidates choose the day, time, and site for their examination. Once an application is approved, candidates will receive an email from the testing company with instructions for scheduling their examination.

## TIME PERMITTED

Three hours are permitted to complete the examination.

## EXAMINATION CONTENT

The examination is developed from the IC&RC Job Analysis which identifies domains and tasks for competent practice. Domains for the examination are: Planning & Evaluation; Prevention Education & Service Delivery; Communication; Community Organization; Public Policy & Environmental Change; Professional Growth & Responsibility.

## CANDIDATE GUIDE

The domains, including the task statements per domain, sample examination questions, and a list of references from the IC&RC Job Analysis are included in the Candidate Guide. Candidate Guides are available from the VCB website.

## STUDY MATERIAL

Professional study guides and practice exams have been published for the examination. This information can be found on the IC&RC's website at: [www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org).

## SPECIAL SITUATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals with disabilities and/or religious obligations that require modifications in examination administration may request specific procedure changes in writing with official documentation to VCB no fewer than 60 days prior to their examination date. Contact VCB on what constitutes official documentation. VCB will coordinate appropriate modifications to the examination process when documentation supports the need.

## CANCELLATION/RESCHEDULING POLICY

Candidates are required to arrive on time for their examination. Candidates who arrive late will not be permitted to take the examination and will be charged a \$150.00 cancellation/rescheduling fee. Candidates who cancel or reschedule their examination less than five days prior to their scheduled date will be charged the full examination fee. Candidates who cancel or reschedule more than five days before their scheduled date will be charged a \$25.00 cancellation/rescheduling fee.

## RETESTING

Candidates who fail the examination can retest after a 90-day wait period from the date of their last examination. Candidates will be sent instructions and fee information. Candidates have three (3) opportunities to retake an examination. If a candidate fails the examination four (4) times, they must submit a study plan to VCB and wait one-year from the date of the final failed examination before they will be permitted to retest again.

# CERTIFIED PREVENTION SPECIALIST APPLICANT INFORMATION

Application can be completed and saved. You may then print the appropriate pages to submit to VCB.

## TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print your name as it should appear on your certificate. Credentials and degrees will not be printed.*

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ SSN (last four): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever received any disciplinary action from another certification/licensing authority?  Yes  No  
*If yes, provide full details on a separate sheet.*

Have you read and understood the VCB Prevention Code of Ethical Conduct?  Yes  No  
*The Code of Ethical Conduct is located at [www.pacertboard.org/ethics](http://www.pacertboard.org/ethics).*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
**REQUIRED: PRINT LEGIBLY: EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU.**

Secondary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*Data is never released with identifying information. It is used to report workforce data to state and federal agencies.*

### What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary
- Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to disclose

### Do you identify as transgender?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to disclose

### How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity?

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Queer
- Questioning or unsure
- Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to disclose

### Which best describes you?

- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American or Alaska Native
- White or Caucasian
- Multiracial or Biracial (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Not listed (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to disclose

**What is your yearly income?**

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- Over \$100,000
- Unsure
- Prefer not to disclose

**Do you have military experience?**

- Active duty
- Veteran
- Not Applicable

**Language(s) spoken fluently (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sign Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese                | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English                | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tagalog (Filipino)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Language    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Italian                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ |

**Employment plans for the next two years (check all that apply):**

- Obtain full time employment/Increase hours
- Obtain part-time employment/Decrease hours
- No change
- Retire
- Move to a different career/field
- Unknown

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

**FEE OF \$350 CAN BE PAID USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (CHECK ONE):**

- Check    Money Order    VISA    MasterCard    Discover    American Express

*Checks & Money Orders made payable to VCB*

- My employer/organization is mailing payment directly to VCB.

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If different than Home Address)*

Email for receipt *(if paying by credit card only)*: \_\_\_\_\_



## CPS: FORMAL EDUCATION

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**REQUIRED:** Minimum bachelor's degree.

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I am including a sealed official transcript with my CPS application.  Yes  No

I have ordered an official transcript to be sent to VCB.  Yes  No

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Transcript: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Transcript Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

### Delivery Method:

Mailed to VCB

Emailed to VCB

## CPS: EDUCATION/TRAINING

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**REQUIRED:** 120 total hours of prevention relevant education/training of which  
24 hours must be specific to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs  
6 hours must be in prevention ethics.

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I have included copies of training certificates.  Yes  No

I have included a copy of my training tracking system/learning management system report.  Yes  No

My college transcript provides all or some of the relevant education.  Yes  No

# CPS: PREVENTION WORK EXPERIENCE & JOB DESCRIPTION

**REQUIRED:** Bachelor's degree in a relevant field: two (2) years of full-time employment or 4000 hours of part-time of employment. **OR** Bachelor's degree in a non-relevant field: three (3) years of full-time employment or 6000 hours of part-time employment.

**REQUIRED:** Copy of current prevention specialist job description, obtained from current employer, and which must be signed by both the applicant and their immediate supervisor.

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date in Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours do you work per week? \_\_\_\_\_

Total hours/years worked in current position? \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached my current prevention specialist job description, dated and signed by both me and my supervisor.

Yes  No

Do you need to document previous employment to fulfill the experience requirement?  Yes  No

*If yes, complete the section below **AND** submit a letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer(s) verifying your duties and dates employed must be included with your application.*

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

*Letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer(s) verifying your title, duties & dates employed must be included with your application.*

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date in Position: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date in Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours did you work per week? \_\_\_\_\_

Total hours/years worked in previous position? \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date in Position: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date in Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours did you work per week? \_\_\_\_\_

Total hours/years worked in previous position? \_\_\_\_\_

# CPS: ON-THE-JOB SUPERVISION

**REQUIRED:** 120 hours of on-the-job supervision of qualifying work experience with a minimum of 10 hours of supervision in each prevention domain.

Information below is to be completed by applicant's current and/or previous supervisor(s).

This page is to document the supervision hours provided to the applicant, not their total work hours.

The total hours of supervision should be 120 hours but could be more depending on the applicants' length of employment or could be less if the applicant was provided supervision from a previous employer.

Applicants may copy this page and provide it to previous supervisors.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Licenses, Certifications and/or Degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPERVISION DOCUMENTATION

Supervision was provided to the above-named applicant in the following Domains:

DOMAIN	EXACT NUMBER OF HOURS
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Evaluation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention Education & Service Delivery	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy & Environmental Change	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Growth & Responsibility	_____
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF SUPERVISION:</b>	_____

### Supervisor Attestation:

I attest that the above-named applicant has been provided with supervision as documented above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# CPS: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RELEASE

*This page must be completed by the applicant. It must be notarized and submitted with the application.*

## RELEASE

I request that the Virginia Certification Board (VCB) grant the credential to me based on the following assurances and documentation:

- I subscribe to and commit myself to professional conduct in keeping with the VCB Code of Ethical Conduct;
- I certify that the information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also authorize any necessary investigation and the release of information relative to my application;
- Falsification of any documents will nullify this application and will result in denial or revocation of certification;
- I consent to the release of information contained in my application and any other pertinent data submitted to or collected by VCB to officers, members, and staff of the aforementioned Board;
- I consent to authorize VCB to gather information from third parties regarding education, employment and/or supervision and understand that such communication shall be treated as confidential;
- Allegations of ethical misconduct reported to VCB before, during, or after application for certification is made will be investigated by VCB and could result in the nullification of the application or denial or revocation of certification.

## INITIAL EACH STATEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understood this Acknowledgements and Release.

\_\_\_\_\_ I either live or work in Virginia at least 51% of the time.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand one-half of the application fee is refundable if application is denied or cancelled prior to the examination and no refund will be issued if application is denied or cancelled after examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my application is open for a period of one year after the date of review. If I fail to fulfill all certification requirements within that year, the application will be closed, and no refund will be issued.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I request to have my application re-reviewed for another credential VCB offers prior to the examination, or after an unsuccessful attempt at the examination I will incur a \$50 change/review fee.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME LEGIBLY

## NOTARY PUBLIC ONLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that I am a notary public and the above-named applicant satisfactorily proved to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same for the purposes therein contained. In witness whereof, I hereby set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public Signature **SEAL:**

# CPS: CHECKLIST

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Page must be completed and submitted with the application. Do not submit your application until checklist is reviewed, completed and all documentation is compiled.

Prior to applying, all requirements must be met and documented. Use the table below as a guide for gathering documentation.

**Do not submit any documentation with an application that is not listed on the table or the application unless specifically instructed by a staff member. Do not apply until all requirements are met.**

REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENTATION	✓
Application page with payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 7 &amp; 8</li> </ul>	
Formal Education page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 9</li> </ul>	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official college transcript</li> <li>Copies of training certificates (if applicable)</li> </ul>	
Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 10</li> <li>Previous relevant employment documentation (if needed)</li> </ul>	
Current job description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain from employer</li> </ul>	
Supervision page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 11</li> </ul>	
Notarized Acknowledgement & Release page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 12</li> </ul>	
Checklist Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 13</li> </ul>	
Disciplinary Actions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include letter of explanation with application</li> </ul>	
Convicted of a felony?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include letter of explanation with application</li> </ul>	
Company paying fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include applicant name on payment</li> </ul>	
Copy entire application for records		

## TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Mail:** VCB, 298 S. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109
- 2. Email:** [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org) *NOTE: Only PDFs are permitted. Photos of applications are not accepted.*
- 3. Fax:** 717-540-4458 *NOTE: faxing is an unreliable technology. Receiving a confirmation of fax does not indicate it has been received. To confirm receipt of application, email [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org).*

**I acknowledge, that to the best of my ability, I have submitted a completed application.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_