

SNS CREDENTIALING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. Do I need college credits to sit for the SNS Exam?

A: Yes. To view the full SNS program requirements and to see if you qualify to sit for the exam, download the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook at www.schoolnutrition.org/sns.

2. Where can I find the SNS Exam application?

A: The SNS Exam application is part of the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook at www.schoolnutrition.org/sns.

3. What is the SNS Credentialing Exam based on?

A: The SNS exam is based on four (4) key areas, aligned with USDA professional standards that encompass nine (9) knowledge/content areas and competencies. **SNA released a new School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) exam in July 2019 which had some minor content area modifications.** With the increased focus on procurement in school nutrition, *Content Area IV: Procurement and Inventory Management* has been split and renamed *Content Area IV: Procurement Management*. This content area is now entirely dedicated to procurement related competencies and accounts for 5.5% of the overall exam. The inventory related competencies have been redistributed to other content areas, mainly *Content Area III*. To reflect this change, *Content Area III* is now named *Food Production, Inventory, and Operation Management*.

Please note that overall the test competencies have not changed, they have been redistributed to better reflect the current responsibilities of school nutrition professionals. The content area weightings have also not changed.

4. How many questions are on the SNS Credentialing Exam?

A: The SNS exam contains two-hundred and twenty (220) multiple choice questions of which only two-hundred (200) questions will be scored. The remaining twenty (20) questions will not be scored and are being pre-tested for future examinations. The pre-test items will be randomly dispersed throughout the exam, so candidates should plan on answering all questions. This is a standard industry process and best practice approved by the Certificate and Credentialing Governing Council.

Candidates have four (4) hours to complete the exam.

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5. I'm taking the SNS Exam. What will I need to study?

A: Individuals taking the SNS Exam need to use the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook which can be downloaded at www.schoolnutrition.org/sns. The Exam Handbook contains the requirements, content/knowledge areas, exam resource list to prepare for the exam, and application form.

Individuals can also purchase the SNS Exam Study Guide and/or the **School Food and Nutrition Service Management for the 21st Century** by Dot Pannell-Martin & Julie Boettger as resources to prepare for the exam. To view the resources, please click [here](#).

SNA also offers the SNS Prep Course at conferences throughout the year. The full day course is based on the SNS Study Guide and covers key content areas. Click [here](#) to see when and where the Prep Course is being offered.

Please note: The use of the SNS Exam Study Guide or Prep Course does not guarantee passing of the exam.

6. Is there a fee for taking the Credentialing Exam?

A: Yes. The application fee is \$225 for members and \$325 for non-members. If you are not eligible to sit for the exam or cancel your exam registration, you will receive a refund of the exam application fee minus the \$50 processing fee. Those who earn the SNS Credential will pay a yearly maintenance fee. The yearly fee for members is \$70 and \$175 for non-members. *Note that all fees associated with the exam are subject to change at any time.*

7. I took the SNS exam, how long will it take for me to receive the results from the exam?

A: The exam is scored by an independent testing vendor and it takes approximately 6-8 weeks after the exam date for results to be issued. If you have passed the credentialing exam, you are given the designation SNS as well as a card and certificate displaying the SNS designation. If you fail the exam, you'll receive a diagnostic report which graphically shows how you performed in each content area.

8. I passed the SNS exam, how long is my credentialing renewal period?

A: The credentialing renewal period is every 3 years. You must earn 45 CEUs to maintain your SNS credential, but SNA encourages SNS credentialed professionals to maintain 15 CEUs each year. You will also be invoiced for a yearly maintenance of \$70.00. To renew your credential, please click [here](#).

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SNS Payment Schedule	Fee
1 st Year Maintenance Fee	\$70.00
2 nd Year Maintenance Fee	\$70.00
3 rd Year Renewal Fee and 45 CEUs	\$70.00

9. My Credential is scheduled to expire soon. Do I need to submit documentation of my CEUs?

A: You are only required to submit documentation of 45 CEUs if you are randomly selected for an audit. SNA will send audit notification with your renewal notice. SNA maintains CEUs for SNA sponsored activities that you attend. You can print your SNA record which is available in the *My Account* section of the SNA website at www.schoolnutrition.org. SNS professionals can also complete the Professional Development Articles (PDAs) from the *School Nutrition* magazine online by visiting www.schoolnutrition.org/PDA.

10. I am an RDN/NDTR, can I get credit for taking the SNS exam?

A: As of June 2017, the SNS Exam is listed in the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) Guide under Certification for Alternate Recertification Periods, Activity Type 545: SNA, School Nutrition Specialist. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (RDNs/NDTRs) who successfully pass the SNS exam after June 1, 2017 can earn 75 CPEUs. **The SNS exam has been approved for 75 CPEUs for CDR cycles ending through 2024 and 40 CPEUs thereafter.** Instructions on how to receive your CPEU certificate for passing the SNS exam are included in the pass notification letter.



11. How can my SNA State Association host the SNS Credentialing exam?

A: Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/Credentialing/HostTheSNSExam/ to download the Exam Site Request Form which includes the requirements and criteria for exam proctoring, roles and responsibilities of SNA Headquarters, Exam Hosts and the Exam Candidate. SNA must receive the form at least 60 days prior to the exam date. States must also assign a Primary and Secondary Proctor from a list of prospects who meet the requirements to proctor the SNS Credentialing Exam. Please contact our Credentialing Staff at certsns@schoolnutrition.org to request a list of pre-approved proctors for your state. Proctors must submit to SNA the Proctor Affidavit (included in the Exam Site Guidelines) at least 60 days prior to the exam date.

