

Certified Pool Builder and Design Professional Pathway



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PHTA Certified Pool Builder and Design Professional Pathway?

The Certified Pool Builder and Design Professional Pathway is a specified education and certification career pathway designed to build on knowledge to become a Certified Master Pool Builder and Design Professional.

Certifications are formal professional designations issued from PHTA certifying that an individual has proven proficiency within and comprehension of a specified body of knowledge through a test and represent a level of achievement.

Is there a cost for certifications?

There are fees associated with required courses and specific exams. You can find fees and eligibility for certifications on the PHTA website under the Certification tab.

Please note that payment of the certification fee or registration in a course does not guarantee certification. You must satisfy all the requirements and applicable assessments.

I have been in the industry for many years and consider myself a master pool builder. How do I get the certification?

This pathway in no way diminishes your experience, yet offers a way to obtain official third-party validation of your knowledge and skills you can use to market yourself and your business. You can obtain the necessary certification by completing the required courses and passing the applicable assessments.

I am not interested in gaining certification beyond the CBP tied to my licensure. Do I have to move through the pathway?

The CBP designation certifies that you are a competent, professional pool builder. Although you are not required to complete the pathway, it is always recommended that a professional builder continue learning to keep up with the latest trends and continued growth.

What education is approved to qualify to take the CBP certification exam?

The GENESIS® Construction School: Concrete Pools or Vinyl Liner/Fiberglass Pools will be the course and course completion exam required to earn the CBP designation.

When can I begin to achieve the new pathway credentials?

The necessary exams and courses became available in November 2021.

What courses are required for each level of the pathway?

Certification	Required Coursework
Certified Builder Professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GENESIS® Construction School: Concrete Pools or Vinyl Liner/Fiberglass Pools
Certified Advanced Pool Builder Professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluid Hydraulics for Pools & Spas
Certified Expert Pool Builder and Design Professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards, Codes, and Ordinances; A Builder's Guide to Proper Implementation • Color Theory and Its Application • Elements of Design • Architectural Styles • Drawing for Professionals
Certified Master Pool Builder and Design Professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Pools & Water Features • Master Designer Methods • Advanced Pool Construction

I took the GENESIS® Construction School more than three years ago and passed the exam. Am I a CBP?

To become a CBP, you will need to apply and take the updated CBP exam through PHTA's testing program.

If I have taken the GENESIS® Construction School and earned my CBP, will my records be updated at PHTA?

Yes, if you have earned the CBP credential, your records will be updated. You can request a certificate, digital badge, and use the CBP marks to market yourself and your business.

I have earned my CBP. How do I become an Advanced CBP?

If you have your CBP, you are required to take and pass the Fluid Hydraulics for Pools & Spas course and pass the Advanced CBP exam to earn the Advanced CBP designation.

Are the CBP and Advanced CBP exams open book?

Yes.

I currently use my SWD Designation to market my business. Can I continue to use this designation?

Yes, you can continue to use any current designation, but PHTA/GENESIS® will only be using the new pathway credentials after November 1, 2021.

I have taken several GENESIS® courses. How do those translate to the pathway?

The pathway requirements are outlined on the PHTA website under the Certification tab. Completion of any required courses will apply towards the requisite credential.

Is there any assistance to help if I have questions as I move through the pathway?

Yes, the GENESIS® concierge service will assist you throughout your educational journey.

Why are design courses required in order to become an Expert or Master Pool Builder and Design Professional?

The rigorous design curriculum required to become an Expert or Master Pool Builder and Design Professional validates your knowledge as a well-rounded professional. Being knowledgeable in design will help you market your business, talk to consumers, and translate design features into your plans.

What is the term of the certification?

Each certification will be valid for three years, with annual CEU hours required for recertification.

Are there requirements to maintain and renew my certification?

Yes, 24 hours of approved courses are required every three years. It is recommended that you take 8 approved CEUs per year to keep current, which would meet the 24 required every three years.

How can I use the certification logos?

Once your certification is issued, you will be sent the designation seal and details on how the registered marks can be used to market yourself and your business.

Can I apply outside coursework towards certification and recertification?

No outside coursework will be accepted to satisfy core requirements.

Third-party accredited programs may be accepted for recertification credits. An approved list of education providers is available on the website genesis.phta.org. Email service@phta.org to inquire about approved programs.

Is the Certified Pool Builder and Design Professional Pathway education accredited?

PHTA is accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). PHTA complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard, which is recognized internationally as a standard of excellence in instructional practices. As a result of this accreditation, PHTA is accredited to issue the IACET CEU.

Accreditation is extensive and difficult to attain. The ANSI/IACET Standard for Continuing Education and Training provides a framework that drives the quality of our programs from responsibilities, controls, and program development to

program execution, assessment, and continuous improvement. IACET's rules even define minimum requirements for attendance duration versus Continuing Education Units (CEUs) earned.

For these reasons and because we cannot control or monitor this in non-third-party-accredited programs, we cannot provide credit for their education. Therefore, credit for classes provided by "self-accredited" educational programs will not be accepted.

It is suggested that you reach out to staff (service@phta.org) before taking third-party education to confirm it qualifies.

General Certification FAQ

Why should I earn a professional certification?

Quality competition is a fact of life and the need for a workforce proficient in the principles and practices of quality control is a central concern of many companies. Certification is a mark of excellence. It demonstrates third-party approval that the certified individual has the knowledge to assure quality of business practices, meet ANSI minimum standards, and provide quality service to his/her customer. Certification is an investment in your career and the future of your employer.

Are the certification credentials held by the individual or the employer/company?

The credential is held by the individual and will follow the individual throughout their career as long as the credential is maintained by meeting recertification qualifications.

How do I begin the process?

Visit phta.org to review the pathways, assess your qualification, and use the online application to apply.

How do PHTA certifications align with licensing?

Certifications are professional in nature and may not qualify for business licensure but check with your state licensure to see what is required in order to obtain the necessary licenses.

Does relevant work experience count towards certifications?

For all certifications, work experience is not generally applied towards the requirements in lieu of academic qualifications.

Certified Pool Builder and Design Professional Pathway Core Programs



C201: GENESIS CONSTRUCTION SCHOOL: Concrete Pools

24:00 hrs | 2.4 IACETCEUs | 24 PHTACEUs

This school encompasses all of the necessary disciplines for building a structurally sound water vessel. Topics covered within the school include site analysis, introductory fluid engineering, geotechnical and structural engineering that includes a review of difficult sites, shotcrete, waterproofing, tile, interior finishes, coping, and concrete decking. The course concludes with an interactive walkthrough of a complex project from start to finish. This program is designed to move each student through all phases of concrete pool construction in great detail, unlike anything else offered in the industry.



C260: GENESIS CONSTRUCTION SCHOOL: Vinyl Liner / Fiberglass Pools

24:00 hrs | 2.4 IACETCEUs | 24 PHTACEUs

Whether a pool is concrete, vinyl liner, or fiberglass, the necessities of a properly executed project remain the same. The water vessel requires correct hydraulics, proper installation, code compliance, and a desired aesthetic.



E211: Fluid Hydraulics for Pools & Spas

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

This program is designed to provide students a basic understanding of the hydraulic principles in order to design more efficient and serviceable hydraulic systems. Topics covered include the physics of water, hydraulic design, and important calculations such as Total Dynamic Head and operating costs.



E245: Standards, Codes, and Ordinances; A Builder's Guide to Proper Implementation

8:00 hrs | 0.8 IACETCEUs | 8 PHTACEUs

Codes and standards come at us from all sides, it seems, and every year or so those codes and standards are updated, creating a feeling of being lost in the woods for contractors, designers, enforcement, and permitting agencies. In this course, we'll differentiate between codes, standards, and ordinances. Examine what these documents require of all parties affected by them and conclude with providing background and intent on the provisions within these documents.



D180: Drawing for Professionals

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

In our business, drawing is a tool that you must have in order to effectively communicate with your clients. In this course we'll teach you fundamental sketching, drawing and drafting, skills, along with how to read and layout plans. No previous drawing experience needed.



Use the QR code to view our calendar of events.



D211: Elements of Design

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of good design and will teach you how to lay out the different improvements in your projects (e.g. pool, spa, patio, etc.). We will break the fundamentals down into two categories: the Elements of Design and the Principles of Design. Once you have a good grasp of the fundamentals, you will learn how to apply them. We will start with short practice exercises and build up to a final project: creating a master plan that includes a pool and spa.



D231: Color Theory & Its Application

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

Looking through a magazine of pools, it is easy to find well-conceived plans that failed to unify the design with proper material and color selections. Color is one of our basic means of communication and it influences our emotions so it must be understood and controlled. This program introduces the basic dynamics of color, its principles, fundamentals, its psychology, and how to apply the science to project design.



D271: Architectural Styles

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

Understanding architectural styles will enable you to coordinate details and relate the water elements back to the surrounding environment in an appropriate way. When the pool is designed to match the home's architecture, the effect can be breathtaking and add value to the property.



D265: Master Designer Methods: Crafting the Outdoor Space as a Living Art Form

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

Foresight is an essential component of good design. In this course, you will retrain how you think of water vessel design by changing the sequence of designing outdoor improvements first, and integrating the pool last. This course will challenge your design approach with a landscape-based process that considers the functionality of the entire space first. The course lecture and projects will focus on sightlines, living spaces, traffic flow, special considerations, and more, and will help you create beautiful designs with high functionality.



D280: History of Pools and Water Features

16:00 hrs | 1.6 IACETCEUs | 16 PHTACEUs

Water features have been a part of the landscape since ancient times. Are you familiar with the world's most famous water features? Can you effectively answer questions from your clients about them? Dive into the world of water history. This course will guide you through the world's most renowned swimming pools and water features from ancient (the world's first known swimming pool), historical (Versailles), to today's contemporary installations (Marina Bay Sands; Amangiri Resort, Utah). We'll identify the who's who of today's most influential water feature designers and why this knowledge is necessary to relate to your clientele.



C410: Advanced Pool Construction

8:00 hrs | 0.8 IACETCEUs | 8 PHTACEUs

This course is an advanced construction school intended to discuss advanced soil mechanics, difficult site solutions, and more advanced concrete science than presented in the C201 or C260 GENESIS® Construction Schools. The course also delves into alternative pool construction materials, major defect repair, and the rehabilitation of old pools.