

# Clinical Skills Competition FAQs

## 1. Who is eligible to participate in Clinical Skills Competition (CSC)?

Preliminary round (local-level) competition eligibility criteria are determined by each individual school or college of pharmacy. Advancement to the national-level competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition is limited to ASHP student members enrolled in a full-time ACPE-accredited (or candidate status) Doctor of Pharmacy program who have not yet been licensed to practice or who hold a license but have not yet practiced.

## 2. What knowledge and skills are needed to participate?

The CSC is designed to test problem-solving skills. To be successful in the competition, participants should be knowledgeable in the following areas:

- Pathophysiology
- Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics
- Clinical laboratory data interpretation
- Medical terminology and abbreviations
- Basic pharmacokinetic principles

The competition is not designed to test knowledge, but to evaluate ability to apply knowledge in these areas in solving drug therapy problems. Participating in the competition should be considered a learning experience and is open to students in all years of pharmacy school.

## 3. What are the benefits of participation?

Participants develop their clinical skills, expand their professional network, make new friends, and learn market and industry information that may be useful during an upcoming job interview. There are also prizes for winners at both the local and the national levels. The winning team of the local-level competition receives a free registration to the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

## 4. What prizes are available for students who compete in the competition?

- Preliminary Round (local-level)
  - The winning team members from each school/college of pharmacy receive a complimentary ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting registration to compete at the national-level competition.
- Semi-Final Round (national-level)
  - The top 10 national finalist team members receive an iPad, a 1-year subscription of Lexi-Complete®, a \$50 Amazon gift card, and a choice of 1 ASHP Self-Assessment Resource.
- Final Round (national-level)
  - The national winners each receive a \$500 cash award, individual first place trophies, and one large first place trophy for their school or college of pharmacy.

**5. When is the CSC held?**

The date of the preliminary round (local-level) competition is at the discretion of the local coordinator at each school or college of pharmacy, but must be held between August 1 - November 1. The national-level competition is held on the Saturday and Sunday before the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting officially starts.

**6. How are teams formed?**

Students are encouraged to register as self-selected teams of two. However, individual students may sign up to be placed on teams by their school.

**7. Will references be available during the competition?**

The number and type of references available during the preliminary round (local-level) competition is at the discretion of the local coordinator at each school or college of pharmacy.

Students competing in the semi-final round (national-level) competition will have electronic access to AHFS<sup>®</sup> CDI<sup>™</sup>, AccessPharmacy (generously provided by McGraw Hill), and Lexi-Complete<sup>®</sup> (generously provided by Wolters Kluwer). They will also have unrestricted internet access throughout the Semi-Final Round. Students are welcome to visit additional websites such as UpToDate or Micromedex if they have those available (either personally or through their school). Students are encouraged to review access instructions for AHFS<sup>®</sup> CDI<sup>™</sup>, AccessPharmacy, and Lexi-Complete<sup>®</sup> in advance of the national-level competition. The use of personal or classroom notes and collaborative documents are prohibited at the national competition.

**8. May I use my own electronic device (i.e., computer, tablet, mobile phone) during the competition?**

The use of personal electronic devices during the preliminary round (local-level) competition is at the discretion of the local coordinator at each school or college of pharmacy.

Students competing at the national-level are encouraged to bring a fully-charged personal laptop and/or tablet (maximum 2 per team) to the competition room for the purposes of conducting research and ensuring access to Lexi-Complete<sup>®</sup>, AccessPharmacy, AHFS<sup>®</sup> CDITM, and other online materials. Other computer software and/or electronic devices (e.g., smart phones, PDAs, etc.) are prohibited at the national competition. Competition proctors will monitor usage throughout the 2-hour competition. Additionally, ASHP will not provide electronic devices for student use.

**9. Is the submitted care plan written or typed?**

The Pharmacist's Care Plan is hand-written and only information included directly in the care plan will be reviewed and scored by the judges.

**10. Does it cost anything to compete in the CSC?**

There is no registration fee to compete in the preliminary round (local-level) competition; however, it is expected that the winning team will participate in the semi-final round (national-level)

competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. While the winning team of the local-level competition receives free registration to the Midyear Clinical Meeting, students may incur some travel and lodging costs associated with participation at the national-level.

**11. I registered for the Midyear Clinical Meeting before finding out I won my local competition. Will ASHP refund my money?**

Students participating in the national-level CSC who previously purchased a meeting registration to the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will receive a refund at the time their complimentary meeting registration is processed. Students do not need to provide any additional information for the refund to take effect.

*Please note:*

- The refund can only be executed in the same method the original registration was purchased (e.g., refund will appear on the credit card used for purchase)
- Although ASHP will automatically refund the meeting registration and process a complimentary meeting registration, any additional workshop charges will not be refunded
- A meeting registration is not needed to reserve a hotel or register for PPS (though a meeting registration is needed to attend PPS on-site)
- Please allow a few weeks for the refund to be reflected in your account/credit card statement due to the high volume of customer requests in the fall

**12. How do I find out what time my team is competing at the Midyear?**

Team timeslots are assigned prior to the meeting and will be available on the ASHP website ([www.ashp.org/ClinicalSkills](http://www.ashp.org/ClinicalSkills)) by September. Typically, assignments are made based on location, with the schools and colleges of pharmacy in closer proximity to the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting being assigned to the earlier timeslots. However, all students should be prepared to compete in any timeslot; the earliest being from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. with registration at 7:15 a.m. (local time).

**13. May I bring my own calculator or other materials into the competition room?**

Please confirm with the local coordinator at your school or college of pharmacy for guidelines around the preliminary round (local-level) competition.

At the national-level competition, ASHP will provide all necessary materials including calculators, scratch paper, pencils, etc. for student teams to complete their written Pharmacist's Care Plans. No other personal items may be on the students' desks during the competition without permission of the competition proctors. Additionally, teams may not take anything from or bring anything into the competition room while the competition is in progress.

**14. May I take notes into the competition room?**

Teams are not permitted to take anything from or bring anything into the competition room, including notes of any type. Furthermore, the use of personal or classroom notes and collaborative documents are prohibited at the national-level competition.

**15. May I use notes for my oral presentation during the final round of the competition?**

Before making their oral presentation, teams will have fifteen minutes to review the contents of their forms and papers which were collected from the semi-final round. These may be taken in and used during the final round.

**16. How will teams be evaluated?**

Teams compete by demonstrating their skills in assessing patient information and current therapy, identifying and prioritizing drug therapy problems, identifying treatment goals, and formulating a comprehensive pharmacy care plan. Teams are evaluated on the clinical relevance, effectiveness, comprehensiveness and practicality of their written recommendations as well as the clarity and logic of the oral presentation. A panel of judges score the Pharmacist's Care Plan and the oral presentation using a standardized set of evaluation criteria provided by ASHP. To view the evaluation scoring sheets, please see the *Coordinator Handbook* on the ASHP website ([www.ashp.org/ClinicalSkills](http://www.ashp.org/ClinicalSkills)).

**17. How will I know how I did at the national competition; will I get a score on my completed semi-final round case?**

Each student team will have their case evaluated by at least two clinical pharmacy faculty persons. On Sunday afternoon following the completion of all oral presentations, each team will be able to pick up their case packet, which includes their returned patient care plan, score sheet, and general answer key (note: the fully graded rubric will be emailed to each team once staff have returned from the Midyear Clinical Meeting). On Sunday, the case writer will be available at the end of the oral presentations (around 3:30 local time) to discuss the case in more detail and answer questions. Although ASHP will not publish the ranking of each school individually, we will provide a mean, median, range and standard deviation for the scores from all the schools to give context on each team's performance.

**18. When will the top ten teams competing in the Final Round of the National CSC be announced?**

The top ten teams will be announced during the student opening session on Sunday morning. Afterward, signs with the top ten teams will be posted outside the CSC competition room as well as at the ASHP Meeting Info and Membership Info booths.

**19. When will the winning team of the National CSC be announced?**

The winning team will be announced by the ASHP President during the opening session on Monday morning.

**20. Where can I learn more about the CSC and how to compete?**

Handbooks can be found at [www.ashp.org/clinicalsills](http://www.ashp.org/clinicalsills). The Student Handbook containing helpful information about what the CSC entails and outlines the process for anyone interested in competing. The Coordinator Handbook contains comprehensive information on all aspects of the CSC, including a timeline, the format of the competition, sample case and answer key, and more.

**21. How do I sign up for the CSC?**

Register for the competition through your local coordinator. If you don't know who that is, you can ask your SSHP Faculty Advisor, student activities director, or email ASHP at [students@ashp.org](mailto:students@ashp.org).

**22. Where can I find additional information about the CSC?**

For more information about the CSC:

- Contact your SSHP Faculty Advisor, or
- Explore our online resources at [www.ashp.org/clinicalskills](http://www.ashp.org/clinicalskills), or
- E-mail us at [Students@ashp.org](mailto:Students@ashp.org)

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