

Certification: Who is it for?

Certification isn't for everyone. It is for *those people who want to distinguish themselves and their achievements, and for those who want to enhance their capabilities year after year*. We all know professionals practicing in their field that have never been certified, including some who are very talented. However, a meaningful certification that is shared with other skilled, motivated professionals provides increased credibility for the certificants over time.

The ASPHP is not certifying persons because we feel that they can properly operate a piece of lift equipment. Certainly that may be a part of their skill set, but we are interested in so much more than just operation of equipment or general knowledge regarding how to safely move people. The ASPHP is interested in how the person applies their skills and knowledge in a way that is meaningful to their institution, their colleagues and to the persons they are moving.

The mission of the ASPHP is “to improve the safety of caregivers and their patients by advancing the science and practice of safe patient handling.” To do this, we need to have professional standards for professional practitioners and assist all those involved in this industry to improve the quality of the patient handling process in every area. This helps provide the safest work environment for the caregiver and their patients.

Yes, education is very necessary. Good training and orientation are essential. But it doesn't start and end there. ASPHP certificants (both CSPHP and CSPHA) are teachers, leaders and movers and shakers.

The ASPHP certifies persons who want to move further, *for those who want to understand the field and become proficient enough to lead or participate in the development, installation and maintenance of successful programs*; for persons who want to take the time to focus on each department, each protocol, each type of transfer or lift that needs to be done and then determine how the program can be developed to address each unique need; for the persons who are interested and able to work with senior management to gain budgetary and operational support for the safety program; and for the persons who are interested in working full time to see that the program produces desired results.

The ASPHP Certification Committee evaluates applicants based on a range of skill sets that are required to address and accept these challenges and objectives whether leading the charge or participating in a significant supportive role. Both types of persons are necessary to work together and lead a safety program to the realization of its goals.

We are proud of our certification program and believe that it will certainly help to create a true safe patient handling profession by giving credence to the field's professionals. Achieving an ASPHP certification means that a person has taken a step forward to say that they care enough to achieve beyond the norm in the safe patient handling and movement field. That type of person will make a difference. *Are you that type of person? Is certification for you?*