



GOING FOR YOUR GPC:

All About Those 3 Letters

Presentation to the **[INSERT AUDIENCE]**
[INSERT DATE]



Fireside Chat



GPC Presentation



Overview

- Introduction
- The Grant Professional Certified (GPC) Credential
- GPCI Ambassador Program Overview
- Pursuing Your Initial GPC Certification
- Maintaining Your GPC
- Questions



Our Mission



Credentials

Certification vs Certificates, etc.



The GPC is the only nationally accredited credential for grant professionals.

Certificate of Completion

Indicates completion of a specific training course, with varying lengths.

Educational Credential

A diploma or degree attesting to satisfactory completion of a program of study, such as a bachelor's or master's degree.

Licensure

A mandatory government recognition of an individual or institution, enacted through legislation to protect the public. Required to legally practice a profession, e.g., Licensed Social Worker.

- Examples: GPC, CFRE, CGMS, CVA, CPA, etc.

NCCA Accredited Program



NCCA Accredited Since 2019

The GPC is the only grant credential that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).



Focused on Competency Assessment

Assessing specific skills independently from educational or training programs is the primary focus of NCCA accreditation.



Benefits for Stakeholders

A Mark of Excellence for Employers

Nonprofits, government agencies, and school systems recognize GPC as a symbol of experience, knowledge, professional development, and ethical standards when hiring grant professionals.

Respected by Peers

Fellow grant professionals acknowledge GPC as a sign of commitment to personal growth, professional dedication, and shared attributes.

Assurance for Clients

The GPC helps clients identify grant consultants/professionals with proven skills, experience, and commitment to ethical practices.

Valued by Funders

The funding community appreciates applications submitted by GPCs for their thoroughness, understanding of requirements, and ethical grant management practices.





Elevating the Grant Profession

The GPC credential:

- Sets the standard for professionalism and competence
- Increases demand, recognition, and respect in the nonprofit sector
- Leads to improved compensation for grant professionals
- Enhances the profession's reputation, trust, and credibility

***Together, we
are setting the
standard &
increasing the
number of
GPCs!***



<https://www.grantcredential.org>

**626 Total GPCs and Growing.
Congratulations to our latest GPCs!**

Dawn Johnson , Cincinnati, OH (06/01/28)

Ann Kloforn Bloome, Arlington, VA (06/01/28)

Teri Peters, Orem, UT (06/01/28)

Jacquelyn Vanessa Prioleau, Miami, FL (06/01/28)

Jo Schantz Hall, Golden, CO (06/01/28)

Tiia Libin, Steamboat Springs, CO (06/01/28)

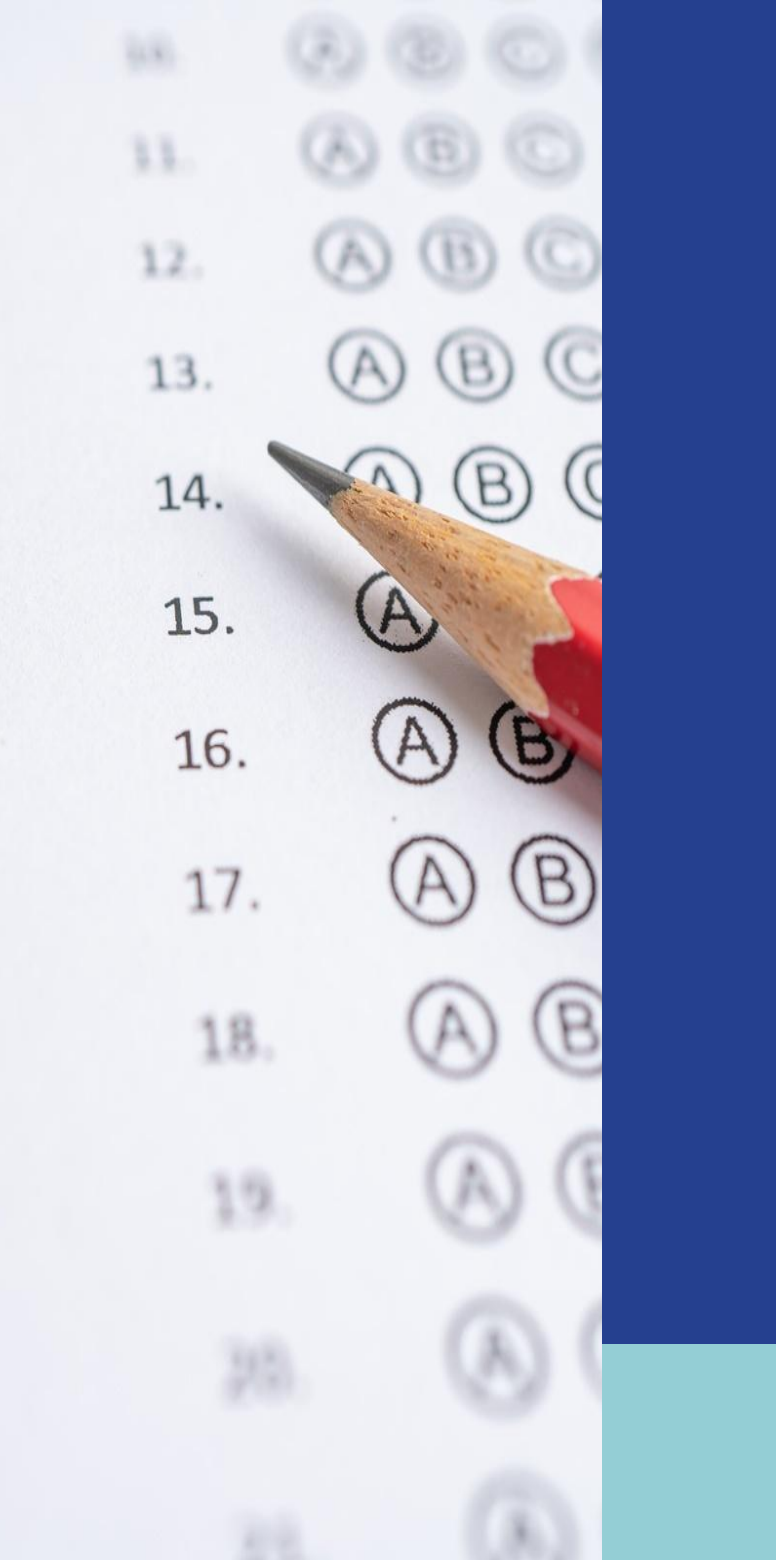
Cynthia Lynn, Lawrence, KS (06/01/28)

Diana Osborne Tatu, Marcellus,, NY (06/01/28)

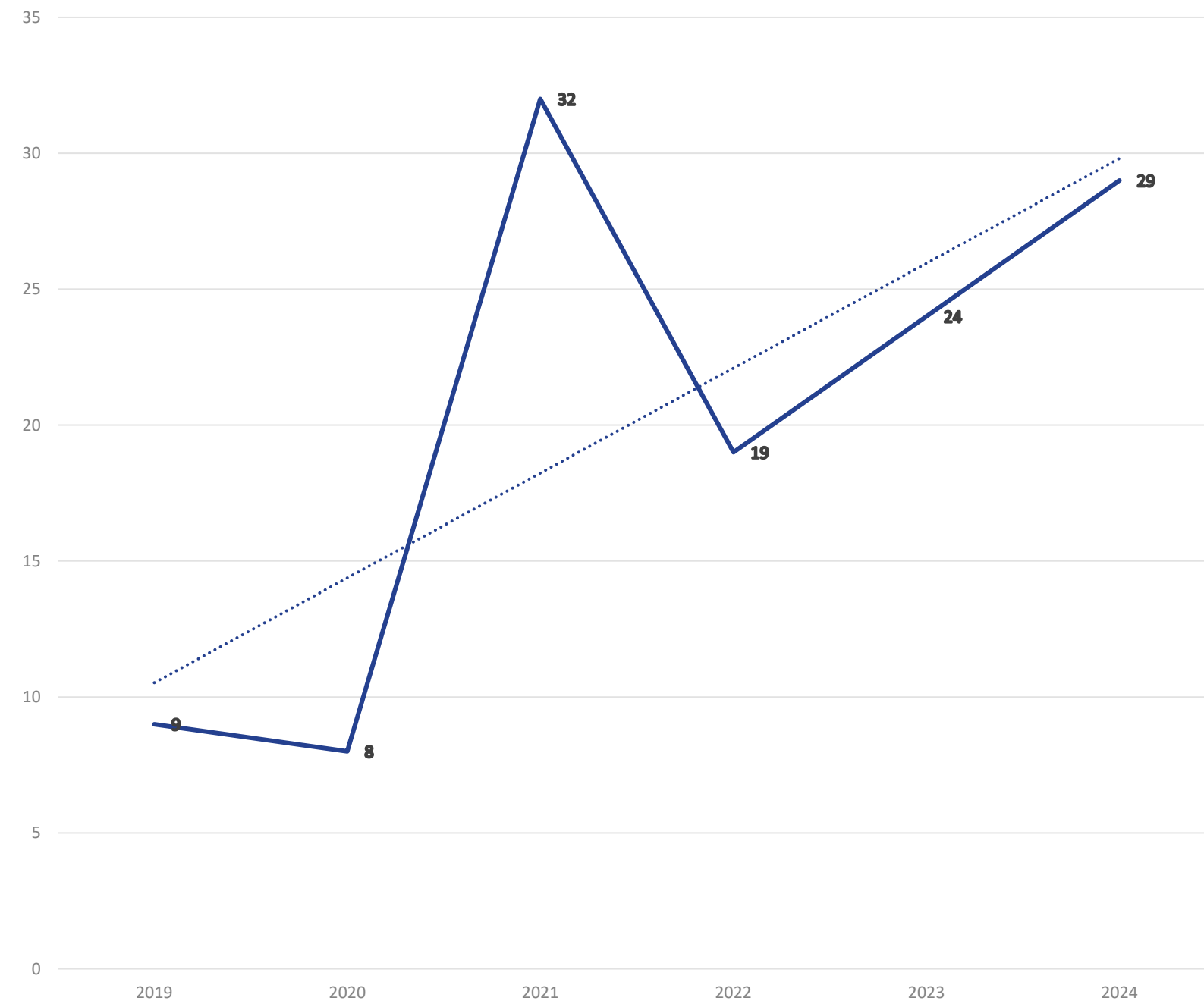
Rose-Linda Stafford, Ashland, KY (06/01/28)

Jessa Zuck, Phoenix, AZ (06/01/28)

Overview of the Ambassador Program

- 
- Supporting GPCI, Ambassadors are helping to set our profession's standard of excellence
 - Our *goal* is to increase the number of professionals who are GPCs
 - Our *purpose* is to be a GPCI outreach initiative to engage volunteers who serve as champions for the grant profession and GPC credentialing
 - Ambassador volunteers share resources, information, and their experiences to be valuable resources for GPCI, GPA Chapters, other grant professional organizations, and our profession

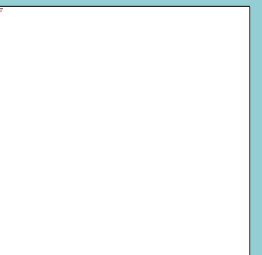
The Ambassador Program is Growing!



- 38 Ambassadors (Current, 2025)
- 61% of new GPCs in 2024 were from regions where there was a GPC Ambassador and/or GPCI 2024 Sponsorship

Examples of Ambassador Activities

- Emailed information about the GPC to members
- Provided information about the GPC at a Chapter or group meeting
- Held a dedication GPC information session or presentation
- Recognized and celebrated new GPCs in their Chapter or group
- Helped form a new or supported an existing study group
- Created or distributed GPC resources or materials
- Promoted the GPC in their newsletter or email communications
- Promoted the GPC in their social media
- Assigned GPCs as mentors to GPC candidates



GPCI Ambassador's Role & Expectations

- Undertakes various activities and actions that promote the GPC credential to grant peers
 - Work with chapter leadership to determine the needs and a plan for the year
 - Share and distribute GPC information and resources; implement the plan
 - Promote resources available so grant professionals consider getting their GPC
 - Support grant professionals wanting to pursue their GPCs
- Share activities undertaken with the GPCI Ambassador Liaison – needs, successes, barriers, struggles, etc.
- Respond to GPCI's annual GPCI Ambassador Survey



Getting Your GPC: The Registration Process



01

Complete 5-Minute
Eligibility Survey



02

Pay Registration Fees

- \$639 Candidate Exam Fee



03

Submit Eligibility
Packet



04

Take the Exam

Credential Pathways



Category	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or equivalent (US or foreign)• Associate degree in any major from an accredited institution• Completion of a technical training course• Honorable completion of military training (excluding Basic Training) 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in any major from an accredited institution 40
Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 years of professional experience within the last 7 years• 5 successful grant proposals over the past 7 years 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years of professional experience within the last 5 years• 5 successful grant proposals over the past 7 years 70
Continuing Education / Professional Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 50 hours of documented professional practice or continuing education within the past 2 years 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 40 hours of documented professional practice or continuing education within the past 2 years 40
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 50 hours of community-based volunteer services within the past 3 years 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 20 hours of community-based volunteer services within the past 2 years 20

Need 120 out of 170 Total Possible Points

Candidate's Guide

- 01 Available for individuals seeking more information
- 02 [Access the Guide](#)
- 03 Sample multiple-choice questions and writing prompts with responses





Exam Overview



Multiple Choice (All Competencies and Skills)

175

QUESTIONS

4 hr

TIME LIMIT

Essay Section (Prompt and data provided, focusing on any part of a grant proposal)

90 min

TIME LIMIT

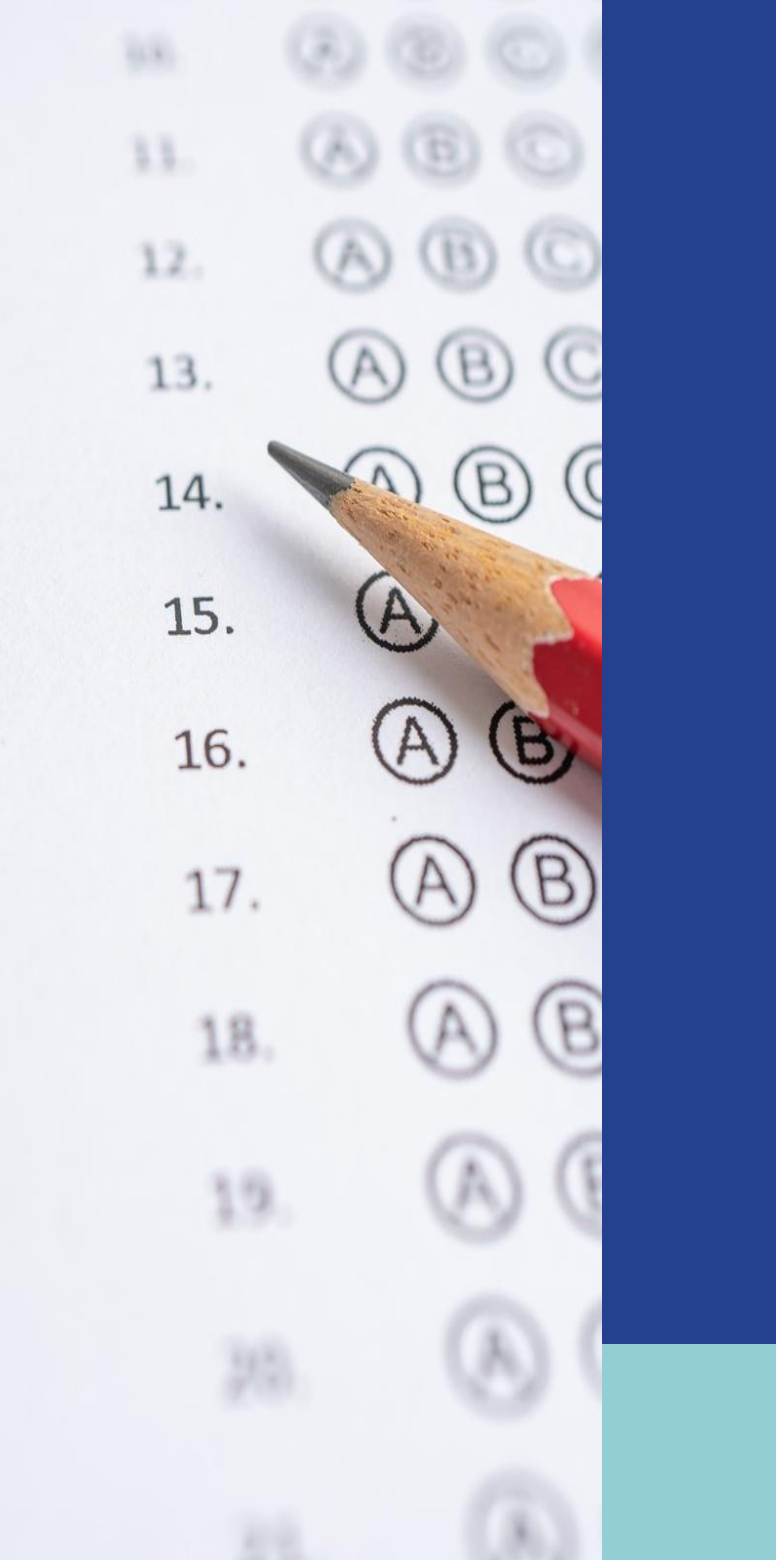
NO

BREAKS

Exam Results and Retake Policy

- Results provided about 60-90 days after completion of both exam sections
- One section can be retaken if not passed on first attempt (additional fees apply)

Multiple Choice Competencies

- 
- Researching, identifying, and matching funding resources to meet specific needs **(18%)**
 - Organizational development as it pertains to grant funding **(9%)**
 - Strategies for effective program and project design **(17%)**
 - Crafting, constructing and submitting an effective grant application **(23%)**
 - Post-award grant management practices sufficient to inform effective grant design and development **(10%)**
 - Methods that cultivate and maintain relationships between fund-seeking organizations and funders **(7%)**
 - Nationally recognized standards of ethical practice by grant professionals **(10%)**
 - Practices and services that raise the level of professionalism of grant professionals **(6%)**

Writing Competencies

- Make a persuasive argument **(34%)**
- Organize ideas effectively **(22%)**
- Convey ideas clearly **(18%)**
- Use conventions of standard written English **(10%)**
- Use information provided **(12%)**
- Follow formatting guidelines **(4%)**





Exam Preparation Resources

- No specific study guide promoted by GPCI
- Resources available on GPCI website:
 - Study Guides
 - Books
 - GPCI Literature Review
 - GPCI Accepted Education Program providers

GPCI Exam – Resources



New Competencies – from new Job Analysis

<https://www.grantcredential.org/the-exam/competencies-tested/>



GPA Journal Article:

[Journal of the Grant Professionals Association \(Fall 2024\), Volume 22 Number 1, Grant Professionals Certification Institute \(GPCI\) Job Task Analysis for Stage 2 of Its Nationally Accredited Credential, Page 22.](#)



Study Guide & Preparation Resources:

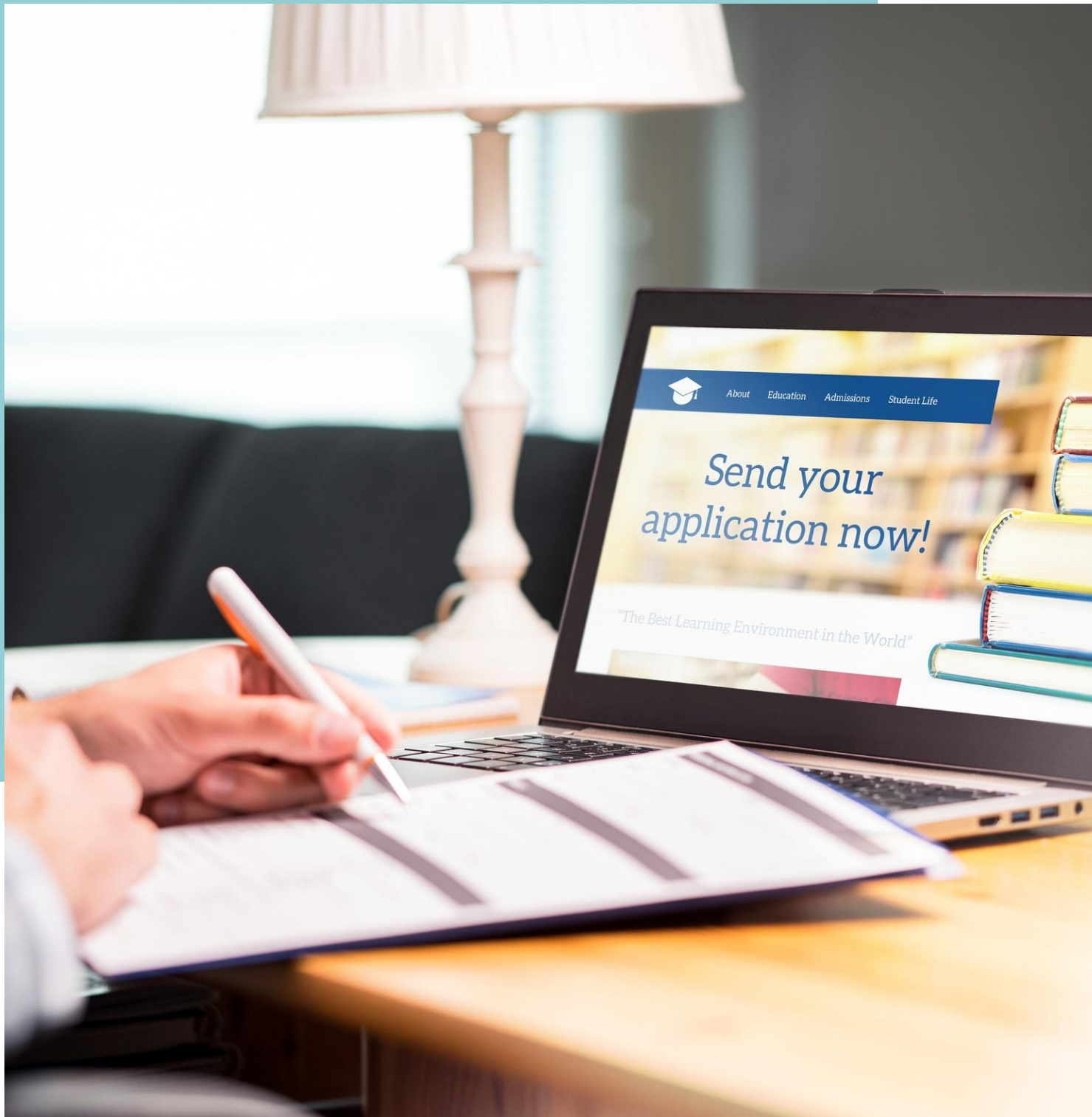
- **NEW!** Bank of [GPC Exam Sample Questions](#) (in addition to sample questions & a writing prompt (pages 33-44 of [GPC Eligibility Guide](#))
- [Current GPC Study Groups](#) - email GPC-Ambassadors@grantcredential.org to find local networking and study groups.
- [GPC Exam Study Group: Train the Trainer kit](#) available for group leaders.
- Other [preparation resources](#) available
- GPCI [Accepted Education Program](#) providers

Scholarships

GPCI offers annual scholarships for the GPC Exam.

- Applications: April 1-30
- Notification: June

[Apply online.](#)

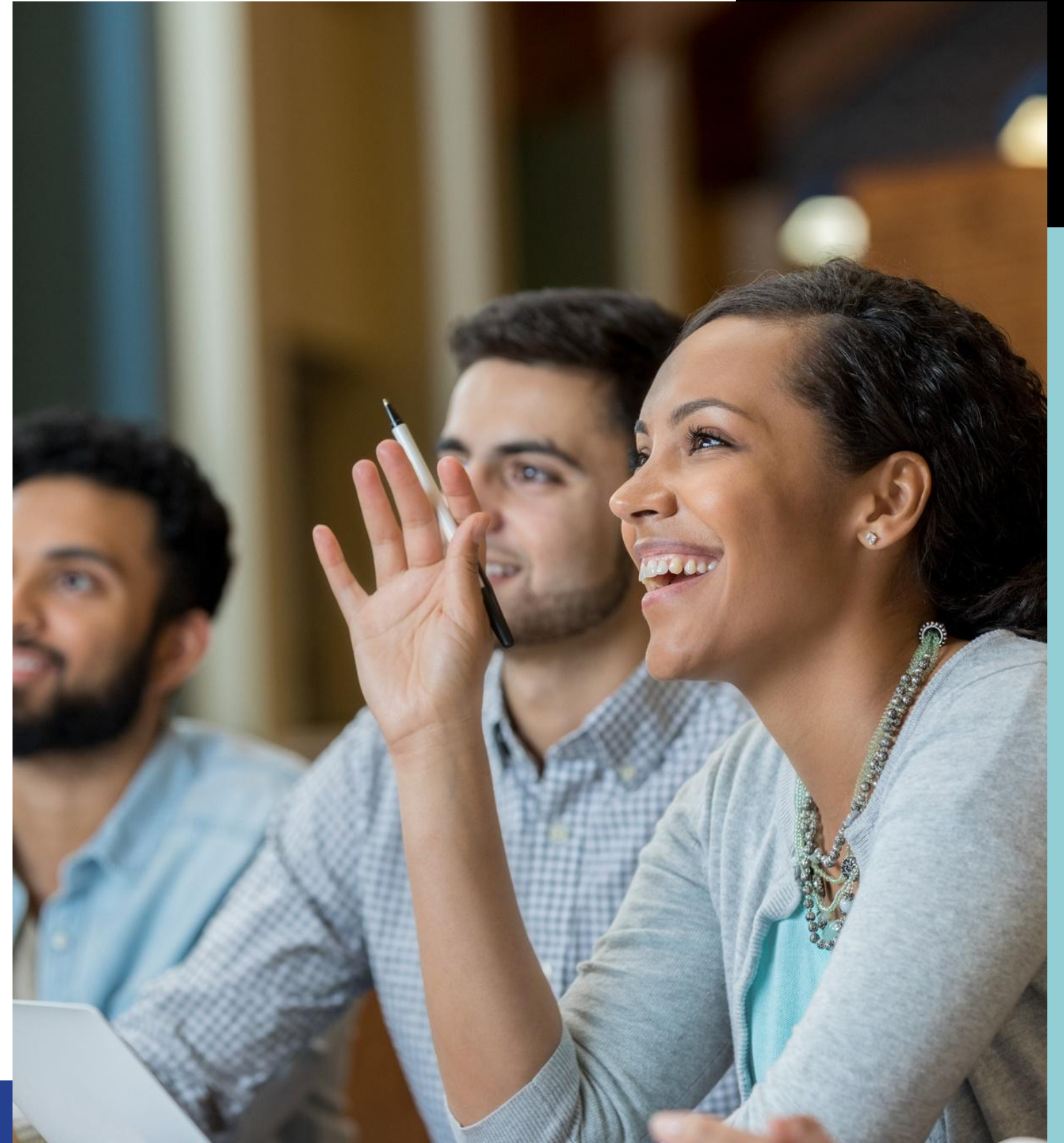


Certification Maintenance Program (CMP)

- Ensures continuing competence of GPCs
- Promotes adherence to professional standards and Code of Ethics
- Renewal required every 3 years

»» To Learn More

- Download the latest CMP manual
- Visit: www.grantcredential.org/certification-maintenance/manual-and-application/



What's Next?

- Take GPC Eligibility Quiz
- If eligible, use Payment Link to pay
- Complete and submit your Eligibility Packet within 90 days.



Questions?

 Email

info@grantcredential.org

 Website

www.grantcredential.org



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