



Frequently Asked Questions Certified Student Travel Professional Program (CSTP)

Program Benefits

1. What benefit will I receive from becoming a CSTP?

The benefits of CSTP designation are personal and professional. CSTP is an industry designation that provides credibility with your peers and your clients. CSTP sharpens your business skills, as you acquire specific knowledge of the student and youth travel industry. Training exercises give you the opportunity to focus on challenges and opportunities facing your organization. Beyond demonstrating a grasp of the student tour market, completing the CSTP program will give you a personal sense of accomplishment.

2. What justification is there for my company to pay for me to become certified?

CSTP is an efficient way to educate employees on the student and youth travel industry. An employer gets a better trained and educated workforce. CSTP motivates employees, reduces employee turnover, and increases employees' likelihood of success. Having employees that complete CSTP increases a company's recognition as an organization that focuses on the student and youth travel market. Companies that invest in CSTP are investing in their people, their market, and ultimately in their bottom line. No matter how you analyze business improvement strategies, CSTP produces a return on investment.

3. Who should pursue the CSTP designation?

Anyone interested in student and youth travel. The program is especially helpful for employees of tour companies and tour suppliers that work with or supervise staff in the student travel industry.

How to Apply

1. How do I apply for my CSTP?

It's easy! Simply fill-out a CSTP registration form and turn it into the SYTA office with the CSTP registration fee.

2. Are there any refunds?

There are no refunds for the CSTP program.

3. Are the fees in Canadian or U.S. dollars?

CSTP fees are in U.S. dollars.



4. How long do I have to complete the program?

You have three full years from the date that you apply for the program with SYTA to complete all requirements. After the three-year period you will need to re-enroll, which means paying the fees and meeting the requirements at that time.

5. Are there requirements to maintain my designation?

Yes, because the student market is dynamic and fast paced, the CSTP program requires you to stay current, too. Every three years after completion, you must complete the requirements for certification renewal.

6. Are there discounts for multiple employees of one company in the program?

There are not multiple employee discounts.

7. Is this program open to Actives and Associates?

Yes, it is open to anyone interested in furthering their understanding, grasp and comprehension of student and youth travel.

8. What is the enrollment deadline to register for the current year?

You can register at any time.

9. How long will it take to complete the program?

It should take 1 to 2 years to complete the program, although the program is designed so that you may progress at your own pace. You have three full years to complete the program from the date your CSTP program was received in the SYTA office. You may also go back five years and receive credit for education, events, and volunteer hours.

10. How will my progress through the certification program be tracked?

SYTA will work with you but asks that you keep track of your own progress and turn in a CSTP Graduation form when you have completed the program. Throughout the process, be sure to keep all documentation as proof of what you have completed such as certificates of completion, volunteer documentation, etc. Reminder: You must complete the program within three years from the date that you apply for the program with SYTA.

11. What is the total dollar outlay to become certified?

There are two costs for the Certification program: The SYTA registration fee and the cost of the educational courses. The SYTA registration for the program is \$295 for professionals employed by SYTA member companies or \$585 for non-members.

In addition, for those that are earning their initial certification, there is an additional \$295 course fee. Any fees for attending conferences or taking courses not offered by SYTA will be additional costs.



General Program Questions

1. Does the member company or individual receive the CSTP designation? Who is allowed to use the designation?

The certification is awarded to the individual, not the company—even if the program is paid for by the company. Companies can, however, promote the fact that they employ one or more CSTP graduates. To find out about a company certification, [click here](#).

2. Do I have to be an employee of an approved member of SYTA in order to complete the course?

You do not have to be an employee of an approved member of SYTA.

3. What if I change my job to a non-SYTA member company?

Individuals apply for the program, not organizations. Once enrolled, the participant continues their enrollment (during the three-year enrollment period) regardless of where they work or how often they have changed jobs.

a. If I change jobs after enrolling in the program can the application fees be transferred to someone else?

No. The enrollment is for the individual not who pays the fees.

b. If I change jobs and move to another company after enrollment in the program do I have to reimburse my former company?

That is between you and your employer/former employer.

c. Is there a graduation ceremony? If yes, when and where?

Yes! Graduates that have completed the program by May 31 of each year will be recognized at the annual SYTA Annual Conference held in August every year.

d. Do I receive a Certificate and a Logo which I can use on my business card and on correspondences?

Absolutely!

e. Are all fees due at one time?

For 2020, we are requiring a \$50 enrollment fee be paid at the time of application then, within one year, the balance should be paid. SYTA can take a check or credit card.

f. Is my application fee tax deductible?

Fees paid by companies are generally deductible as business expenses. Check with your tax consultant to be sure.

4. Questions on other education options:

a. Can I use educational credit hours be earned though other providers?

Yes! You will just need to submit an approval form to the Center and include any requested information, if you have earned, or plan to earn, credits/hours through another provider besides SYTA.

b. What is IUPUI?

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. This is online education platform that offers courses for travel professionals. You can find course information [here](#). If you have completed courses through ABA and IUPUI, you can use those towards your CSTP requirements.

5. Will any face-to-face educational sessions completed before I apply count?

- a.** If you are working towards your initial certification, events that you attended within the previous five years of applying can be counted. These include SYTA Bootcamp, SYTA Annual Conference and SYTA Summit. If you are working towards your renewal certification, only sessions that you have completed since earning your initial certification will count.

6. “Volunteer Actions” Requirement

a. Can I use my SYTA volunteer actions from past years toward the “Volunteer Actions” requirement?

- i.** Yes, if you are working towards your initial certification, volunteer hours that you completed within the previous five years of applying can be counted. If you are working towards your renewal certification, only volunteer hours that you have completed since earning your initial certification will count.

b. Can I use my volunteer actions from non-SYTA or other travel related industry associations toward the “Volunteer Actions” requirement?

Yes! You will need to complete the Volunteer Approval Form and submit to center@syta.org for approval and verification of these hours.

7. “Written Essay” Requirement:

a. On what do I write my essay?

Participants can write their essay papers on any subject that shows the impact on the personal and professional growth for the applicant through this certification process. The essay must be a minimum of 500 words.

For more information on the CSTP program, please contact Katy Summers at center@syta.org.