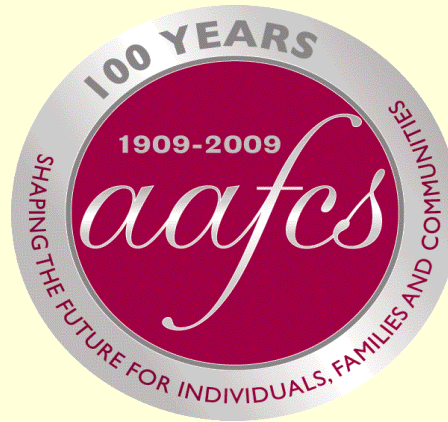




# ***The Value of CFCS Credentials***

**Don Bower, CFCS  
2010 GACTE Annual Conference**



*Family and Consumer Sciences* CREDENTIALING CENTER

Accreditation of  
University FCS  
Programs

Professional  
Assessments &  
Certifications

Pre-Professional  
Assessments &  
Certifications  
(Pre-PAC)

# **The Certification Program is designed to:**

- Assure the public
- Foster excellence in the profession
- Promote professional growth

# Certification is based on:

- Individual mastery of FCS knowledge as verified by a bachelor's degree
- Successful completion of the National FCS Exam

# Certification eligibility:

- Pass the exam
- Subscribe to the AAFCS Code of Ethics
- Provide a college transcript
- Submit the CFCS application and fee

# Four types of certification:

- CFCS Composite
- CFCS – Human Development & Family Studies
- CFCS – Hospitality, Nutrition, & Food Science
- CFCS – Personal and Family Finance Educator (coming)

# Examination process:

- Complete the application form (online)
- Receive authorization form from AAFCS
- Make appointment to take exam at SMT center
- Take exam and pay fee (\$150)
- Special exam administrations



# Examination preparation:

- *AAFCS Examination Study Guide*; available for download from [www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org)
- Curriculum Center for Family and Consumer Sciences
- Various textbooks

# **FCS Standards on the exam:**

- Integration of Foundations
- Family Studies and Human Services
- Human Development Education and Services
- Nutrition, Wellness and Food Sciences
- Food, Lodging, Hospitality
- Consumer and Resource Management
- Textiles and Apparel
- Environmental Design

# Examination scoring:

- Exam has 150 multiple-choice questions
- Multiple versions of the exam for each certification type
- Passing score is 240/300
- Retakes available

## **Sample item:**

**One benefit of leasing a car rather than buying is:**

- (A) lower monthly payments.
- (B) lower insurance costs.
- (C) not having to pay for routine maintenance costs.
- (D) traveling unlimited miles each year without penalty.

# **Some benefits of certification:**

- Promotes professional growth
- Provides recognition to individuals
- Increases employability
- Fosters excellence in the profession
- Markets the profession
- Assists employers

# Maintaining certification:

- Certification renewal every 3 years
- Earn and report 75 PDU's
- Pay annual maintenance fee (\$50)
- CFCS-Retired

# Earning PDU's:

- Academic courses
- Continuing education
- Educational travel
- Professional conference presentations
- Professional leadership
- Journal articles
- ...and many more!

# Certification for students?

*Yes!*

- The AAFCS Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) Process



# **Benefits of Pre-PAC participation:**

- Documents exiting student skills
- Satisfies Perkins funding requirements
- Articulates to post-secondary
- Provides industry-recognized certification

# Pre-PAC assessment/ certification areas:

- Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- Education Fundamentals
- Family and Community Services
- Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel
- Interior Design Fundamentals
- Nutrition, Food, and Wellness
- Personal and Family Finance
- Food Science Fundamentals
- Housing and Furnishings

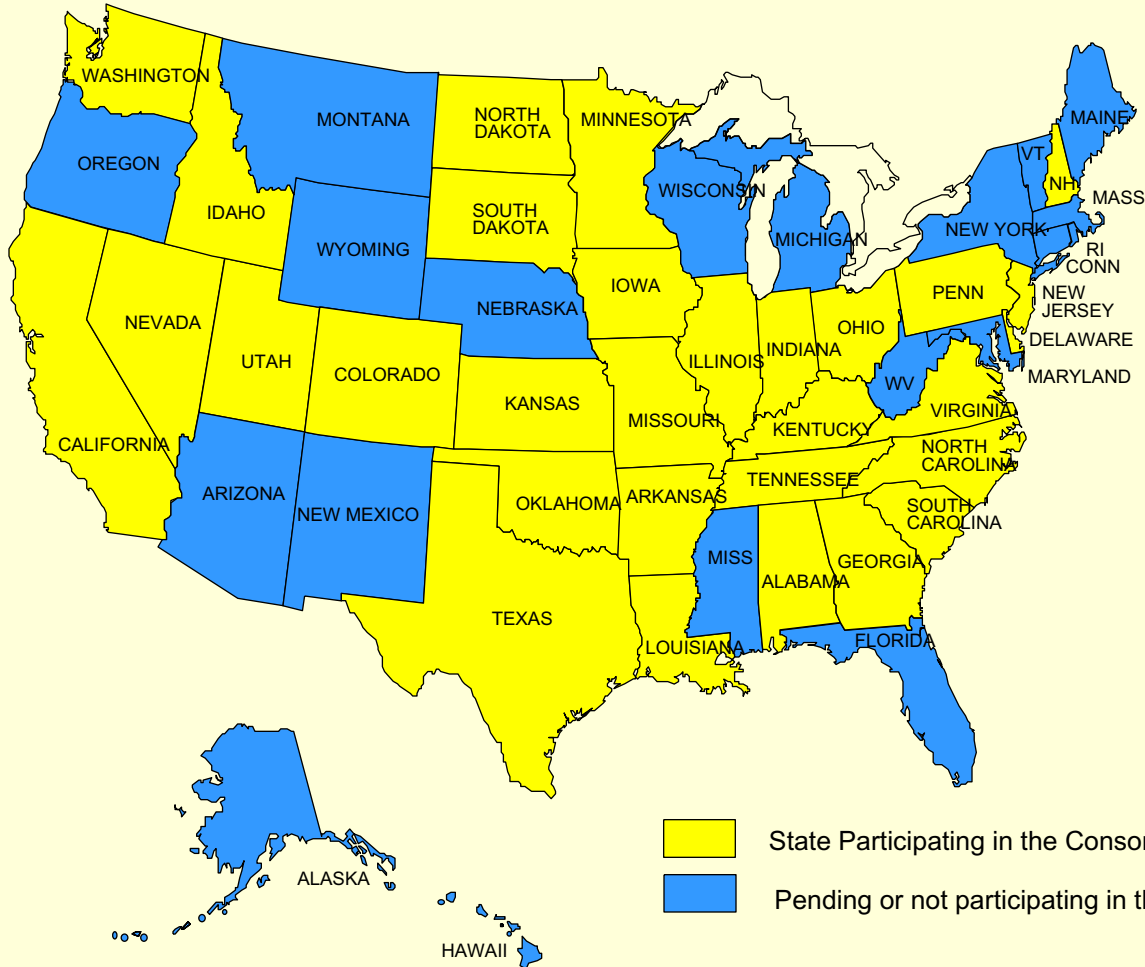
# A closer look:

- On-line assessment
- 70-item, multiple choice assessment
- Random selection of items from test bank
- Rigorous cognitive difficulty
  - Level 1 (Knowledge/Comprehension) – 40%
  - Level 2 (Application/Analysis) – 30%
  - Level 3 (Synthesis/Evaluation) – 30%

# Getting involved in Pre-PAC

1. Submit “Test Site Approval Agreement”
2. Purchase assessments
3. Register test candidates and assign assessments
4. Administer the assessments in a proctored environment
5. Access data results

# Pre-PAC Founding Consortium





***The FCS certification resource!***