

CERTIFIED SPEAKING PROFESSIONAL™
Applicant Checklist 2026
National Speakers Association



The 2026 Application Period

- ☐ Opens September 1, 2025
- ☐ Ends January 10, 2026, at midnight PST

CSP Minimum Application Requirements

- ☐ Attendance of one NSA/GSF association convention within the last 10 years
- ☐ No violations of the NSA or GSF ethical standards

Four Pathways to Earn Your CSP (CHOOSE ONE):

1. Traditional Path (part of existing process)

- ☐ 250 paid presentations over a 10-year period
- ☐ Minimum qualifying presentation fee: \$500 (including honorarium, paid travel, or same-day product sales) (was \$250)
- ☐ Within that period, at least 5 years with \$75,000+ in speaking income (was \$50,000+)

2. (NEW) Mid-Volume, High-Income Path

- ☐ 150 paid presentations over a 10-year period
- ☐ Minimum qualifying presentation fee \$500 (including honorarium, paid travel, or same-day product sales)
- ☐ At least 5 years with \$100,000+ in speaking income

3. (NEW) Premium Speaker Path

- ☐ 50 paid presentations over a 5-year period
- ☐ All 5 years must reflect \$150,000+ in speaking income

4. Employee/Organizational Speaker Path (part of existing process but not clearly listed as a separate path)

- ☐ Internal or external presentations over a 10-year period
- ☐ At least 50% of salary and work time must be dedicated to speaking-related responsibilities (e.g., delivering presentations that inform, engage, or inspire)
- ☐ Documented by a letter from the company's human resources department (or equivalent)

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CSP Application Process

☐ Initial Application

- ☐ Completion of the *"CSP Application Interest Form"*
- ☐ Interview with an NSA staff member to review the CSP application process
- ☐ Payment of the non-refundable application fee: \$375 for NSA and GSF affiliate members, \$950 for non-members
- ☐ Each applicant will begin moving through the four phases of the CSP application process after completing the initial application

☐ Phase One: Documentation of Your Qualifications

- ☐ Complete the on-demand *"CSP Applicant Coursework"* by January 10, 2026
 - *How to Earn Your CSP*
 - *Business Ethics*
 - *Professional Competencies*
- ☐ Submit the *"CSP Presentation /Salary Spreadsheet"* documenting your presentation and salary history and clearly indicating which CSP Pathway you are displaying.
- ☐ Confirm compliance with the ethical guidelines of NSA and sign the *"CSP Applicant Oath"*
- ☐ Submit the *"Speaker Business Model Form"* describing the nature of your speaking business
- ☐ Submit your presentation video(s). Must submit: One 40 to 45-minute video OR Two 20 to 25-minute videos.
- ☐ Upon completion of Phase One, an NSA staff member will notify you of your advancement to Phase Two

☐ Phase Two: Evaluations by Your Clients

- ☐ Submit the *"CSP Applicant Evaluation Link"* to a minimum of 20 clients of your choosing. Clients have two-weeks to submit the evaluations.
- ☐ Ensure NSA has received a minimum of 20 evaluations within two-weeks of *you receiving the link*
- ☐ Upon completion of Phase Two, an NSA staff member will notify you of your advancement to Phase Three.

*****Please note, successful completion of Phase Two is NOT an indication of your likelihood of earning the CSP designation. Phase Three, Video Review, is the most challenging phase. In some years, up to 50% of applicants have failed in the video review phase*****

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☐ Phase Three: Video Review

- ☐ Your submitted videos will be shared with three CSP Video Reviewers for their evaluation using the video review matrix. Your videos must receive a minimum average review score.
- ☐ You will **NOT** be notified of your status after the video review.

☐ Phase Four: Video Board Approval

- ☐ The NSA Board of Directors is the final review and decision-maker to award the CSP designation. The Board will vote on all applicants from Phase Two who have successfully completed Phase Three.
- ☐ You will be notified via email regarding the final decision of the Board of Directors in the month of April 2026.
- ☐ If you are unsuccessful, a member of the CSP Committee will reach out to share constructive feedback from the video review so you may increase the likelihood of a successful application when you re-apply.

☐ CSP Medal Ceremony

- ☐ The CSP Medal Ceremony is held at each year at the NSA annual convention, Influence. All successful applicants will have the opportunity to walk the main stage as they are conferred with the CSP medal. It is an opportunity to celebrate your achievement with your peers.
- ☐ Successful candidates will receive a *CSP Certificate* (suitable for framing) after the annual convention
- ☐ Any successful candidate who cannot attend Influence in the year they earn the designation will receive their medal and certificate in the mail after the annual convention