

The Certified Emcee Professional™ (CEP) designation recognizes masters of the stage who lead events with skill, professionalism, and presence. Use this guide to understand your pathway, prepare your materials, and navigate the three-phase review process.

STEP 1 — CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY

1

VOLUME & CONSISTENCY

50+

Engagements
in 5 years

\$50K+

Annual income
3 of last 5 yrs

High-volume emcees with proven market consistency.

2

MARKET EXCELLENCE

30+

Engagements
in 5 years

\$80K+

Annual income
3 of last 5 yrs

Premium-market emcees with elite earning records.

Both pathways carry equal weight — there is no hierarchy between them

BASELINE REQUIREMENTS (ALL APPLICANTS)

- Minimum **5 years** of professional experience as an Emcee, Host, Facilitator, Moderator, or Entertainer
- Attended at least **one NSA or GSF equivalent** event in the last 10 years
- **No ethics violations** in the past 10 years
- Good professional standing at time of application
- All engagements must involve an audience of **50 or more attendees**

STEP 2 — GATHER YOUR MATERIALS

- ☐ **CEP Application Form** — completed in full
- ☐ **Professional Experience Spreadsheet** — all qualifying engagements with dates, event names, audiences, and income
- ☐ **Video Portfolio** — 5–7 clips, minimum 20 min total, no older than three years
- ☐ **Event Documentation** — at least 3 examples (run-of-show, scripts, programs)
- ☐ **Client Evaluations** — minimum of 10–15 completed via SurveyMonkey link
- ☐ **Application Fee** — paid to initiate your submission

STEP 3 — MOVE THROUGH THE THREE PHASES

PHASE 1

Submit Your Application

Pay your application fee. NSA Staff will send a welcome email with your SurveyMonkey evaluator link. Complete and submit all required materials before the deadline.

PHASE 2

Video Clip Review

The CEP Panel reviews your video portfolio against the Five E's rubric: Eloquence, Enterprise, Ethics, Expertise, and Engagement. Select clips that show your full range.

PHASE 3

Board Review & Vote

Your complete application goes before the NSA Board of Directors for final review and vote. Certification decisions are typically issued in March.

THE FIVE E'S RUBRIC

Eloquence

Enterprise

Ethics

Expertise

Engagement

APPLICATION FEES

NSA MEMBERS

\$375

One-time application fee. Non-refundable.

NON-MEMBERS

\$988

Includes complimentary access to the NSA Digital Vault for one year. Non-refundable.

TIPS FOR A STRONG APPLICATION

COUNTING MULTI-DAY EVENTS

Each day of a multi-day event can be its own entry on your spreadsheet. A three-day conference may count as three separate engagements — document each day with its own event details.

CHOOSING YOUR VIDEO CLIPS

Keep the Five E's in mind as you select clips. Choose footage that collectively demonstrates your range across all five competencies — not just your top individual moments.

AFTER YOU PAY YOUR FEE

Watch for a welcome email from NSA Staff with your SurveyMonkey evaluator link. Share it promptly — evaluators need time to respond before your submission deadline.

APPLICATION TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

NOV 1

Applications Open · Fee Window Opens

JAN 31

→ Submission Deadline — 11:59 PM PST

FEB

→ Video Clip Review

FEB-MAR

→ Board Review & Vote

MARCH

→ Decisions Announced