Upon completing a MSN or DNP program, the prospective CNS can apply for CNS certification. The American Nurse Credentialing Center offers CNS certifications in Adult/Gerontology, Pediatrics, and Neonatal populations.

CNS need to be self-directed and autonomous as well as collaborate well with others. They need to be strong systems thinkers and enjoy seeing things from a big picture perspective.

This career is in high demand especially with healthcare reform efforts to increase quality of care and reduce costs. The CNS role within healthcare systems has been effective in improving patient outcomes such as lessening complications in hospitalized clients, improving pain management, reducing hospital stays, and increasing client satisfaction.

CNSs must maintain their advanced practice nurse license in the state in which they hold licensure. They must also renew certification every five years.

References: