

Society of Broadcast Engineers

Cert Connect

50 Years of SBE Certification



Certification Connect Presentation

- SBE Celebrates the 50th year of its Certification Program.
- I appreciate the opportunity to present this to SBE38.
- My mission: to “demystify” the process: specifics/benefits.
- I partner with agent Megan Clapp, through her 11 minute video.
- SBE National obligates all local chapters to devote a meeting to discussing SBE certification between now & November 2026.
- El Paso is the 1st local SBE chapter holding this meeting, which makes this the “world premier” of “SBE Cert Connect”, starring Megan Clappe...followed by “Post Game” comments.
- Certification boils down to time & money.
- SBE National annual membership offsets cost significantly.
- Cert Preview study tool costs \$45, Coupon discount \$5 (SBE38)
- Retake any exam for \$46.
- Take any exam before Nov 30 2026 to be entered in a drawing.
- What’s the payoff?
- SBE cites higher salaries for those holding certifications.
- I understand if viewing this through the “lens of skepticism”.
- We recognize the difference between “correlation” vs “causal”
- Real cause of income boost: Establish rapport with supervisor.
- Opens door for boss to cite required competencies & new tech.
- Those who proactively ask “How can I add value” are the ones considering certification, accounting for salaries skewing to SBE.
- Document how you applied this to your facility & the successful outcomes (prolonged equipment life, reduced capital costs,)
- Other boosts in “income/benefits” include the “Tim Cook” (Apple CEO) prize: autonomy (boss stays out of your way) or stocks.
- Call or E-mail Megan Clappe: [317-846-9000](tel:317-846-9000)/mclappe@sbe.org

All details of an applicant's request for certification will be kept confidential. The Society of Broadcast Engineers will not disclose the names of those who fail.

SBE Certification Application Fees

Certification	Member Fee	Non-Member Fee	Non-Member Plus Fee
CBT – Certified Broadcast Technologist	\$69	\$174	\$284
CPT – Certified Production Technologist	\$69	\$174	\$284
CBNT – Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist	\$78	\$183	\$293
CEA – Certified Audio Engineer	\$88	\$193	\$303
CEV – Certified Video Engineer	\$88	\$193	\$303
CBRE – Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer	\$88	\$193	\$303
CBTE – Certified Broadcast Television Engineer	\$88	\$193	\$303
CBNE – Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer	\$101	\$206	\$316
CSRE – Certified Senior Radio Engineer	\$113	\$218	\$328
CSTE – Certified Senior Television Engineer	\$113	\$218	\$328
CPBE – Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer	\$138	\$243	\$353
8-VSB – 8-VSB Specialist	\$78	\$183	\$293
AMD – AM Directional Specialist	\$78	\$183	\$293
ATSC3 – ATSC 3 Specialist	\$78	\$183	\$293
DRB – Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist	\$78	\$183	\$293
CTO – Certified Television Operator's Handbook	\$62		
CRO – Radio Operator's Certification Handbook	\$62		



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SBE Certification Challenge

- Take an SBE Certification exam before November 30, 2026
- Be entered into a drawing for one winner:
 - An Upgrade to SBE MemberPlus
 - Registration to the SBE Ennes Workshop at the 2027 NAB Show
 - \$100 Amazon gift card
 - An SBE certification pin
 - SBE membership pin
- By attending this chapter meeting, you will also receive a coupon for \$5 off of the SBE CertPreview.

Official rules at sbe.org/certconnect

SBE CertPreview can be purchased for the following levels:

Certified Broadcast Technologist (CBT) Radio or Television FCC, General, Audio, Video, RF, AM-FM RF, TV RF, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist (CBNT) – No experience required Covers a variety of networking knowledge and skills common to various networks. Not software specific.

Certified Audio Engineer (CEA) 5 years of experience FCC, General, Audio, Video, AM-FM, TV, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Video Engineer (CEV) 5 years of experience FCC, General, Audio, Video, AM-FM, TV, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer (CBRE) 5 years of experience FCC, General, Audio, Video, RF, AM-FM RF, TV RF, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Broadcast Television Engineer (CBTE) 5 years of experience FCC, General, Audio, Video, RF, AM-FM RF, TV RF, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer (CBNE) 5 years of experience Audio/Video over IP for Broadcast, Digital Content Management, Video Systems in an IT World, Data Transmission Systems and Practices, General PC Hardware, interconnection, and backup

Certified Senior Radio Engineer (CSRE) 10 years of experience FCC, General, Audio, Video, RF, AM-FM RF, TV RF, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

Certified Senior Television Engineer (CSTE) 10 years of experience; FCC, General, Audio, Video, RF, AM-FM RF, TV RF, Satellite, Microwave, Safety, Networking

8-VSB Specialist (8-VSB) – You must first hold a 5-year, 10-year or 20-year certification; transport stream, audio (AC-3), video (MPEG-2), PSIP, DVT standards documents and transmissions systems [8-VSB Diagrams for SBE CertPreview](#)

AM Directional Specialist (AMD) – You must first hold a 5-year, 10-year or 20-year certification; FCC rules concerning directional operation, test equipment and safety procedures, operation, maintenance and repair of the directional antenna system

Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist (DRB) – You must first hold a 5-year, 10-year or 20-year certification.

About Certification Exams

The purpose of the Certification exam is to permit you to demonstrate your comprehension of the prescribed body of knowledge for your particular experience level and field of specialization. The exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions drawn from a file of several hundred questions, ranging from basic electronics to state-of-the-art maintenance problems.

All exams are conducted OPEN BOOK, and calculators are allowed.

Working engineers on the SBE Certification Committee develop the questions.

Cost

Each individual exam level costs \$45.

Users of downloadable software SBE CertPreview who purchased the software between November 1, 2024, and April 24, 2025, can upgrade to the online version at no cost. Contact Megan Clappe (mclappe@sbe.org) for details.



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Frequently Asked Questions about SBE Certification

Q. What is the passing score for the certification exams?

A. Certified Television Operator (CTO) – 70%
Certified Radio Operator (CRO) – 70%

Certified Broadcast Technologist (CBT) – 70%
Certified Production Technologist (CPT) – 70%
Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist (CBNT) – 70%

Certified Video Engineer (CEV) – 70%
Certified Audio Engineer (CEA) – 70%
Certified Broadcast Television Engineer (CBTE) – 70%
Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer (CBRE) – 70%

Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer (CBNE) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question

Certified Senior Television Engineer (CSTE) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question

Certified Senior Radio Engineer (CSRE) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question

8-VSB Specialist (8-VSB) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question
AM Directional Specialist (AMD) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question

ATSC3 Specialist (ATSC3) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question
Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist (DRB) – 84% combined score of multiple choice and essay question

Q. What happens if I don't pass?

A. You can retake the exam for a \$46 fee as early as the next scheduled exam session.

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STAFF CONTACTS



Applicants are only notified whether they passed or failed an exam. Scores are not given out to anyone.

Q. How long will it be once I've taken the test before I know the results?

A. That answer varies depending on the type of test you have taken. An exam that doesn't include an essay question can be graded and the results sent back within a couple days of receiving it at the SBE National office. If there was an essay included with the exam, those grades may take longer. (The essays are sent to members of the National Certification Committee for grading.)

For information on how the exams with essays are graded, see page 6 in the [October 2011 issue of *The Signal*](#).

Check pages 6 and 7 of an article in the [December 2010 issue of *The Signal*](#) for a sample essay question and answer.

Q. Once I pass an exam, what then?

A. You will receive a card and certificate of certification in the mail. Your certification is valid for five years. SBE will also notify your employer, or anyone else you designate, of your certification if you request at the time of application.

Q. How many books may I bring to the examination?

A. As many as you like, but remember they cannot be used during the essay portion of the senior, specialist or networking engineer exams. You may also take in any book that you think may be helpful for your exam, even if it does not appear on the [Suggested Reference Lists](#).

Q. How about written notes?

A. You may utilize notes during the examination process. However, if you make notes during the exam, those must be turned in with the test and can not be taken out of the "testing room". This is done to insure the integrity of the question database.

Q. Are calculators and computers allowed during the test?

A. Beginning in April 2017 the internet can be utilized during exams during the open-book period. Examinees are responsible for procuring the internet feed. Proctors are not responsible.

Q. Will success in a certification test guarantee a pay increase for me?

A. Sorry, no one can guarantee that. However, you will be joining a select group that proclaims to the world that they believe in investing in their future and improving their value to their employees.

Check out page 8 of the [October 2009 issue of *The Signal*](#) on why it is good to obtain and maintain your certification.

Q. How current are the exam questions?

A. They are reviewed by the Certification Committee at least three times per year. We make a significant investment to keep the questions aligned with current technology.

Check out page 8 of the [October 2008 issue of *The Signal*](#) about how the exam questions are created.

Q. How do I list my certifications

A. Check out this [chart](#) to better explain how to list your certifications.