

Differences Between AAWM & ACCWS™

Like many certifying boards, an entity such as a college is developed to complement and carry out tasks that a credentialing body in itself is not capable of doing. One cannot become a Fellow of The College, FCCWS, without possessing a CWS®. It should be stated that these are two separate and distinct organizations, however, these two organizations coexist to complement each other. As an advocacy arm of the AAWM, The College will provide educational endorsements of exam preparatory courses, research grants, and provider and public relations, as well as political activism to promote the CWS® credential. The main differences follow:

	American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM)	The American College of Certified Wound Specialists™ (ACCWS™)
WHO WE ARE	A national interdisciplinary certifying board for healthcare professionals involved in wound care.	A body of interdisciplinary Certified Wound Specialists®.
PURPOSE	To stimulate, support and promote education, research and knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of wound management and, thereby, elevate the standards of prevention, care, and treatment of acute and chronic wounds.	<p>The American College of Certified Wound Specialists™ (ACCWS), comprised of interdisciplinary wound care professionals will promote to the public and wound care community an enhanced awareness and understanding of the potential impact the Certified Wound Specialist® (CWS®) can have on the general health care environment.</p> <p>The College will provide education, informational resources and research avenues to enhance the knowledge, skills, professional performance and relationships required by health professionals to serve their patients, public, and professions.</p>
DESIGNATION	Certified Wound Specialist® or CWS®: Achieved through years of work experience and through preparation and passing of the CWS® Examination.	<p>Fellow of the American College of Certified Wound Specialists or FACCWS</p> <p>Achieved by membership to The College as a CWS® in good standing.</p>
WHO IS ELIGIBLE	To take the CWS® Examination, any licensed healthcare professional with a doctoral or masters degree must have two (2) or more years of wound care experience post-residency. Any licensed healthcare professional with a bachelors, associates, certificate, or diploma, must have five (5) or more years of wound care experience.	<p>A Fellow of The College shall be currently certified as a Certified Wound Specialist® (CWS®) by the American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM). The original Fellowship of The College, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall individually be known as Founding Fellows.</p> <p>A Corresponding Member of The College shall be an individual who possesses the same qualifications as a member of The College but whose permanent residence is outside of the United States and Canada.</p> <p>An Industry Sponsor of The College shall be a corporation or other business entity that has an interest in wound management and is represented in The College by an individual of senior status.</p>

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