

LACTATION CONSULTANT



Description

- The International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) credential is an international certification sought by qualified health professionals, breastfeeding mother support counselors and other appropriately educated individuals worldwide.
- Among the health professionals seeking IBCLC certification, many are nurses. This includes nurses with varying levels of higher education, from bedside nurses with 2 to 3 years of higher education to nurses with graduate degrees. Midwives, dietitians and physicians or medical doctors also frequently seek the IBCLC credential. Other health professionals such as medical technologists, dentists, pharmacists, speech therapists, physiotherapists/physical therapists and occupational therapists also apply for IBCLC certification.

Education Required

- Bachelors – 4 yrs + clinical time
- Masters – 6 yrs + clinical time

Salary

- \$70,000

Area College Options

- See pathways on next pages

Resources

- Iblce.org International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners

The IBLCE® Board of Directors has established three methods by which individuals may fulfill the eligibility criteria for the certification examination. These three methods, or Pathways, require candidates to meet criteria in areas of education and experience.

Pathway 1

14 health science courses

- The specifics of this requirement are detailed in the [Health Sciences Education Guide](#) and the [Health Sciences Summary](#).
- At least 90 hours of lactation specific education that was completed within the 5 years immediately prior to applying for the IBLCE examination
 - The lactation specific education may be obtained through classroom, distance learning, and/or online education.
 - Ninety “clock” hours (60 minutes) of education are required. Please note that some continuing education units are based on 50 minutes, not 60 minutes.
 - A minimum of 1000 hours of lactation specific clinical practice that was obtained within the 5 years immediately prior to applying for the IBLCE examination
 - This lactation specific clinical practice must be obtained through paid or volunteer work within your scope of practice in an appropriate setting.
 - Volunteer recognized mother support counsellors who primarily provide in-person group or individual breastfeeding support receive 500 hours of lactation specific clinical practice for each full year of volunteer service. Only full years of service are credited.
 - Volunteer recognized mother support counsellors who primarily provide telephone, email or web-based breastfeeding support receive 250 hours of lactation specific clinical practice for each full year of volunteer service. Only full years of service are credited.

Pathway 2

14 health science courses

- The specifics of this requirement are detailed in the [Health Sciences Education Guide](#) and the [Health Sciences Summary](#).
- Within the five years immediately prior to applying for the IBLCE examination, graduation from an academic program in human lactation and breastfeeding which IBLCE has verified to include in its curriculum:
 - At least 90 hours of didactic education in human lactation and breastfeeding
 - A minimum of 300 hours of directly supervised clinical practice in lactation and breastfeeding care

IBLCE does not endorse or recommend any particular academic program. Currently, there are 5 academic programs that offer the education and clinical practice experience required of Pathway 2 applicants.

Each academic program has unique admission and graduation requirements. You may contact these schools for more information about their requirements.

[Birthingway College of Midwifery](#)

[Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute](#)

[Drexel University](#)

[Portland State University](#)

[Union Institute and University](#)

[University of California San Diego Extension](#)

Note: Beginning January 1, 2017, academic programs purporting to prepare students to qualify for the IBLCE examination through Pathway 2 must be accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](#) or an equivalent accrediting body.

Pathway 3

14 health science courses

- The specifics of this requirement are detailed in the [Health Sciences Education Guide](#) and the [Health Sciences Summary](#).
- At least 90 hours of lactation specific education that was completed within the 5 years immediately prior to applying for the IBLCE examination
 - The lactation specific education may be obtained through classroom, distance learning, and/or online education.
 - Ninety “clock” hours (60 minutes) of education are required. Please note that some continuing education units are based on 50 minutes, not 60 minutes.
 - A minimum of 500 hours of directly supervised lactation specific clinical practice that was obtained within the 5 years immediately prior to applying for the IBLCE examination
 - This directly supervised lactation specific clinical practice must be completed within the structure established by a Pathway 3 Plan that has been verified by IBLCE.
 - The specifics of establishing a Pathway 3 Plan, which must be verified by IBLCE prior to beginning the directly supervised lactation specific clinical practice, can be found in the [Pathway 3 Plan Guide](#).