

IBCLC Pathways and Requirements



			Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3
	Time Limits	Applicants	Health Professionals & Breastfeeding Support Counselors	Accredited Lactation Academic Programs	Mentorship with an IBCLC
Lactation Specific Education¹	Complete in the five years prior to applying for the exam	Everyone	90 hours (e.g., Childbirth International)	90 hours with an accredited organization (accredited by CAAHEP or similar)	90 hours (e.g., Childbirth International)
Health Science Courses²	None	Recognized health professionals ⁴	None		
	Complete before applying for the exam	Others	8 health science courses of one academic credit session (e.g., one semester) in length from an accredited institution of higher learning 6 health science courses from an accredited institution of higher learning or continuing education program		
Lactation Clinical Experience³	Complete in the five years prior to applying for the exam	Everyone	1000 hours in a supervised setting (e.g., hospital, primary care practice, or community clinic)	300 directly supervised hours as part of the Lactation Education program (supervised by an IBCLC)	500 directly supervised hours with an IBCLC mentor (must be pre-approved by IBLCE)
<p>1. May include in-person presentations, online education, distance learning and independent study modules. May be from an IBLCE verified Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERP) provider, but not essential. Topics must be specific to lactation. IBLCE does not endorse or approve providers of education.</p> <p>2. The 8 health science courses for one academic credit session are: Biology; Human Anatomy; Human Physiology; Infant and Child Growth and Development; Introduction to Clinical Research; Nutrition; Psychology or Counseling Skills or Communication Skills; Sociology or Cultural Sensitivity or Cultural Anthropology. The 6 courses that can be taken as continuing education include: Basic Life Support; Medical Documentation; Medical Terminology; Occupational Safety and Security for Health Professionals; Professional Ethics for Health Professionals; Universal Safety Precautions and Infection Control. The health science courses do not need to be specific to lactation but will be accepted if they are. DSST and CLEP exams may qualify for credits towards these courses. IBLCE does not endorse or recommend courses. The courses can be taken online or in-person but the content should match the content outlined in the IBLCE Health Sciences guide.</p> <p>3. Lactation clinical experience may include in-person consultations, telephone consultations, online lactation support to pregnant and breastfeeding clients, or lactation education to families or professionals. Observation or shadowing does not count as clinical hours.</p> <p>4. Recognized health professionals are dentist, dietician, midwife, nurse, physician or medical doctor, occupational therapist, pharmacist, physical therapist or physiotherapist, speech therapist or speech pathologist</p>					
<p><i>Information on this chart is from the IBLCE website and was valid as at January 30th, 2019</i></p>					