

Comparison of Lactation Training Programs (last updated 9 July, 2020)

CHILDBIRTH INTERNATIONAL <small>training without boundaries</small>	Childbirth International (CBI)	Lactation Education Resources	International Breastfeeding Center	Lactation Education Consultants	International Breastfeeding Institute	BreastEd	Center for Breastfeeding	UC San Diego
COSTS								
Total Cost (breakdown below)	USD 905	USD 1,075	USD 1,500	USD 1,120	USD 790	USD 1,250	USD 821	USD 1,190
Exam Fee	None						USD 120	
Education	USD 905	USD 975	USD 1,500	USD 770	USD 790	USD 1,250	USD 625	USD 1,095
Other Costs	None	USD 100 for required textbook		USD 350 additional home study required to meet 90 hours IBCLC requirements			USD 76 for required textbook	USD 95 for application fee
Recertification	Lifetime certification (recertification available at cost if needed)	USD 75 / 5 years	Not a certification program	USD 175 / 5 years		Not a certification program	Recertification is done through the ALPP	
Membership	Not required	Not required	Not required			Not required		
Instalment Plan Options	Pay over 5 months (additional \$50)	Option to pay in two installments (additional \$265)	Modules can be purchased separately		Option to pay in four installments	Each unit can be purchased separately		
Discounts	Existing students receive 15% discount; 15-25% discount when buying more than one course							
IBCLC REQUIREMENTS								
Lactation Specific Education	130 hours	90 hours	91 hours	45 hours (plus 45 hours at additional cost available)	40 hours	113 hours	52 hours	120 hours
Pathway 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes
Pathway 2	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes (additional cost)

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Pathway 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	No
General Science Courses Offered	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes
Ethics	Included in Lactation Counselor Course (5 hours)	USD 25 (2 hours)	USD 60 (included if taking all modules)	USD 65		USD 65		Yes
Infection Control	Pay what you can (9.2 hours)	USD 15 (1 hour)						Yes
Medical Terminology	Coming soon	USD 49 (4 hours)				USD 39		Yes
Medical Documentation	Coming soon	USD 25 (2 hours)						Yes
Occupational Safety	Included in Infection Control course	USD 15 (1 hour)						Yes
Communication Skills	Included in Lactation Counselor course or available as a standalone program (11 hours)					Included in the full program		
ABOUT THE CERTIFICATION								
Certification	Lactation Counselor	Breastfeeding Specialist	Not a certification program	Lactation Specialist	Breastfeeding Counselor	Not a certification program	Certification is administered and awarded by the Academy of Lactation Policy & Practice (ALPP) and requires passing of an exam - ALPP have trademarked the term Certified Lactation Counselor	
Certification Valid For	Lifetime	5 years		5 years	5 years		3 years (through the ALPP)	

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Recertification	None	US 75		US 175			USD 102-176	
Time Limit	None	1 year				12 months	6 months	
Delivery Method	Online	Online	Online	In-Person and Online		Online		Online
Restrictions	None	None						Must have completed IBCLC health science requirements prior to beginning course
Start Immediately	Yes		Yes	No		Yes		No - quarterly applications
Access to Course Materials	Lifetime access to up to date materials, printed materials optional	1 year				12 months	6 months	
Trainer Support	Yes, trainer reviews and provides feedback on every assignment							
Documentation Available	Free - comprehensive package of forms & contracts, including lactation assessment documentation							
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS								
Assignments	2 communication reflections; 1 physiology module evaluation; physiology case studies; lactation case studies				Case studies; essays; required reading			
Exams	Yes - physiology open book				Yes		Yes (through ALPP)	
Lactation Support	30 hours unsupervised							

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Other Assignments	Lactation Services Survey; end of course evaluation							
ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION								
Founded	1999	1997		2000		2000		
Membership	7,800+							
Countries Served	134							
Accredited	Accredited with Distinction by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	Accredited by the ANCC and LEAARC						
Tag Line	training without boundaries	From novice to expert					Envision, reclaim, transform	
Insurance	Yes, available to students and graduates in the US, Canada and Australia							
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES								
Agreement to Policies	Code of Ethics and Professionalism	Privacy Policy; Social Media Policy; Scope of Practice						
Grievance Procedures	Yes							
Refund Policy	Yes full refund less USD 50 admin fee within 48 hours			Yes full refund less USD 50 up to 14 days before program starts				Yes
Equal Opportunities Policy	Yes							
Sustainability Policy	Yes							

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OTHER COURSES AND SERVICES								
Birth Doula	Yes							
Postpartum Doula	Yes							
Childbirth Educator	Yes							
Private Mentoring	Yes - online and video call							
Trauma-Informed	Yes							
Professional Development	Yes	Yes	Yes					