



IBLCE
International Board of
Lactation Consultant Examiners

NEW Eligibility Criteria for the IBLCE Exam from 2010

EXAM ELIGIBILITY PATHWAYS ARE CHANGING



There has been confusion over which eligibility pathways which candidates apply to sit the exam as well as the number of breastfeeding clinical hours that professionals need to be eligible. IBLCE has heard your issues and has reviewed the current pathways along with statistical evidence to formulate the new eligibility criteria. The new eligibility criteria will be introduced as of the **2010** exam in the Asia Pacific Region. All eligibility criteria are considered to be minimum requirements. Based upon the individual's training and background, additional coursework or lactation specific clinical practice hours may be needed to successfully complete the examination. The criterion used in the Asia Pacific Region will be:

1. Health Care Professional

The candidate must practice as a health care professional and complete the following requirements:

- A minimum of 45 hours of lactation specific education within the 5 years immediately prior to exam application.
- 1000 lactation specific clinical practice hours within the 5 years immediately prior to exam application.

2. Non-Health Care Professional

The candidate must be accredited or certified mother support counsellor providing care and counseling to lactating women, must be working or volunteering within an organization that ensures supervision of his/her clinical practice and complete the following requirements:

- A minimum of 45 hours of lactation specific education within the 5 years immediately prior to exam application.
- 2000 lactation specific clinical practice hours within the 5 years immediately prior to exam application.
- Applicants following these exam eligibility criteria are advised to complete at least one course in each of the six health background disciplines recommended by IBLCE.

3. Lactation Specific Academic Program

With a vision toward the future, eligibility criteria have been established for individuals who graduate from lactation specific academic programs. IBLCE has

established these criteria as the preferred method for IBCLC exam eligibility to encourage the development of more lactation specific academic programs.

4. **Pre Approved Programs**

Pre approved program inclusive of a minimum of 500 direct hours of clinical supervision. Contact the IBLCE office for more details.

All eligibility criteria are considered to be minimum requirements. Based upon the individuals' training and background, additional coursework or clinical practice/breastfeeding counselling hours may be required to successfully complete the examination.

All requirements **MUST** be met prior to exam application.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Lactation specific education hours

Education hours acquired by completing courses or programs that provide evidence-based instruction in the disciplines and chronological periods listed on the *IBLCE Exam Blueprint* and/or training in the clinical skills listed on the *Clinical Competencies for IBCLC Practice*. Some areas of the world require more education and candidates should be aware of their country's education requirements. Please refer to the Candidate Information Guide for more information.

Lactation specific clinical practice hours/Breastfeeding counseling:

Clinical practice hours accumulated while providing direct care to pregnant and lactating women and their infants/children within a paid or volunteer capacity.

Direct supervision

A gradual process which begins with observation moves to clinical practice experience under direct observation until the skill is mastered, and culminates with independent practice with the mentor or supervisor physically nearby to assist and offer advice and support. In order to demonstrate mastery of a skill, the candidate is expected to complete **all three phases** of directly supervised clinical practice:

1. observation of the mentor, which is not included in the 500 hours of directly supervised clinical practice
2. clinical practice, i.e. working directly with breastfeeding mother-baby dyads, under the mentor's **direct observation** and supervision
3. **independent** clinical practice with the mentor available on-site and able to assist if needed.

For further enquiries please contact the Regional Director at RD@iblce.eu.au