



International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®)

International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Examination
April 2021 Administration
Test Analysis Report Summary

This document is a summary of the psychometric analysis reported to IBLCE

by

ACS Ventures

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Overview

This report documents the psychometric analyses performed on the results for 2,051 test takers from the April 2021 administration of the IBCLC certification examination for a single examination form administered in English only using two delivery modalities: computer-based testing (CBT, 1,664 test takers) and live remote proctoring (LRP, 387 test takers).

The IBCLC exam consists of 175 scored items and 0 pretest items. Examinees were allowed 240 minutes to complete the examination.

Analyses conducted by ACS included classical test theory (CTT) analyses, Rasch analyses, response time analyses, and Rasch-based equating. Analyses of delivery modality, certification status, and eligibility pathway were also performed. **The equated number-right passing standard on the April 2021 exam is 132, resulting in 82.7% of the candidates passing.**

Established statistical procedures for test equating were conducted to adjust for differences in difficulty across test forms and to maintain the minimum competency standard pre-established by IBLCE. IBLCE approved and adopted a final cut score of 132 raw score units (out of 175) for the 2021 April/May test form.

Data forensics analyses were conducted as part of the standard examination evaluation processes.

Test Level Statistics

Table 1 shows the following test-level statistics for the above mentioned examination for all candidates:

- **Reliability** is the overall consistency of the test scores. A test is said to have a high reliability if it produces similar results under consistent conditions.
- **Decision Consistency** (Brennan & Kane, 1977) measures the extent to which classification decisions (i.e., pass/fail status) would agree with decisions that would be made if candidate could be tested with a different test form. The calculation was based on an equated number right passing score of 132.
- **Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)** is a practical index of the precision of the test scores and is commonly used to get a range which indicates where the student's score might fall if the test was perfectly reliable. A confidence interval is created by adding and subtracting the SEM from a test score.

Table 1. Test-level statistics

Statistic	Value	Interpretation
Reliability (Cronbach's coefficient alpha)	.889	High; test has good reliability
Decision Consistency (Brennan-Kane index)	.928	High; test produces consistent pass/fail scores
Standard Error of Measurement	4.61 (2.6%)	Low; the error around test scores is appropriately low

Table 2 summarizes the test scores and number of test takers by certification status – initial exam, lapsed, recertification, or repeat.

Table 2. Test Score Summary by Certification Status

Status	n	Mean Score	Passing Rate*
Initial	1,183	144.29	85.1%
Lapsed	27	149.07	92.6%
Recert-5 years	11	147.09	90.9%
Recert-10 years	471	150.33	95.1%
Recert-15 years	15	147.40	93.3%
Recert-20 years	74	151.51	95.9%
Recert-25 years	10	151.30	100.0%
Recert-30 years	15	152.80	100.0%
Repeat	245	127.77	39.6%

*Passing rate is based on a passing score of 132.

Passing Rates by Pathway

Table 3 summarizes the test scores and number of test takers by eligibility pathway. Passing rates ranged from 76.7 to 80.6%. The pathways for certification as an IBCLC are:

- Pathway 1: Health professionals and non-health professionals earning clinical hours in an appropriate setting
- Pathway 2: Accredited Academic Programs
- Pathway 3: Mentorship for clinical hours with an IBCLC

Table 3. Test Score Summary by Eligibility Pathway

Pathway	n	Mean Score	Passing Rate
Pathway 1*	1,283	141.7	77.9%
Pathway 2**	31	139.7	80.6%
Pathway 3***	86	142.1	76.7%

Passing rate is based on a passing score of 132.

*Pathway 1: Health professionals and non-health professionals earning clinical hours in an appropriate setting

**Pathway 2: Accredited Academic Programs

***Pathway 3: Mentorship for clinical hours with an IBCLC

References

ACS Ventures (2021) *Test Analysis Report International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Certification Examination April/ May 2021 Administrations*