International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®)

International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Examination

October 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 4,735 test takers from the October 2021 administration of the IBLCE exam for a single examination form administered using two delivery modalities: test center (TC, 4,143 test takers) and live remote proctoring (LRP, 592 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 Form A for the October 2021 exam is 128, resulting in 80.9% of the candidates on Form A 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 128 raw score units (out of 175) for the 2021 October Form A. Candidates who tested in Chinese (N=226) were administered a different (previously used) form (Form B), which had a final cut score of 132 raw score units (out of 175) for the 2021 October administration.

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. See equating section below.
- **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)	.877	High; test has good reliability
Decision Consistency (Brennan-Kane index)	.910	High; test produces consistent pass/fail scores
Standard Error of Measurement	4.88	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	2,648	137.5	80.0%
Lapsed	67	141.7	89.6%
Recert – 5	70	142.7	91.4%
Recert – 10	1115	143.1	90.9%
Recert – 15	121	142.6	89.3%
Recert – 20	179	147.1	97.8%
Recert – 25	32	146.8	96.9%
Recert – 30	19	151.4	94.7%
Recert – 40	3	154.7	100.0%
Repeat	481	**125.9**	**45.9%**

*Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 128 for Form A (all languages except Chinese) and 132 for Form B (Chinese).

Passing Rates by Pathway

Table 3 summarizes the test scores and number of test takers by eligibility pathway. Passing rates ranged from 74.6 to 83.5%. 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*	2,817	135.5	74.6%
Pathway 2**	142	138.9	79.6%
Pathway 3***	127	139.8	83.5%

Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 128 for Form A (all languages except Chinese) and 132 for Form B (Chinese).

*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 October 2021 Administrations*