

International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®)

IBCLC Commission

**International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Examination**

**September 2022 Administration**

**Test Analysis Report Summary**

This document is a summary of the psychometric analysis reported by

ACS Ventures  
December 2022

## Overview

This report documents the psychometric analyses performed on the results for 3,858 test takers from the September 2022 administration of the IBCLC exam for a single examination form in all IBCLC languages. The test was administered using two delivery modalities: test center (TC: 3,526 test takers) and live remote proctoring (LRP: 316 test takers).

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

Analyses conducted by ACS included classical test theory (CTT) analyses, Rasch analyses, response time analyses, and Rasch-based equating. Analyses of delivery modality (TC vs. LRP), certification status, and eligibility pathway, and data forensics were also performed. **The equated number-right passing standard for the September 2022 exam is 124 (70.9%, 1.31 logits), resulting in 75.1% 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 124 raw score units (out of 175) for the September 2022 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. 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)	.887	High; test has good reliability
Decision Consistency (Brennan-Kane index)	.906	High; test produces consistent pass/fail scores
Standard Error of Measurement	5.19	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	2,953	134.59	79%
Lapsed	135	139.53	92%
Recert – 5	87	138.03	89%
Recert – 10	64	137.48	81%
Recert – 15	48	138.77	90%
Recert – 20	35	141.57	94%
Recert – 25	16	143.56	94%
Recert – 30	0	-	-
Recert – 40	3	147.00	100%
Repeat	501	120.64	42%

\*Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 124 for September 2022.

## Passing Rates by Pathway

Table 3 summarizes the test scores and number of test takers by eligibility pathway. Passing rates by pathway ranged from 74.7 to 87.6%. 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	Number of Test Takers	Passing Rate
Pathway 1	3,134	73%
Pathway 2	141	75%
Pathway 3	155	85%

Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 124 for September 2022.

## References

ACS Ventures (2022) *Test Analysis Report International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Certification Examination September 2022 Administration*