

International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®)

IBCLC Commission

International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Examination

March 2023 Administration

Test Analysis Report Summary

This document is a summary of the psychometric analysis reported by

ACS Ventures

June 2023

Overview

This report documents the psychometric analyses performed on the results for 1,687 test takers from the March 2023 administration of the IBCLC examination for a single examination form. The test was administered using two delivery modalities: test center (TC: 1,411 test takers) and live remote proctoring (LRP: 276 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 March 2023 exam is 129 (73.7%, 1.31 logits), resulting in 74.4% 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 the IBCLC Commission. The IBCLC Commission approved and adopted a final cut score of 129 raw score units (out of 175) for the March 2023 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)	.91	High; test has good reliability
Decision Consistency (Brennan-Kane index)	.92	High; test produces consistent pass/fail scores
Standard Error of Measurement	5.01	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	Number of Test Takers	Mean Score	Passing Rate*
Initial	1408	140.8	82.2%
Lapsed	12	142.7	83.3%
Recert-5	2	146.5	100%
Recert-10	1	142.0	100%
Recert-15	5	146.4	100%
Recert-20	1	149.0	100%
Recert-25	2	143.0	100%
Recert-30	1	161.0	100%
Recert-35	1	151.0	100%
Repeat	254	121.6	29.9%

*Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 129 for March 2023.

Passing Rates by Pathway

Table 3 summarizes the test scores and number of test takers by eligibility pathway. Passing rates ranged from 73.7 to 78.4. 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	1,408	73.7%
Pathway 2	135	77.8%
Pathway 3	116	78.4%

Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 129 for March 2023.

References

ACS Ventures (2023) *Test Analysis Report International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Certification Examination March 2023 Administration*