

Procedures for Breast/Chestfeeding During the IBCLC Examination Administration

The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE) and the IBCLC Commission are devoted to lactation and breast/chestfeeding care. Therefore, it is appropriate for IBLCE to provide the opportunity for examination candidates who are breast/chestfeeding to breast/chestfeed or express milk during the IBCLC® examination while at the same time maintaining examination security. It is necessary that these allowances meet requirements for ensuring IBLCE exam security while at the same time offering reasonable solutions that will allow test takers to breast/chestfeed or pump during the exam appointment. Therefore a break will be permitted for breast/chestfeeding or expressing milk after the first part of the examination, but no additional examination seat time for testing will be permitted. Additionally, all examination candidates, inclusive of those breast/chestfeeding or expressing milk, may not return to the first part of the examination after its completion.

The following summarises the procedures for the breast/chestfeeding break.

1. Breast/chestfeeding candidates may request arrangements to leave the exam room in order to breast/chestfeed or pump during the IBCLC examination.
2. The request for a breast/chestfeeding break during the examination must be made in advance in the application and substantiated by third-party documentation, such as a copy of the child's birth date or estimated birth date.
3. The candidate may be required to leave the examination room and breast/chestfeed or pump.
4. Candidates approved for a breast/chestfeeding break will receive information regarding the specific timing of the break and how to make prior arrangements with the testing vendor in their examination authorisation email.
5. If breast/chestfeeding or pumping for multiples, notify IBCLC Programme staff.
6. It is the responsibility of the child's care provider to bring the child to the pre-determined break location at the pre-determined time. For security reasons, candidates are not permitted to use a cell phone to communicate with the child's care provider. *Only the child and one care provider are allowed to meet the candidate at the pre-determined time and location.* Note that care providers and children are not allowed in the examination room.
7. Breast/chestfeeding breaks are 30 minutes in length.
8. Although efforts are made to locate a test centre nearest to the candidate that can accommodate these arrangements, the test centre may not be the closest centre to the candidate's home.