

International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®) IBCLC
Commission

International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Examination
September 2024 Administration
Test Analysis Report Summary

This document is a summary of the IBLCE psychometric Internal Technical Report
for the IBCLC Examination September 2024 Administration
reported by ACS Ventures December 2024

Overview

This report documents the psychometric analyses performed on the results for 3,239 test takers from the September 2024 administration of the IBCLC examination for a single examination form in the 10 IBCLC examination languages. The test was administered using two delivery modalities: test center (TC: 2,881 test takers) and live remote proctoring (LRP: 358 test takers).

The IBCLC examination consists of 175 scored 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, eligibility pathway, and data forensics were also performed. **The equated number-right passing standard for the September 2024 examination was 133 (76.0%), resulting in 70.6% 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 133 raw score units (out of 175) for the September 2024 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 (Live Remote Proctored (LRP) and Test Center (TC) and Total):

- **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.
- **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 133. See equating section below.
- **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.

Table 1. Test-level statistics

Statistic	LRP	TC	Total	Interpretation
SEM (Raw)	4.80	4.94	4.93	Low; the error around test scores is appropriately low
Decision Consistency (Brennan-Kane index)	0.90	0.89	0.89	High; test produces consistent pass/fail scores
Reliability (Cronbach's coefficient alpha)	0.90	0.89	0.89	High; test has good reliability

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

Status	Number of Test Takers	Test Score (out of 175)				Std. Dev.	Passing Rate*
		Minimum	Median	Mean	Maximum		
Inactive	7	124	147	143.6	152	9.5	86%
Initial	2,771	60	142	139.6	168	15.0	73%
Lapsed	0						
Recert-5	61	119	147	144.7	164	11.6	82%
Recert-10	54	124	144	144.2	164	10.3	83%
Recert-15	52	127	145	146.1	164	9.5	88%
Recert-20	17	130	151	148.0	161	9.5	94%
Recert-25	13	129	154	150.5	161	11.1	92%
Recert-30	5	144	148	149.4	157	5.5	100%
Recert-35	2	130	134	133.5	137	4.9	50%
Repeat	256	64	129	127.7	153	12.1	35%
Total	3,239	60	141	139.0	168	15.0	71%

*Passing rate is based on an equated number right passing score of 133 for September 2024.

References

ACS Ventures (2024) Test Analysis Report International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Certification Examination September 2024 Administration