



IBLCE® Exam Updates

February 2012

What is IBLCE®?

IBLCE, or the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners®, is the independent international certification body conferring the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)® credential.
www.iblce.org

As we move towards an Online Application..

IBLCE has been diligently working toward implementation of an online application system but technical issues have slightly delayed the process. Consequently, the Americas region is adopting a hybrid system for the 2012 exam.

Once the anticipated credential management system is launched, IBCLCs and exam candidates will be able to log into password-protected accounts at any time to complete forms, check their status, edit personal information, record continuing education and view exam results.

Stay tuned for more information about implementation of the credential management system.

New Time Limit for 2012 American English Exam

The time allowance for the 2012 American English version of the IBLCE exam has been shortened to a single 4-hour session. This change is the result of ongoing studies of how candidates utilize their exam time.

The American English version of the exam is the only version affected by this change and, as in the past, IBLCE will provide reasonable accommodations for American English exam candidates with a documented reasonable accommodation request. In addition, this time limit will not affect American English exam candidates whose primary language is a language other than English.

Recent time studies by IBLCE indicate that the time limit for the American English version of the exam can be reduced to four hours. This reduction will enable IBLCE to administer this version of the exam in a single session.

Candidates taking the exam in a language other than American English are not affected by this change. All other language versions of the 2012 exam will retain the prior 2-session format, with each session having a time limit of 2.5 hours.

In practical terms, this means the following:

- Candidates taking the American English version of the exam by computer-based testing (CBT) will make appointments at a testing center for 4 hours. The 4 hours allotted for the exam will include the time needed by the candidate for reading instructions and any breaks.
 - CBT format allows the candidate to see one question at a time in an environment that is designed to minimize distractions and there are no booklets or answer sheets to manage. Candidates may flag questions for review and return to them later. An erasable white board will be given to candidates for making notes during the

2012 Exam and Recertification Application Information

If you live in one of the countries served by IBLCE in the Americas, the exam and recertification applications for 2012 will require completion of printed forms, as well as completion of a form that must be filled out online.

Please use the following links for detailed information about the 2012 exam and recertification application procedures.

[Exam Recertification by Exam](#)
[Recertification by CERPs](#)

Registering for Computer-Based Testing

IBLCE exam candidates will be notified by postal mail of their eligibility to take the 2012 exam. After receiving this notification of eligibility, IBLCE exam candidates will be able to make their own appointments at computer-based testing (CBT) centers. This gives candidates the opportunity to make an appointment at the center of their choice. Candidates who apply for the exam early and receive eligibility notification early will have more centers from which to choose.

- The sooner you apply and receive notification of your eligibility to take the 2012 exam, the sooner you will be able to make an appointment at the computer-based testing center or your choice.
- As indicated above, you may not make an appointment at a CBT center until you receive notification from IBLCE of your

exam; this white board must be returned to the test center supervisor after the exam is completed. Personal possessions, with the exception of the use of predetermined comfort measures or medical equipment that has been predetermined by IBLCE to be allowed during the exam, must be stored in a locker designated by the test center supervisor.

- The paper and pencil (P&P) format of the American English exam will differ from previous P&P administrations in that all the exam questions, including images will be in one booklet. As in the past, responses to questions must be recorded on an answer sheet with a pencil.
 - P&P exam site proctors will distribute the exam booklets and answer sheets; provide instructions for filling out the answer sheet and give instructions regarding breaks and personal possessions. Following these instructions, candidates will have 4 hours to complete the P&P exam. The 4 hours allotted includes any breaks taken by the candidate. Personal possessions, with the exception of the use of comfort measures and medical equipment that has been predetermined by IBLCE to be allowed during the exam, must be stored in the location designated by the proctor.

As indicated above, this change affects only the American English version of the exam. Regardless of whether the 2012 exam is administered in CBT or P&P format, all other translated versions of the exam will be administered in two sessions and candidates will be given a total of 2.5 hours for each session.

IBLCE continues to conduct these time use studies and, as additional data are accrued, time limits for other language versions of the exam will likely change in either 2013 or 2014.

Further information regarding the 2012 IBLCE exam schedule will be mailed to candidates when they are notified of their eligibility to take the exam.

Expansion of Computer-Based Testing

In 2011, IBLCE conducted a pilot of computer-based testing (CBT) in which 498 American English exam candidates participated. The results of this pilot were overwhelmingly positive with 96.5% of candidates who participated in a post-pilot opinion poll (n=346) reporting that the experience met or exceeded their expectations.

CBT is being expanded in 2012 and will include countries outside the Americas region and other exam languages besides American English.

eligibility to take the 2012 exam.

In Brazil, Israel, Mexico, Peru and the United States, the following exam languages will be administered as CBT exams:

- American English
- British English
- French
- Spanish
- Portuguese

Due to a limited number of CBT centers in Canada, the American English exam will be administered in the traditional paper and pencil format. The rest of the above listed languages-British English, French, Spanish and Portuguese-will be administered in CBT format.

Special Note for 2012 ILCA Conference Attendees: The IBLCE exam will be administered by paper and pencil format and, for your convenience, the exam site will be located at the ILCA conference site in Orlando, Florida, USA.

For information about computer-based testing in countries served by the other IBLCE regional offices, please visit their websites.

[IBLCE in Asia Pacific and Africa](#)
[IBLCE in Europe and the Middle East](#)

Please note that computer-based testing will not change the date on which exam results will be available. As in the past, exam results will be mailed in late October.