

Lactation Consultant Program *Pathway 1*: Providers of Lactation Care

To use this pathway, you must have experience as a health care professional working in maternal-child health or as a breastfeeding support counselor as defined by IBLCE. This pathway does not qualify for federal student aid.

Time frame for Completion

Required coursework must be completed within the five years immediately before IBLCE exam application.

Coursework

All *Pathway 1* students must complete 90 contact hours of Lactation Education Accreditation and Approval Review Committee (LEAARC) approved human lactation and breastfeeding coursework. Birthingway's lactation education course sequence meets this requirement. See *LACTATION EDUCATION COURSE SEQUENCE*.

In addition, *Pathway 1* students must complete eight required *Higher Education* courses and six required subjects in *Continuing Education*.

The following charts identify the IBLCE subject requirements and the Birthingway courses that can be used to meet those requirements.

| Higher Education Courses | |
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| IBLCE Requirements | Birthingway Course |
| Biology | Human Genetics |
| Human Anatomy | Anatomy and Physiology for Birth and Lactation Professionals |
| Human Physiology | Anatomy and Physiology for Birth and Lactation Professionals |
| Infant and Child Growth and Development | Infancy |
| Nutrition | Nutrition |
| Psychology or Counseling or Communication Skills | Non-Violent Communication Series; Perinatal Psychology for Lactation Consultants |
| Introduction to Research | Information Literacy and Using Medical Literature |
| Sociology or Cultural Sensitivity or Cultural Anthropology | Working Cross-culturally; Breastfeeding Politics and Policy |

| Continuing education (in six subjects) | |
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| IBLCE Requirements | Birthingway Courses |
| Basic life support (e.g. CPR) | Professional Standards and Practice for Lactation Consultants; Maternal/Infant CPR workshop |
| Medical documentation | Medical Terminology Advanced Lactation Case Studies |
| Medical terminology | Medical Terminology |
| Occupational safety, including security, for health professionals | Professional Standards and Practice for Lactation Consultants |
| Professional ethics for health professionals | Professional Standards and Practice for Lactation Consultants |
| Universal precautions and infection control | All Breastfeeding Skills courses |

Practicum Requirements

IBLCE requires a minimum of 1000 hours in lactation-specific clinical hours for *Pathway 1* students, obtained through either paid or volunteer employment within a supervised setting, and accumulated within the five years immediately before exam application. Supervisors are required to be on-site for all hours.

If you choose *Pathway 1*, you may accumulate hours while practicing midwifery or as a peer counselor.

Additional Requirements

IBLCE requires those sitting for the examination to also provide references from two individuals who can testify to your clinical practice hours. This is not a Birthingway requirement.

Lactation Consultant *Pathway 1* Costs

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| Registration fee | \$55.00 per term |
| Tuition | \$432.00 per quarter credit hour |
| Technology fee | \$35.00 per term |

Additional fees may apply. See registration materials for current costs and additional fees.

Excerpt from *2014-15 Student Handbook and Catalog*, pages 95-96