Lactation Consultant Program Pathway 3: Mentorship

Students using this pathway must complete an approved lactation education plan under the supervision of one or more IBCLCs, all of whom have re-certified at least once. The plan must be approved by IBLCE before the candidate begins the clinical practice component. IBLCE has made revisions to this pathway for first-time certificate candidates effective 2012. Please see the IBLCE website for more information.

Time frame for Completion
Required coursework must be completed within the five years immediately before IBLCE exam application.

Coursework
In addition to required clinical experience in helping breastfeeding families, beginning in 2012, all first-time candidates will be required to:

- Complete 90 contact hours of human lactation and breastfeeding education. Birthingway's lactation education course sequence meets this requirement. See LACTATION EDUCATION COURSE SEQUENCE.

- Meet ONE of the following requirements:
  - be a registered/licensed/recognized health professional in their country OR
  - complete Higher Education in 14 identified subject areas.

Please see the Pathway 1 section to review the Birthingway courses that meet those requirements.

Clinical Experience
To qualify to take the certification exam, IBLCE requires 500 hours minimum of lactation-specific clinical hours for Pathway 3 applicants. These 500+ hours must be directly supervised by the re-certified IBCLCs, and accumulated within the five years immediately before exam application. Each Pathway 3 plan must be developed individually and approved before the student may count any hours toward exam eligibility.

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 3 Costs
Course work $432.00 per quarter credit hour
Registration Fee $55.00 per term
Technology Fee $35.00 per term

See Lactation Program Coordinator for current practicum fee. Additional fees may apply. See registration form for current costs and additional fees.

Excerpt from 2014-15 Student Handbook and Catalog, page 113