



Accreditation Council
for Clinical Lipidology

Clinical Lipid Specialist

Renewal of Certification Guide

lipidspecialist.org/roc

About ACCL

MISSION

The Mission of the Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology (ACCL) is to establish, certify, and maintain the clinical competencies of qualified healthcare professionals who have a focus in Clinical Lipidology.

The concept of a certification program in Clinical Lipidology was spearheaded by the National Lipid Association (NLA) to provide opportunities for professional development and formal recognition of the specialized expertise of healthcare professionals working in lipid management. The ACCL was incorporated as an independent certifying organization in 2006 and is responsible for the development and administration of the Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS) certification exam.

Although the ACCL is a self-governing and separate entity from the NLA, the two organizations work collaboratively to ensure there are adequate educational and professional development opportunities available. These opportunities help candidates and Diplomates meet the initial and renewal requirements for the CLS examination. The CLS standards and requirements have been established by, and are implemented through, the ACCL Board of Governors.

ACCL Timeline

ACCL is incorporated as an independent organization	2006
First certification exam is offered	2007
ACCL certifies 100th Clinical Lipid Specialist	2009
CLS certification approved for 75 Continuing Professional Education Units (CPEUs) by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)	2014
CLS Exam made available to physicians	2014
CLS certification recognized by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) as a qualification for Associate of the ACC.	2014
ACCL Board of Governors votes to explore an International Clinical Lipid Specialist Certification program for physicians in Europe	2015
First group of CLS required to complete Renewal of Certification requirements	2018

Renewal of Certification

PURPOSE OF RENEWAL

Becoming certified as a Clinical Lipid Specialist demonstrates professional accomplishment and growth, and validates competence, knowledge, dedication, and commitment to best practices and standards in the field of lipidology. Competence includes both cognition and behaviors, and can be defined as the ongoing ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, judgment, and values to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role.

After initial certification, Renewal of Certification (ROC) encourages individuals to continue activities essential to the maintenance of knowledge and continuing competence required for their level of practice and certification. With new technology, strategies, and research comes change. ROC assures the public that those holding the CLS credential have maintained knowledge and competence, and are up-to-date with the latest advances in the field of lipidology.

The ACCL requires that all CLS renew their certification every 10 years to maintain active status. A CLS can continue to use this credential by maintaining their license to practice (if applicable) and meeting the CLS ROC requirements in place at the time of their renewal. Those who do not renew their certification, must cease use of the CLS credential after the associated expiration date, and will no longer be recognized on the ACCL website as certified.



NOTIFICATIONS

The ACCL utilizes email communication to ensure timely and efficient dissemination of information regarding your certification. It is the responsibility of each Diplomate to provide the ACCL with an active and valid email address.

To ensure you receive important messages from the ACCL, please notify us of any changes to your contact information and make sure the ACCL is placed on your safe senders list.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

ROC is required for continued use of the Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology's Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS) credential. This guide provides Clinical Lipid Specialists the necessary tools to renew their certification with confidence.

ROC Requirements

The ACCL requires that all CLS renew their certification every ten years to maintain active status.

The requirements for renewal of certification are:

- Hold a current, active license to practice (if applicable) in the United States or Canada.
- Hold a current CLS certification through the ACCL.
- Demonstrate completion of at least 1,000 practice hours in the five years prior to expiration of certification.
- Complete either pathway 1, lipid-focused continuing education or pathway 2, examination:

Pathway 1:

Lipid-Focused Continuing Education

Demonstrate 75 hours of lipid-focused continuing education, completed in the five years prior to expiration of certification.

The ACCL endorses the NLA's Core Curriculum in Clinical Lipidology. Continuing education programs that cover anything outlined in this curriculum meet ACCL's definition of "lipid-focused."

For a complete list of endorsed education programs, please visit: **lipidspecialist.org/roc**

OR

Pathway 2:

Examination

Pass the current CLS exam by December 31 of renewal year.*

Once your ROC application is processed and approved, candidates will receive an email with instructions on how to schedule and set-up their exam. The exam will be delivered via online proctoring and candidates must have a webcam and internet connection to take the exam.

**If you do not pass the exam, your certification is no longer valid. If you wish to reactivate this credential, you must apply to sit for the exam through the initial application process.*

Documentation

The following documents must be submitted with application for ROC:

1. A copy of your professional license with the current expiration date (if applicable).
2. A verification letter from a supervisor or a professional equivalent qualified to comment on practice hours.

PRACTICE HOURS

Any CLS wishing to renew their certification must demonstrate completion of at least 1,000 practice hours in the five years prior to expiration of certification. The practice hours are not required to be documented in detail, however, candidates must submit a defensible letter of verification from their supervisor or a professional equivalent qualified to comment on practice hours.

For purposes of renewal, practice means time spent providing direct or indirect patient care and/or a professional contribution to the care and self-management education of patients with lipid disorders. Practice also includes clinical education of healthcare professionals who care for patients with lipid disorders.

For specific information regarding what qualifies for the ROC practice hours requirement, visit: **lipidspecialist.org/roc**

3. If participating in pathway 1, copies of continuing education certificates.

Note: Documentation of activities to fulfill the requirements above will be accepted and approved at the discretion of the ACCL ROC Committee, based on whether it is considered lipid-focused according to the NLA core curriculum. For more information please see lipidspecialist.org/roc



Deadlines & Fees

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND FEES

The Renewal Application deadline is October 1, each year. Candidates up for renewal in a particular year must submit their application on or before this date. Candidates are responsible for tracking their renewal date and submitting required documents in a timely manner. Applicants are encouraged to begin the ROC process early and take advantage of the online ROC portal.

The renewal of certification fee is \$249. The ROC fee enables the ACCL to maintain the high standard set for the CLS credential. This fee includes: application processing, license verification, continuing education verification or examination fees, as well as certificate printing and mailing.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

A \$249 renewal fee is required when submitting your application for renewal of certification. This fee can be paid via credit card or check. Please make checks payable to "The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology."

REACTIVATING EXPIRED CREDENTIALS

The CLS credential is considered expired if the renewal application is not complete and/or received by the appropriate deadline for the CLS renewal year. If you wish to reactive your credential, but did not meet the ROC application deadline, you must re-apply to sit for the exam through the initial application process.

Those who do not renew their certification, must cease use of the CLS credential after the associated expiration date, and will no longer be recognized on the ACCL website as certified.

DID YOU KNOW?

Meeting the CME/CE requirement for ROC pathway 1 can be as simple as earning 15 lipid focused CME/CE credits a year, for the last five years of your certification. For a list of suggested courses, visit:

lipidspecialist.org/roc

ROC Application

RENEWING ONLINE

The simplest way to complete your renewal is through the online application portal.

Start your application process early to track your progress toward completing the CE requirement. The online portal helps you organize your lipid-focused CE credits, and keeps you on track for completion of the renewal program. Applications can be started up to five years prior to required renewal date.

Visit lipidspecialist.org/roc for more information regarding the online application process.

Once your application has been processed and approved, you will be notified via email of your renewal status, and next steps, if necessary.

RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

My initial certification year: _____

My renewal application deadline: October 1, _____
(Initial certification year + 10 years)

Choose which pathway for renewal: Pathway 1 Pathway 2
(More Information on Page 3)

Submit online application and payment for renewal

Upload required documents via online application portal

Proof of active licensure

Practice hours letter of verification

Lipid focused CME/CE credits (*Pathway 1 only*)

Register for renewal exam (*Pathway 2 only*)

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Clinical Lipid Specialist ROC Guide Published March 2016.