

The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology

2009–2010 Certification Guide

Two pathways to recognition available

Core Certification

Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology

Open to anyone involved broadly in the field of lipidology and lipid management. Benchmark your professional competency in the field of clinical lipidology and sharpen your skills.

Advanced Certification

Clinical Lipid Specialist

Open to licensed allied health professionals who provide specialized care to patients with dyslipidemia and related cardiometabolic conditions.

Validate your training and expertise for patients, your employer, and professional colleagues.



Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology

Table of Contents

Welcome

The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology is an independent certifying organization that has developed standards and examinations in the field of Clinical Lipidology for the growing number of allied health, primary care and paraprofessionals who are involved in lipid management.

Directory

ACCL Certification Pathways	1
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Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology

Credentialing Requirements.....	3
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Clinical Lipid Specialist

Credentialing Requirements.....	4
Pharmacist Criteria.....	5
Nurse and Physician Assisant Criteria.....	6
Dietitian and Exercise Physiologist/Specialist Criteria.....	7
Certifying Examination	8

Resources	9
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More information and application forms are available at **www.lipidspecialist.org**

Questions? Contact Patricia Mackowiak at 904.309.6250 or by e-mail at tmackowiak@lipidspecialist.org.

ACCL Certification Pathways

Why are there certification programs in Clinical Lipidology?

ACCL provides recognition and distinction in the field of clinical Lipidology for those allied health and primary care professionals who successfully credential and complete a written examination. Certification by the ACCL provides benefits to both the practitioner and the profession by:

- Improving the quality of patient care
- Setting benchmarks of clinical competency for lipid specialists
- Encouraging ongoing learning and improvement required for professional excellence over a lifetime of practice
- Helping allied professionals achieve recognition of their specialized training and qualifications
- Enhancing the credibility of the allied professional and the specialty of Clinical Lipidology in the medical community

Why become certified?

Preparing for and successfully passing the ACCL certifying examinations is a rigorous process demonstrating a significant commitment to the prevention of morbidity and mortality caused by atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Achieving certification is an investment in one's career, professional and personal development growth.

Becoming certified by ACCL enables allied professionals to:

- Validate knowledge essential to the practice of lipid management
- Gain a competitive advantage and increase opportunities for career advancement
- Demonstrate commitment to the highest standard of patient care

Certifications offered

The ACCL offers two unique pathways to certification and competency assessment in Clinical Lipidology. Both programs encourage professional growth in the practice of lipid management, and prospective applicants are encouraged to select the level of certification that is commensurate with their experience and professional objectives.

Who should seek the credential of Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology?

The BCCL program offers a baseline competency assessment and certification pathway for primary care practitioners and related allied professionals involved in dyslipidemia management. This credential is appropriate for those who:

- Wish to demonstrate a core competency in clinical lipid management
- Do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Certified Lipid Specialist program offered by the ACCL or the physician board certification program offered by the American Board of Clinical Lipidology
- Wish to benchmark their knowledge of Lipidology and receive recognition from the ACCL

Who should seek certification as a Clinical Lipid Specialist?

The CLS program is a recognition pathway open to licensed Allied Health Professionals who are pursuing advanced certification and provide specialized care to patients with dyslipidemia and related cardiometabolic conditions.

Certification as a Clinical Lipid Specialist by the ACCL signifies that you have:

- Documented your commitment to continued professional development in Lipidology
- Provided assurance to the public, your colleagues and the medical profession that you have successfully completed a course of education in lipid management
- Passed an additional rigorous examination in clinical lipidology

Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology (BCCL)

The BCCL program offers a baseline competency assessment and certification pathway for primary care physicians, related allied healthcare professionals (exercise, nutrition, pharmacy, nursing) or paraprofessional with an interest or involvement in the area of dyslipidemia.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must have earned a minimum of 10 continuing education credit hours in clinical lipidology in the previous 2 calendar years.

Applicants can satisfy the CE requirements by completing any of the following National Lipid Association educational activities:

- Volume I of the NLA Self-Assessment Program (NLA-SAP) (Intermediate)
www.lipid.org/sap
- The Lipid Management Training Course (Intermediate)
www.lipid.org/education/lmtc
- The Masters in Lipidology Advanced Training & Board Review Course (Advanced)
www.lipid.org/education/masters
- or, CE/CME accredited courses focused on lipid management or CVD prevention.

BCCL Examination Information

The BCCL exam was created at the intermediate level of difficulty and consists of between 50–75 multiple-choice questions. The two-hour BCCL examination is offered electronically at testing centers across the US and Canada year-round. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an e-mail providing instructions on selecting your exam date and location.

BCCL Fees

Application and Credentialing Fee.....	\$95 (non-refundable)*
Examination Fee.....	\$200
Total Certification Fee.....	\$295

*A one-time \$95 non-refundable application fee is incurred upon receipt of the application by the ACCL, regardless of eligibility outcome.

Designation

Candidates who pass the BCCL exam may use the certification credential “Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology.”



Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS)

The CLS advanced certification program is open to licensed nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, dietitians, clinical exercise physiologists/specialists and other related health professionals who meet qualifying criteria. To become credentialed, candidates must meet 1) the Basic Eligibility Criteria, and 2) the Training Requirements for their particular profession, which require applicants to demonstrate that they have earned 200 credit hour equivalents or “points” to qualify for the examination. Although rigorous, the requirements have been designed to provide any advanced healthcare provider with demonstrated knowledge and experience in Lipidology an avenue to become certified as a Clinical Lipid Specialist.

Basic Eligibility for CLS Applicants

- US or Canadian Resident
- Must be one of the following:
 - Licensed Pharmacist
 - Licensed Physician Assistant
 - Licensed Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Licensed Registered Nurse
 - Registered Dietitian (proof of registration required for states that do not require licensure)
 - ACSM Certified Exercise Specialist
 - ACSM Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist
 - ACE Advanced Health Fitness Specialist

and

- Must possess one of the following:
 - BS/BA degree or higher in related health science and have 3,000 contact hours of demonstrated clinical experience in the management of patients with lipid disorders or other related disorders
 - OR–
 - Masters degree or higher in related health science and have 2,000 contact hours of demonstrated clinical experience in the management of patients with lipid disorders or other related disorders

Other Professionals

- This pathway is for Allied Health Professionals who do not fit into any of the professions listed above or do not have licensure available for profession. These applicants must demonstrate 4,000 contact hours of clinical experience in the management of patients with lipid disorders or other related disorders. These applicants must submit a thorough CV detailing experience and credentials. Copies of all certificates and diplomas claimed must accompany this application. Physicians are not eligible to take this exam.

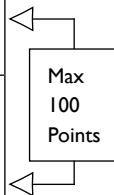
CLS Credentialing Requirements

Training Requirements

A minimum of 200 points are required to successfully credential for certification. Points are earned through primary and subspecialty board certifications, relevant academic practice, involvement in relevant clinical research and participation in lipid-focused continuing medical education activities. The following pages list the specific training requirements for each professional healthcare sector eligible to take this exam.

Pharmacist Criteria

Requirements	Points
<p>1. Certification in a recognized board (e.g., Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties worth 50 points) or advanced licensure recognized by the state OR other appropriate certificate programs (worth 10–50 points)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>2. Relevant accredited postgraduate training of at least 1 year (if not accounted for in basic requirements) OR higher education level (Post-Baccalaureate, PharmD)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Letter from Department Chair or Division Chief at the recognized academic institution(s) confirming appointment(s) and explaining relevance to lipid management.</i></p>	50 points
<p>4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders</p> <p><i>Documentation: Please list and highlight all relevant scholarly, peer-reviewed publications in a Microsoft Word document or on your CV</i></p>	10 points/ publication (up to 50 points)
<p>5. Balance of points not obtained in 1–4 must be earned through lipid-focused continuing education credit obtained within the previous 5 calendar years</p> <p><i>Documentation: Complete the ACCL CE/CME Credit Tracking Form and attach copies of certificates of attendance for the CE activities that you submit for points. The titles of the activities must be clearly identified. The Credentialing Committee will make the final determination on point assignments.</i></p>	2 points per credit hour earned



CLS Credentialing Requirements

Nurse and Physician Assistant Criteria

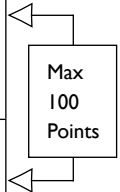
Requirements	Points
<p>1. Certification in a primary care board (e.g., NCCPA, ANCC, AANP), or other appropriate certificate programs</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>2. Higher education level: Doctoral Degree OR other relevant advanced training.</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Letter from Department Chair or Division Chief at the recognized academic institution(s) confirming appointment(s) and explaining relevance to lipid management.</i></p>	50 points
<p>4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders</p> <p><i>Documentation: Please list and highlight all relevant scholarly, peer-reviewed publications in a Microsoft Word document or on your CV</i></p>	10 points/ publication (up to 50 points)
<p>5. Balance of points not obtained in 1–4 must be earned through lipid-focused continuing education credit obtained within the previous 5 calendar years</p> <p><i>Documentation: Complete the ACCL CE/CME Credit Tracking Form and attach copies of certificates of attendance for the CE activities that you submit for points. The titles of the activities must be clearly identified. The Credentialing Committee will make the final determination on point assignments.</i></p>	2 points per credit hour earned

Max
100
Points

CLS Credentialing Requirements

Dietitian and Exercise Physiologist/Specialist Criteria

Requirements	Points
<p>1. Certification in Adult Weight Management from the ADA, certification from other relevant advanced training, including Certified Diabetes Educator or FADA, or other appropriate certificate programs (worth 10–50 points)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>2. Higher education level: Doctoral Degree OR other relevant advanced training</p> <p><i>Documentation: Copy of certificate(s)</i></p>	50 points
<p>3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)</p> <p><i>Documentation: Letter from Department Chair or Division Chief at the recognized academic institution(s) confirming appointment(s) and explaining relevance to lipid management.</i></p>	50 points
<p>4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders</p> <p><i>Documentation: Please list and highlight all relevant scholarly, peer-reviewed publications in a Microsoft Word document or on your CV</i></p>	10 points/ publication (up to 50 points)
<p>5. Balance of points not obtained in 1–4 must be earned through lipid-focused continuing education credit obtained within the previous 5 calendar years</p> <p><i>Documentation: Complete the ACCL CE/CME Credit Tracking Form and attach copies of certificates of attendance for the CE activities that you submit for points. The titles of the activities must be clearly identified. The Credentialing Committee will make the final determination on point assignments.</i></p>	2 points per credit hour earned



The CLS Certifying Examination

The subject content of the CLS examination reflects the knowledge, skills, and attitudes deemed essential for the competent practice of lipidology. The examination has been constructed at the upper level of difficulty and consists of approximately 200 multiple-choice questions. You will have 4 hours to complete the exam.

The content focuses on the approved Core Curriculum in Clinical Lipidology:

- The metabolism of lipids and lipoproteins and the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis
- The genetics, diagnosis, and management of dyslipidemias and the metabolic syndrome
- CV risk assessment
- Pharmacology, safety and efficacy of lipid-altering drugs
- The fundamentals of non-pharmacologic therapy, including nutrition, exercise, and behavior and compliance

The CLS exam is offered electronically at testing centers in the US and Canada during designated testing windows. You must apply by the application deadline. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an e-mail providing instructions on selecting your exam date and location.

CLS Fees

Application and Credentialing Fee.....	\$120 (non-refundable)*
Examination Fee.....	\$376
Total Certification Fee.....	\$496

*A one-time \$120 non-refundable application fee is incurred upon receipt of the application by the ACCL, regardless of eligibility outcome.

Maintaining Your Certification

Your certification is valid for 10 years. To maintain your certification you must complete one of the following:

- Retake the exam prior to expiration of the last certification
- Demonstrate 100 hours of continuing education completed in the 5 years prior to expiration of certification

Designation

Candidates who pass the CLS exam may use the certification credential “Clinical Lipid Specialist” or “CLS.”



Resources

2009–2010 CLS Examinations

The CLS Examination is offered electronically at testing centers across the US during designated 30-day testing windows.

Fall Testing Window	September 26–October 26, 2009 <i>(Application Deadline: August 26, 2009)</i>
Spring Testing Window	March 15–April 15, 2010 <i>(Application Deadline: February 22, 2010)</i>
Summer Testing Window	June 14–July 14, 2010 <i>(Application Deadline: May 17, 2010)</i>
Fall Testing Window	September 20–October 20, 2010 <i>(Application Deadline: August 30, 2010)</i>

2009–2010 BCCL Examinations

The BCCL examination is offered electronically at testing centers across the US and Canada year-round. There is no application deadline.

Application Acceptance Notification

Once you submit your application please allow up to 3–4 weeks for processing. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an email providing instructions regarding selecting your exam date and location.

Study Tools and CE Courses

There are multiple resources available to help you prepare for the CLS or BCCL examinations, including the CLS exam blueprint and the Core Curriculum in Clinical Lipidology – both can be found at lipidspecialist.org. The National Lipid Association offers a professional development pathway with intermediate to advanced training courses, self-assessment programs, and modules that will help prepare you for the exams. Additionally, the NLA offers a “Bookshelf” listing relevant textbooks in the field. Visit www.lipid.org for more information.

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2007–2010 Term

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