

## About the ACCL

### The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology

The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology (ACCL) is an independent certifying organization that develops 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.

ACCL provides recognition and distinction in the field of clinical lipidology for those professionals who successfully credential and pass one or both examinations. 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 health 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. ACCL certification will empower you 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

Additional information and applications are available at [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org).

*“My ACCL certification not only recognizes my individual accomplishments as a Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS) but helps to educate the lay and medical communities that I am accomplished in this area of study. Referring physicians quickly recognize the importance of this certification and referral patterns to our clinic have grown as a result.*”

*The certification has greatly enhanced our clinical practice and has allowed me to mature as a healthcare professional. I proudly display my certification on my business cards, on our practice letterhead and on my exam room walls as a testament to my achievement.”*

**Randy L. Orsborn**, MPAS, PA-C, Mount Vernon, OH  
Clinical Lipid Specialist

## Certification Pathways

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. Each program can serve as a stand-alone certification, or for qualified professionals, can be combined as a progressive route to achieving advanced certification in lipid management.

### 1. Core Certification—Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology

The BCCL program is open to anyone with a general involvement in the field of lipidology and lipid management. Benchmark your professional competency in the field of clinical lipidology and sharpen your skills. This credential is appropriate for those who:

- Aim to achieve a core competency in clinical lipidology
- Seek increased visibility and opportunities made possible by a credentialed, demonstrated expertise in 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

### 2. Advanced Certification—Clinical Lipid Specialist

The CLS program certifies licensed allied health professionals and validates their professional credentials to provide specialized care to patients with dyslipidemia and related cardiometabolic conditions. This certification program is appropriate for those who:

- Are in clinical or academic practice and actively involved in patient management
- Seek to accomplish rigorous examination in clinical lipidology and are committed to continued professional development in lipid management
- Want to attain and demonstrate up-to-date, relevant expertise to patients, colleagues and employers

### Study Tools and CE Courses

There are multiple resources available to help you prepare for the BCCL or CLS examinations, including the core curriculum in Clinical Lipidology and the CLS exam blueprint—both can be found at [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org). Additionally, the National Lipid Association offers continuing educational activities, training courses, self-assessment programs and a "bookshelf" listing relevant textbooks. Visit [www.lipid.org](http://www.lipid.org) for more information.

*“Being credentialed as a Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS) has allowed me to broaden my scope as a nurse practitioner. I now operate a lipid clinic within my practice two days per week. I receive referrals from other providers for the management of their complex dyslipidemic patients.”*

**Debbie Friedrich**, NP, MS, Bradenton, FL  
Clinical Lipid Specialist

[www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org)

## Clinical Lipid Specialist (CLS)

The CLS advanced certification program is open to licensed nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, registered dietitians, clinical exercise physiologists/specialists and other health professionals who meet qualifying criteria. To become credentialed, candidates must meet the basic eligibility criteria, and 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 were designed to provide an avenue for advanced healthcare providers with demonstrated knowledge and experience in lipidology to become certified as Clinical Lipid Specialists.

### Basic Eligibility Criteria

- 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



Degree	Licensure Status	Patient Care Requirement
Master's or higher in related health science	Licensed/registered in your profession	2000 contact hours
Bachelor's or higher in related health science	Licensed/registered in your profession	3000 contact hours
Associate's or higher in related health science	No licensure/registration available for your profession	4000 contact hours

All applicants must submit a thorough CV detailing experience and credentials. Copies of all certificates and diplomas claimed must accompany the 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 page lists the specific training requirements for each professional healthcare sector eligible to take this exam.

Pharmacist Criteria	
Requirements	Points
1. Certification in a recognized board (e.g., Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties worth 50 pts.) or advanced licensure recognized by the state <b>OR</b> other appropriate certificate programs (worth 10–50 pts.)	max 50 pts.
2. Relevant accredited postgraduate training of at least 1 year (if not accounted for in basic requirements) <b>OR</b> higher education level (Post-Baccalaureate, PharmD)	max 50 pts.
3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)	50 pts.
4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders	10 pts. per publication (max 50 pts.)
5. Balance of pts. not obtained in 1–4 must be earned through lipid-focused continuing education credit obtained within the previous 5 calendar years	2 pts. per credit hour earned

Nurse and Physician Assistant Criteria	
Requirements	Points
1. Certification in a primary care board (e.g., NCCPA, ANCC, AANP), or other appropriate certificate programs	max 50 points
2. Higher education level: Doctoral Degree <b>OR</b> other relevant advanced training	max 50 points
3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)	50 points
4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders	10 points per publication (max 50 pts.)
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	2 points per credit hour earned

Dietitian, Exercise Specialist and Health Fitness Specialist Criteria	
Requirements	Points
1A. <b>Dietitian:</b> 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 pts.) 1B. <b>ACSM Certified Exercise Specialist:</b> ACSM Exercise Specialist Certification required (for ACSM); and any other relevant advanced clinical trainings or certificate program (worth 50 pts.) 1C. <b>ACE Advanced Health Fitness Specialist:</b> American Council on Exercise Certification as an Advanced Health and Fitness Specialist (formerly Clinical Exercise Specialist); and any other relevant advanced clinical trainings or certificate programs (worth 50 pts.)	max 50 pts.
2. Higher education level: Doctoral Degree <b>OR</b> other relevant advanced training	max 50 pts.
3. Relevant academic practice and faculty appointment at a recognized institution (i.e., relevant to lipid practice)	50 pts.
4. Clinical research and/or scholarly publications in the management of lipid disorders	10 pts. per publication (max 50 pts.)
5. Balance of pts. not obtained in 1–4 must be earned through lipid-focused continuing education credit obtained within the previous 5 calendar years	2 pts. per credit hour earned

1. *Documentation: Copy of certificate(s).*
2. *Documentation: Copy of certificate(s).*
3. *Documentation: Letter from Department Chair or Division Chief at the recognized academic institution(s) confirming appointment(s) and explaining relevance to lipid management.*
4. *Documentation: Please list and highlight all relevant scholarly, peer-reviewed publications in a Microsoft Word document or on your CV.*
5. *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.*

## CORE CERTIFICATION

### The CLS Certifying Examination

#### 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:

- Metabolism of lipids and lipoproteins and the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis
- Genetics, diagnosis, and management of dyslipidemias and the metabolic syndrome
- CV risk assessment
- Pharmacology, safety and efficacy of lipid-altering drugs
- Fundamentals of non-pharmacologic therapy: nutrition, exercise, and behavior and compliance

#### Applying for the CLS Exam

Visit [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org) to apply for the exam. Please allow up to 4 weeks for processing.

#### CLS Examination 2013 Testing Windows

The CLS Examination is offered electronically at testing centers across the US and Canada during designated 30-day testing windows. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an e-mail with instructions on selecting your exam date and location.

#### 2013 Testing Dates

Spring Testing Window April 1–May 18 <i>(Application Deadline: March 29, 2013)</i>	Summer Testing Window July 8–August 24 <i>(Application Deadline: July 5, 2013)</i>	Fall Testing Window October 14–November 30 <i>(Application Deadline: October 11, 2013)</i>
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#### 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.

#### CLS Study Tools and CE Courses

Review available tools and courses to help you prepare for the exam at [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org).

#### Maintaining Your Certification

Your certification is valid for 10 years. To maintain certification, 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 successfully pass the Clinical Lipid Specialist exam will earn the designation "Clinical Lipid Specialist." This credential may be abbreviated and used in the signature of professionals as follows:

**Approved Designation:** John Smith, PharmD, CLS

Or, this credential may be stated as "Diplomate, Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology"

There may also be limitations imposed by your state or professional licensure board.

### Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology (BCCL)

The BCCL program offers a competency assessment and certification pathway for primary care physicians, allied healthcare professionals or paraprofessionals with interest or involvement in dyslipidemia.

#### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must have earned a minimum of 10 continuing education credit hours in Clinical Lipidology in the previous two calendar years. Applicants can satisfy the CE requirements by completing any CE/CME accredited courses focused on lipid management or CVD prevention, or any of the following National Lipid Association educational activities:

- Volume I of the NLA Self-Assessment Program (NLA-SAP) (Intermediate) [www.lipid.org/sap](http://www.lipid.org/sap)
- The Lipid Management Training Course (Intermediate) [www.lipid.org/lmtc](http://www.lipid.org/lmtc)
- The Masters in Lipidology™ Course (Advanced) [www.lipid.org/masters](http://www.lipid.org/masters)

#### BCCL Examination Information

The BCCL exam was created at the intermediate level of difficulty and consists of 50–75 multiple choice questions. The two-hour BCCL examination is offered electronically at testing centers across the US and Canada year-round.

#### Applying for the BCCL Exam

To apply please visit [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org). There is no application deadline. Please submit your application at least 3–4 weeks before you plan to sit for the examination. Once you submit your application please allow up to 2 weeks for processing. Upon approval of your application, you will receive an email providing instructions regarding 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 successfully pass the BCCL exam will earn the designation "Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology." However, this designation is **not** authorized to be used as the abbreviated credential of "BCCL" in a signature line. Please see below for approved designation wording.

**Not approved:** John Smith, PhD, BCCL

**Approved Designation:** John Smith, PhD

"Certified by the Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology to have passed the Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology Examination."

There may also be limitations imposed by your state or professional licensure board.

Official designation logos are provided by the ACCL for use by Diplomates on letterhead, signage, business cards, etc.

For more information or an application go to [www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org).



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*"The CLS credential has been helpful in acknowledging my expertise in applied clinical lipidology, particularly to my colleagues and the health care institutions where I consult. The credential has dramatically underscored my competency in understanding the spectrum of lipid and lipoprotein disorders, my ability to apply takeaways of key clinical trials, and my comprehension of a systematic institution of pharmacologic and therapeutic lifestyle changes—all of which have enhanced my career."*



**Ralph La Forge, MSc, CLS, Durham, NC**  
Clinical Lipid Specialist

[www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org)



## 2013 Certification Guide

Two pathways to recognition

### Core Certification

#### Basic Competency in Clinical Lipidology

*For individuals with general involvement in lipidology who want to sharpen their lipid management skills and knowledge*

Benchmark your professional competency and demonstrate your passion for excellence in the field of Clinical Lipidology

### Advanced Certification

#### Clinical Lipid Specialist

*For 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



The Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology

[www.lipidspecialist.org](http://www.lipidspecialist.org)