



Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the Lactation Consultant Training Program?**

The Lactation Consultant Training Program (LCTP) is a 2 semester Lactation Consultant training program. Students earn a total of 12 course credits and earn the 300 clinical hours and 90 didactic hours required of a Pathway 2 Training program. The LCTP is an intensive program and should not be viewed as a “test prep course” or a “continuing education course”. Students are expected to complete all requirements in order to sit for the exam.

- **Why choose IBCLC Certification through IBLCE?**

IBLCE is the global authority that determines the competency of practitioners in lactation and breastfeeding care. The IBCLC credential is the premier and only certification for lactation consultants. IBCLCs are essential members of the maternal-child health team who protect, promote and support breastfeeding to benefit the health and well-being of women, children and families worldwide. Consumers, employers and health care team members can trust that individuals who hold the IBCLC credential have demonstrated competence to practice and that the public is protected from unsafe and unethical practitioners through IBLCE’s long-standing disciplinary process and procedures.

- **What makes this program different from other lactation consultant training programs?**

The LCTP will be launching its first class in the fall of 2019. It is housed within the Metropolitan College of Professional Studies at Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is designed to accommodate the non-traditional student and provides an evening class time, reasonable cost, and flexibility in time allotted for attaining required hours. It is the first Pathway 2 lactation consultant training program in the country that is housed at a Historically Black

College/University (HBCU). Johnson C. Smith University also offers all of the IBLCE required prerequisites to the LCTP for students to obtain if needed prior to admission to the program ([click here](#) for more details about prerequisites). The goal of this program is to tackle some of the barriers to entry into the field of lactation that many people of color face. It is also designed to create a more inclusive patient-provider relationship (as it is estimated that less than 5% of IBCLCs in North Carolina are people of color – a disturbing trend that mirrors the national representation in the field) and provide families with reassurance and comfort in knowing that there are culturally appropriate organizations for people of color, by people of color.

- **Is the program accredited?**

The LCTP is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Lactation Education and Approval Review Committee. The program earned its initial accreditation on May 17, 2019 and is current until 2024

- **Is the program offered in a distance format?**

At this time, the program is only offered residentially. The residential setting of the program helps facilitate group sharing and bonding, which is further enhanced by the small class size, consisting of 5 students for the first year. Weekly didactic lectures are frequently delivered by experts in the field of lactation, medicine, public health, and nutrition. The ability to interact in person with these individuals is a distinct advantage of having a residential program.

- **Do I have to be a student in order to apply to the program?**

No, you do not have to be a student when applying to this program. Some applicants choose to apply to this program as part of their current program at JCSU. Other applicants choose to take this program without enrolling in any other courses through JCSU.

- **Am I able to work and do this program at the same time?**

It is a personal decision as to whether someone can balance work and family responsibilities in addition to the program. There are a variety of students in the program, ranging from full time or part time students, those who are employed full time or part time, to stay-at home parents. Students are required to complete assignments including research article presentations, clinical case studies, fall and spring semester projects, and end of course exams in addition to assigned readings from articles and the Core Curriculum text.

- **When does the program begin and how long is it?**

The LCTP runs from mid-August through the beginning of May, and for the most part, follows the JCSU academic calendar. There are three mandatory orientations/workshops in summer, fall and spring. Attendance at all three is mandatory.

- **When does the course meet?**

Didactic classes are held on Tuesday evenings each week from 6:00-8:50pm. **Week night subject to change.* Students complete one clinical day a week, typically consisting of an 8 hour day, students are not to exceed 12 hours per clinical day. Clinical days are assigned by the Program Director, based on the preferences listed by accepted students and availability at the clinical sites. The majority of students will complete their hours Monday through Friday. Due to the need to meet the 300 required clinical hours, on weeks where there are University holidays, clinical days may need to be adjusted to keep the student on target. These adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Program Director.

- **What does the clinical experience look like?**

Students go through three phases of learning throughout the program, progressing from an observation phase to supervised independent practice. In addition to clinical experiences in the hospital setting, students go to a variety of external sites. Students are required to be signed off on clinical competencies throughout the program. The Program Director and Program Manager track student progression through the course to ensure students are meeting the requirements of the program and progressing at an acceptable pace.

- **Does completing this program guarantee employment?**

Completion of this program does not guarantee employment of any kind, however, the skills gained through taking this program in combination with attaining an IBCLC certification makes graduates qualified for a variety of employment settings. Many graduates have found that the addition of an IBCLC certification to their other professional credentials makes them highly marketable. IBCLCs typically serve at hospitals, birth centers, Universities, Milk Banks, Public Health Departments, and some have started private practices. IBCLCs can also become researchers and advocates with a focus on

breastfeeding related issues. LCTP students have access to career services at JCSU and will receive mentorship to assist with the employment process.

- **What is the cost of the program?**

****Note* Financial Aid available to students enrolled in a degree seeking program
(The Lactation Consultant Training Program offers 6 credit-bearing courses
but is not by itself a degree seeking program)***

Item	Fall 2020 Semester	Spring 2021 Semester
Tuition (on campus) (\$325 per credit hour)	\$1950.00 (for 6 credit hours)	\$1950.00 (for 6 credit hours)
Technology Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00
Parking Decal	\$30.00	\$30.00
Hybrid Courses	\$125	\$125
Clinical Fees	\$5870	\$5870
TOTAL	\$8000.00*	\$8000.00*

*Fees subject to change but not to exceed