

Lactation Support Provider (LSP) Descriptors Courses and the specifics listed herein are not exhaustive and may change. Updated April 2024.

Category	Descriptions	Training	Credentials & Programs
Lactation Consultants	Referral to these health professionals is appropriate for the full range of breastfeeding care, particularly involving high acuity breastfeeding situations. Often work clinically as part of the healthcare team in both inpatient and outpatient settings; may also work in private practice.	90-95 didactic hours, and additional training requirements and exam for each title.	International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) Program accreditation by Nat'l Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health professionals and individuals with 14 college level health science courses (6 can be continuing education) 95 lactation-specific didactic hours 300 to 1000+ hours of clinical practice, depending on the pathway
			Advanced Lactation Consultants® (ALC®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification as a CLC® or IBCLC® Plus 2 college credits in <i>Maternal and Infant Assessment</i> and 3 college credits in <i>Advanced Issues in Lactation Practice</i>
			Advanced Nurse Lactation Consultants® (ANLC®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current RN license and certification as a CLC® or IBCLC® Plus 3 college credits in <i>Advanced Issues in Lactation Practice</i>
Breastfeeding Counselors	Individuals who hold these certifications or similar have the skills to provide breastfeeding counseling, address normal breastfeeding in healthy term infants, and to conduct maternal and infant assessments of anatomy, latch, and positioning, while providing support. Often provide support to families in the hospital and community settings. Counselors may have additional competencies to assist families with breastfeeding difficulties.	45-95 hours of classroom training and exam. The Indigenous Lactation Counselor and Military Lactation Counselor do not have exams.	Certified Breastfeeding Specialists® (CBS®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52+ didactic hours and exam, earning 3 college credits, <i>Core Lactation Consultant Course (CLCC)</i> 95+ didactic hours and exam, earning 6 college credits, <i>Lactation Consultant Training Program (LCTP)</i>
			Certified Lactation Counselors® (CLC®) Program accreditation by American Nat'l Standards Institute (ANSI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 didactic hours; ANSI accredited exam earning 3 college credits
			Indigenous Lactation Counselor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 hours without exam Solely for individuals who identify as Native or Indigenous
			Military Lactation Counselor® (MLC®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53 hours without exam Focused on meeting the needs of military families
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	Breastfeeding peer support organizations equip these LSPs to meet the needs of the families they serve, focusing primarily on individual and community support.	Personal breastfeeding experience and approximately 20 hours of training through various community models, except for the La Leche League Leader program, which has 90 hours of training.	Peer support organizations equip these LSPs to meet the needs of the families they serve, focusing primarily on individual and community support. Examples of national breastfeeding peer counselor organizations in the U.S. include: <div> <div>Breastfeeding USA CAPPA HealthConnect One</div> <div>La Leche League USA Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere Women, Infants, and Children</div> </div>
Lactation Educators	Qualified to support and educate on breastfeeding and related issues. Does not perform clinical care.	45 hours for CLE® of training, and exam. 20 hours for LE(C) of training, and exam.	Certified Lactation Educators® (CLE®) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 instructional hours and exam
			Community Lactation Educator LE(C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 instructional hours and exam

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