

ICF Coaching Education Change Statement

In 2020, the ICF Coaching Education Board of Directors approved the creation of a task force to evaluate and improve the current ICF accreditation process.

This task force evaluated and reimagined not only the philosophy of accreditation, but also the structure, policies and procedures to align with current leading practices across the globe. Early deliberations identified an important foundational purpose for accreditation:

Generate policy and process to ensure ICF accreditation delivers “quality and equity that sustains self-regulation for coaching.”

Through this process, ICF accredited organizations and institutions, and those interested in pursuing ICF accreditation, will partake in a series of both structural and standards updates. Coaching education providers, and the programs delivered, will strengthen the coaching field by using validated coaching competencies, a common code of ethics, and fair, reliable assessments.

These updates to the ICF accreditation life cycle will take place over the next 18 months, and ICF staff will be partnering with our stakeholders to reinvigorate the education that will shape the future coaches of the world.

The forthcoming updates include:

- Replacing both ACTP and ACSTH accreditation with levels of accreditation (Levels 1, 2 and 3) to provide a more direct and clearer path to an ICF Credential. These name changes seek to eliminate jargon and to clearly communicate in the language of a non-coach end user so that the path for progressive development over time is clearer from the moment of introduction to that of becoming a professional coach in any context, academic or commercial.
 - **Level 1 Accreditation (formerly ACSTH)** is for organizations that offer at least 60 contact learning hours, and it is designated as a pathway to the ACC credential.



- **Level 2 Accreditation (formerly ACTP)** is for organizations that offer at least 125 contact learning hours, and it is designated as a pathway to the PCC credential.
- **Level 3 Accreditation, an advanced and new accreditation**, is for organizations that offer at least 75 contact learning hours, and it is designated as a pathway to the MCC credential. The curriculum must evidence MCC-level development and must require applicants to have a PCC credential in good standing.
- Performance assessments will be conducted at the local level for participants completing education from Level 1 and Level 2 ICF accredited providers. Level 3 will remain at the global ICF Credentialing level for assessment.
 - Level 1 accredited programs conduct ACC Demonstration Assessment.
 - Level 2 accredited programs conduct PCC Demonstration Assessment.
- Continuing Coach Education (CCE) will be capped at a maximum of 40 hours and should only serve as continuing education and professional development for the renewal of a credential — not as initial/foundational coach training or education. ICF Coaching Education providers can, however, modularize multiple CCE programs in 40-hour blocks, if necessary.
- ICF Coaching Education will move from our current model of accrediting only the curriculum/program to a new model that accredits the entire organization, thus expanded standard areas have been developed.
 - ICF accreditation standards will move from the three (3) current Operation Standards to seven (7) new standards.

We evolve and innovate our current global program accreditation model to maintain the highest standards for coach-specific training and to ensure ICF remains the standard-bearer for excellence. ICF Coaching Education, as part of One ICF, exists to establish ICF as the global leader for coaching education accreditation.