



Credentials
and Standards

Expand Your Opportunities & Elevate Your Impact

Curious about upgrading from an ACC to a PCC credential?
Get ready to unlock new levels of impact, credibility, and influence.



Create Life-Changing Breakthroughs

“As a coach, I wanted to deepen my skills, validate my expertise, and contribute more meaningfully to my client’s growth. Earning an ICF credential signifies a commitment to the highest standards of coaching. It’s not just a badge, it’s a symbol of learning growth and ethical practice.”

- **Smita Das Jain, PCC**

With a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential, you’ll grow personally and professionally, inspiring yourself and your clients to achieve greater levels of transformation and success.

By working towards your PCC credential, you’ll unlock new dimensions of potential, leaving your mark in a world that is craving your unique gifts.

Each ICF credential you earn is an inspirational milestone that propels your journey forward as a professional coach. By becoming a PCC, you’ll showcase your dedication to growth and excellence in your practice.

Coaches who invest in continuing education and professional development report higher client satisfaction. They are also more likely to achieve greater career success, including tangible revenue benefits.

At each credential level — ACC, PCC, and MCC — you get to dive deeper into the art and science of coaching through hands-on education, real-world experience, and inspiring mentorship.

Resonate with clients who value and trust the competence, quality, and passion of an ICF credentialed coach by taking the next step.

Level up your credential to achieve more visibility and further demonstrate the credibility your clients and community are searching for.

It's Time to Level Up

According to our *2023 Credentialing Survey*, 91% agree or strongly agree that earning an ICF credential demonstrates evidence of their professional commitment. Each new level not only enhances your perceived authority but also deepens your real-world expertise. **Each new level accelerates your own growth and delivers even more value to your clients.**

Plus, it pays. According to the *2023 ICF Global Coaching Study*, coaches who said they hold a credential from a professional association reported higher average annual income from coaching compared to those without a credential.

“ This credentialing process has made me a better coach and also a better human being.”

- *Clara Lucia Jaramillo-Carrier, PCC*



- Enhance your credibility.
- Equip yourself with refined knowledge and skills.
- Deepen your personal growth.
- Open doors to new opportunities.
- Attract higher-level clients.
- Stand out as an expert in your industry.

Start with the Credential Path Survey:

coachingfederation.org/credentials-and-standards/credential-path-survey





You are Unstoppable

The PCC credential is ideal for established ACC coaches like you who want to continue on a path to gain expertise in coaching. Earning your PCC signifies that you have not only achieved proficiency in your understanding of the ICF Core Competencies and ICF Code of Ethics, but you also possess verified skills necessary for effective practice and partnership with clients. Plus, many coaches report that the process is a powerful journey of growth and self-discovery.

Your commitment to continuous learning sets you apart as a verified leader in the coaching industry. Every hour of dedication you put in now brings you closer to extraordinary success and fulfillment on your horizon.

This credential highlights substantial experience and distinguishes coaches who have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing coaching services as a primary focus of their professional practice. PCC coaches, recognized for their expertise in coaching, are also required to continually develop professionally to maintain their status as leading coaching professionals. This maintains the relevancy and trust in the credential and in each coach practitioner who holds it.

To be eligible, you must complete at least 125 hours of coaching education and gain 500 hours of client-coaching experience, including 450 paid hours, a written proficiency exam that is independently assessed, and complete 10 hours of mentor coaching with an eligible mentor coach. While rigorous, the program's rewards are immeasurable.

Earning your PCC equips you with the competence and confidence to reach your next level of personal growth and coaching capabilities.

View Specific Requirements for PCC:

coachingfederation.org/credentials-and-standards/credentials-paths/pcc-credential

Education Requirements:



Total Hours Required: 125 hours of coaching education

Eligible Programs: ICF-accredited (Level 2 / ACTP or Level 1 / ACSTH), CCE programs, or non-ICF-accredited programs

Application Paths

Level 2 / ACTP Path

Education Provided: 125 hours, including mentor coaching and performance evaluation

Experience Needed: 500 hours of coaching

Application Price:

- ICF Member: \$375 USD
- Non-Member: \$525 USD

Next Step: Take the ICF Credentialing Exam

Level 1 / ACSTH Path

Education Provided: 125+ hours provided through ACSTH programs, Level 1 programs, or part of Level 2 or ACTP programs

Experience Needed: 500 hours of coaching

Additional Requirements: Separate verification of mentor coaching and two recorded coaching sessions and accompanying transcripts for performance evaluation

Application Price:

- ICF Member: \$650 USD
- Non-Member: \$800 USD

Next Step: Upon passing the performance evaluation, take the ICF Credentialing Exam

Portfolio Path

Education Provided: 125+ hours of non-ICF-accredited coaching education or Continuing Coach Education (CCE) units

Experience Needed: 500 hours of coaching

Documentation Needed: Detailed curriculum and robust documentation to ensure the education meets ICF standards

Additional Requirements: Separate verification of mentor coaching and two recorded coaching sessions and accompanying transcripts for performance evaluation

Application Price:

- ICF Member: \$750 USD
- Non-Member: \$900 USD

Next Step: Upon passing the performance evaluation, take the ICF Credentialing Exam



Experience Requirements

Total Hours Required: 500 hours of coaching experience

Clients: Experience must be included with at least 25 clients

Recency: 50 of the hours must have occurred within the 18 months prior to application

Paid Hours: At least 450 of the 500 hours must be paid

Mentor Coaching Requirements

Total Hours Required: 10 hours of mentor coaching

Timing: Sessions must be spread over at least three months

Format: At least three of the 10 hours must be one-to-one with the mentor coach; the rest can be one-to-one or in a group

Mentor Qualification: The mentor must be a current ICF credential-holder at the PCC or MCC level

Performance Evaluation Requirements

Requirement: You must pass a performance evaluation involving two recorded coaching sessions, each lasting between 20-60 minutes, with a regular client

Review: ICF assessors will review the sessions for compliance with ICF standards

Exam Requirements

Exam Type: Computer-based written exam

Exam Provider: The exam can be taken at a Pearson VUE testing center or online via OnVUE, Pearson's remote-proctoring service

Exam Content: Measures knowledge of the ICF definition of coaching, Core Competencies, and Code of Ethics

If you apply for a higher-level credential within one year of your current expiration date, you can maintain your current credential status for up to 12 months while your new credential application is being reviewed. This means there is no need for a separate renewal application or fees, allowing you to focus on your upgrade without interruption.

To level up your credential, you will complete the full appropriate PCC application. Education and coaching hours used for your ACC can be used towards your PCC. Once you reach the PCC requirements, you may create and complete your PCC application. Take the next step by completing the Credential Path Survey. **Credential Path Survey**.

We are here for any help throughout your journey. If you have any questions, please contact support@coachingfederation.org.



Tips for Success



Upgrading to your PCC is a journey that rewards dedication and incremental progress.

Here are five tips to help you reach your goal:

1. Stay Consistent to Build a Strong

Foundation: Each hour you spend completing your coaching education elevates your craft and gaining the confidence to excel. It helps to create a study schedule. Set dedicated time blocks in your calendar for every week and keep it a top priority! It makes a huge difference when you can learn a little bit each day instead of trying to cram everything in at once.

2. Accumulate Experience Gradually:

Remember: You don't have to reach your required number of coaching hours overnight. Celebrate each milestone, knowing that every session brings you closer to the finish line while deepening your coaching expertise.

3. Mentor Coaching for Growth:

Embrace the mentor coaching process as a powerful opportunity to refine your skills and build powerful relationships. Be sure to spread your mentorship hours over three months or more, allowing yourself the time to absorb feedback and grow steadily.

4. Prepare for Success in the Performance

Evaluation: Recording and preparing for your performance evaluation can be done step by step. With each session, you're not just ticking a box — you're proving your proficiency and readiness to be recognized as a top-tier coach. Recording lots of sessions to review will help to reduce anxiety and serve as a tool for learning and growth. Reflective, intentional practice helps to reinforce the skills you are learning.

5. Stay Ethical and Motivated: Upholding ICF's Code of Ethics isn't just a requirement; it's your commitment to excellence. Every action you take to maintain high standards strengthens your professional reputation and sets you apart in the coaching community.

Remember, Growth Takes Time: Stay focused on your goals and remember your why. By leveling up your coaching experience and credential, you are expanding what you can offer clients and the difference you can make in the world.



Upgrade Your Coaching Credential to the PCC Level:

coachingfederation.org/credentials-and-standards/credentials-paths/pcc-credential

“ Having an ICF credential definitely gives me the credibility that I need in order to position myself as the coach that I want to be. I find that some clients request the ICF credential as well... I soon realized that the better paying level jobs were at a PCC level. The more coveted and the more prestigious the credential, the more opportunities you have as a coach.”

- **Beatrice Redi, PCC**

Upgrading your coaching credential is a powerful step in advancing your career and expanding your impact. Embracing this challenge is a testament to your commitment to excellence and personal growth. You have what it takes to make big shifts and lasting influence. **Start today: You are more than ready!**

