

BENCHMARKING  
STUDY: CHILD LIFE  
CERTIFICATION  
FEES

# **INTRODUCTION**

In 2021, ACLP completed a benchmark study to compare the cost of certification with other professions. Child life certification fees were compared with those from 10 similar professions to determine the average cost per year to be certified. The organizations in the study include:

- Activity Professionals
- Art Therapy
- Eating Disorder Professionals
- Family Life Educators
- Play Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Oncology Nurses
- Pediatric Nurses
- Qualified Social Workers
- Therapeutic Recreation

## **CALCULATING AN AVERAGE ANNUAL COST**

Staff compares initial certification, maintenance, and recertification fees to determine an average annual cost of certification. These figures factor in the real cost of certification through one certification cycle: initial certification, maintenance, and recertification fees.

Because the length of these certification cycles varies from two to seven years, the total cost of certification is divided by the number of years in the certification cycle to provide the average yearly cost of certification over the life of the certification cycle. Due to the variance in cycle length, this is a better figure for comparison than the total cost of certification.



**\$128**

**ANNUAL COST OF  
CERTIFICATION FOR CCLS,  
ACLP MEMBER**

For ACLP Members, the annual cost is \$128, \$23 less than that of the other organizations.

**\$190**

**ANNUAL COST OF  
CERTIFICATION FOR CCLS,  
NON-MEMBER**

For non-members, the annual cost is \$190, \$10 less than that of the other organizations.

## COMPARISON OF ALL PROFESSIONS

Play Therapy	\$86
Pediatric Nurses	\$98
<b>ACLP</b>	<b>\$128</b>
Music Therapy	\$129
Qualified Social Workers	\$130
Family Life Educators	\$137
Activity Professionals	\$140
Oncology Nurses	\$159
Therapeutic Recreation	\$163
Art Therapy	\$175
Eating Disorder Professionals	\$297

## MOST CLOSELY-ALIGNED PROFESSIONS

Among the most closely-aligned professions, ACLP's fees for members are the second lowest.

Play Therapy	\$86
<b>ACLP</b>	<b>\$128</b>
Music Therapy	\$129
Qualified Social Workers	\$130
Therapeutic Recreation	\$163
Art Therapy	\$175

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of the benchmarking study, staff has recommended keeping fees steady at this time with a slight increase to the maintenance and recertification fees over the course of the next few years.

A maintenance fee increase of \$2 and a recertification fee increase of \$5 is proposed for 2024. With these modest increases and assuming the other professions make no changes to their fees, ACLP's fees will continue to be lower than the average as is noted below.

### **AVERAGE ANNUAL COST WITH PROPOSED INCREASES**

	ACLP Members	Non- Members
ACLP	\$131	\$193
Average	\$151	\$200
Difference	\$20	\$7

**Questions? Email [ANight@childlife.org](mailto:ANight@childlife.org)**