



**Hello from the Child Life  
 Certification Commission  
 (CLCC)!**

Welcome to our first CCLS Connection since the ACLP Certifying Committee has become the Child Life Certification Commission. Much remains the same, and much is also different. The most important step achieved through this change is that our Certification Commission has moved closer to meeting the criteria to become certified. Yes, there is a certification process for certifying bodies, and in order to apply for the credential, our commission must function according to specific standards. Not only individuals are expected to meet specific requirements to establish eligibility! Now that the CLCC has authority over eligibility, certification and recertification, we are officially practicing in a way that meets best practice standards.

Some highlights since the last connection: our 7 committees have been busy! At this moment, committees are reviewing the CLCC policies that pertain to their committees. Initial preparation has been a huge task and now committees will have a chance to fine tune them. Not always a fun task but a great way to learn to work together.

The Recertification Audit Committee is reviewing PDU applications that come in and is ramping up for the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Ethics Committee continues to do difficult and necessary work. The

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**Certification Numbers**

Total Current CCLSs: 5801

Residing in:	AK - 10	MS - 21
US- 5815	AL - 75	MT - 3
Australia - 5	AR - 30	NC -205
Canada - 330	AZ - 120	ND - 12
China - 2	CA -517	NE - 43
Georgia - 1	CO - 88	NH - 31
	CT - 65	NJ-173
Hong Kong - 8	DC - 14	NM -12
India - 1	DE - 18	NV - 17
Italy - 1	FL - 250	NY-316
Japan - 52	GA-173	OH-290
Kenya - 2	HI - 10	OK - 34
Kuwait - 2	IA - 76	OR - 37
Mexico - 2	ID - 15	PA 207
New Zealand - 4	IL - 212	RI - 20
Norway - 1	IN - 86	SC - 76
Puerto Rico - 1	KS - 48	SD - 14
Philippines - 3	KY - 50	TN-152
Qatar - 7	LA - 59	TX-524
Romania - 1	MA -243	UT - 83
	MD -103	VA -87
Singapore - 3	ME - 13	VT - 16

Communications Committee is exploring best ways to communicate information to you. The Item Writing and Item Review Committees continue to work on better inter-communications and training, ensuring that the items on the certification examination that the Exam Assembly Committee will develop measure exactly the skills and knowledge required of an entry level child life specialist. It's difficult to convey how dedicated all these volunteers are!

The once-every-five-year Job Analysis is finally nearing completion, with the reclassification of exam questions to fit the new examination blueprint. Currently there are 20-plus volunteers from all committees engaged in this process. Once the old items are remapped, a new needs analysis will take place, and the Item Writers will begin again, training, writing, and, supported by their coaches they will ensure that the full complement of items are "in the bank" by the end of November.

In September, our CLCC volunteers will begin the process to elect two new Commission Chairs-Elect for the very first time. Two Committees, Item Writing and Exam Assembly, will be the first to go through the new nominations and election process.

If you are interested in participating in this important work, with great committees, developing new skills that can only enhance your role as a child life specialist, please remember CLCC when it comes time to complete your Volunteer Information Form. We want you!

Bindy Sweett

Chairperson

Child Life Certifying Committee

## Important Dates to Remember

**October**

South Africa - 1	MI - 168	WA -98
Spain - 1	MN - 152	WI -113
Switzerland - 2	MO - 164	WV - 9
Taiwan - 5		
United Kingdom - 6		

27 - Registration deadline for November testing window  
31 – Application deadline for recertification through PDUs

## **November**

1-15 – Certification exam testing window

## **December**

31 – Deadline for reinstatement of lapsed certification

### **What is "Entry Level," and What is its Relevance to Certification?**

When you hear the phrase entry-level child life specialist, what does it mean to you? Upon reflecting on this with some child life colleagues, one person said entry level=the basics; basic concepts that can be transferred and adapted to future situations the child life specialist encounters. Another reflected that entry-level child life specialists enter the profession based on what a beginning professional acquires through their internship and academic learning. Growth in the profession includes a full set of skills that are acquired and eventually leads one to be an expert in areas of interest.

The Child Life Professional Certification Maintenance and Recertification Manual (2018) asserts that “At initial certification, individuals are required to demonstrate mastery of concepts relevant to the minimum responsibilities of an entry-level child life specialist and to exhibit the capability to apply these to clinical practice.” In addition, our professional exam questions are based on the person taking the exam being a beginner and decisions made by the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) are also based upon this expectation. Knowing this helps us all understand the perspective of the CLCC as decisions regarding certification are made.

Collegrad.com (collegrad.com,n.d.) explains entry level by stating that “in the broadest sense, entry level is the entry point into a profession between education and experience.” Some new child life specialists have spent time volunteering, some have had practicums and all have certainly completed an internship. These experiences have given the student the basic skills necessary to perform their job. Prospective employers have come to expect that since the CLCC has set forth clear guidelines that allow an applicant that is able to enter the job with demonstrated skills to do their job with competency at an entry level, they can be assured that they are hiring an employee who has the capacity to perform. Why is this important to discuss? You may have been practicing child life for 25 years or perhaps you are new to the field. Remembering that the standards of exam preparation and certification are guided by these principles will help you better understand the perspective of the CLCC. The Item Writing Committee spends innumerable hours creating exam questions that are appropriate for an entry-level applicant. The Exam Assembly Committee uses these questions to create an exam that reflects the knowledge that an entry-level child life specialist should possess. The commissioners use this measure to guide decisions that

affect certification. The concept of entry level is ever present in all of these discussions.

Author Brene Brown said, “Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.” You will be happy to know that this type of philosophy provides a solid framework for the work the CLCC does on a daily basis. By setting and adhering to standards for eligibility, CLCC is protecting the integrity of the CCLS credential and ensuring that our patients and families receive services from someone who is adequately trained. For those of us in the profession for a number of years, it is good practice to revisit this concept and remind ourselves what the term “entry level” means to us. You can be certain that the CLCC is using this as a guide to maintain the integrity and longevity of our credential.

Brown, B. (2015). *Rising strong* (First edition.). New York: Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House

Child Life Certifying Committee (2018). *Child Life Professional Certification Maintenance and Recertification Manual*. Arlington, VA: Association of Child Life Professionals.

Collegegrad.com. (n.d.). Entry level job description. Retrieved from <https://collegegrad.com/about/entry-level-jobf>

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## Accessing Focus Articles to Obtain PDUs

The PDUs you earn by completing a Focus article quiz are considered Independent Learning. There is a 10 PDU maximum limit for this category in your 5-year certification cycle. A new guide was created to help CCLSs navigate the process. You will find it [here](#).

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## Certification Update

### Exam Administration

The Child Life Professional Certification Examination was administered in August with the following results:

	# Candidates	# New CCLSs	% Passing
August 2018	251	225	89.54%

### Certification Maintenance

Since April, 22 individuals whose certification had lapsed due to non-payment of the 2018 certification maintenance fee have reinstated the credential. There are still 89 individuals who will lose their certification as of December 31<sup>st</sup> unless they

reinstate. Reinstatement applications will be accepted through December 31, 2018. Contact [certification@childlife.org](mailto:certification@childlife.org) for additional information.

Roughly 98% of CCLSs who owed this fee have made their payment. Thank you for maintaining your certification!

#### Recertification

Number of CCLSs due to recertify in 2018: 1071

Number of applications received to date: 307

CLCC is now accepting applications to recertify through Professional Development Units from those CCLSs whose certification will expire on December 31, 2018.

**These applications are due no later than October 31, 2018.**

Contact [certification@childlife.org](mailto:certification@childlife.org) for additional information.

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## Certification Program Highlights

### Job Analysis Update

The 2018 Job Analysis is now complete. You may recall that the Job Analysis (JA) is the first step in creating the certification exam. The JA results in a new Exam Content Outline (or test blueprint) roughly every 5 years.

The JA panelists met in Virginia in February to discuss the previous blueprint and draft a new one. This draft was then validated by a survey instrument. Over 1,400 child life specialists responded and confirmed that the draft exam content outline was valid. The panelists met again to discuss any discrepancies found during validation.

Next step: The JA report will be available shortly. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information about the JA, please click [here](#)

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STAY  
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