
Hello,

I am thrilled to serve as the Chair of the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC). First, I want to introduce myself. I am the team lead at University Health in San Antonio and I clinically support the PICU. My husband and I have 2 school-age children.

It is an honor to serve you through my work with CLCC and ACLP. I, along with all of CLCC, remain dedicated to developing quality certification and examination process. We are also committed to serving child life specialists as they recertify.

The Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) recognizes that laws and the ever-changing healthcare landscape have generated concern among Certified Child Life Specialists and what it means to their practice. To navigate these challenges, CLCC encourages you to first and foremost educate yourself on - and follow - your local laws and policies. If you need further assistance interpreting a law, CLCC recommends seeking advice from your institution's ethics or legal departments or legal counsel. After following local laws, credential holders are then encouraged to utilize the Child Life Code of Ethics for further guidance. CLCC will continue to monitor and address members' concerns as they arise. In addition, CLCC plans to further explore ethical issues as they apply to child life practice in future issues of the CCLS Connection newsletter. Watch your e-mail for these publications. As always, members can reach out for guidance with specific certification needs by emailing certification@childlife.org.

Sincerely,

Monica Gibson, MS, CCLS
Child Life Certification Commission Chair

Important Dates to Remember

October

- October 18: Deadline to submit your coursework documents for review in time to register for the November Child Life Professional Certification Exam
- October 27: Deadline to apply for the November administration of the Child Life Professional Certification Exam
- October 31: Deadline to apply to recertify through PDUs

November

- November 1-15: Child Life Professional Certification Exam Administration Testing Window

December

- December 20: Deadline to submit transcripts and other documentation in time to apply for the [2022 Winter/Spring Internship](#)
- December 31: Last day to [reinstate lapsed CCLS credential](#)



Why Certify? Why Recertify?

There are plenty of professional and practical reasons to gain child life certification. The most common one is the acquisition of employment. Securing and keeping a position most often depends upon holding the credential.

Exam eligibility starts with documenting the completion of coursework and a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and finally, a successful internship must be completed. Eligible candidates are then seated for the certification exam. Successful candidates earn certification as recognition of their mastery of child life topics.

But wait, it's not over yet.

In five years, Certified Child Life Specialists must recertify either by retaking the exam or through the accrual of Professional Development Units. Most opt for the latter which demands that learning has not ceased. Quite the reverse! Certification throughout a career entails education that never, ever, stops; it is an effort that qualifies a child life specialist to perform throughout an evolving work life.

Here are a few questions we can each consider when making the crucial decision to continue or let recertification lapse.

- Why do I hold the credential? What is important to me about that?
- What do I believe is true about holding the credential? What do I believe that means about me?
- What do I tell myself, and perhaps others, about holding the credential?
- What do I do throughout the five-year period to continue my education? What do I do about transferring new knowledge into my practice?
- How do I share what I have learned with colleagues?

These few questions ask us to examine our values, or what we hold to be important. They ask us to look at how those values play out in our actions. When opposing values force choices, examining our typical responses helps us to understand who we are and what is most important to us.

Throughout the difficulties created by the pandemic, everyone has had to manage challenging situations and choices. The personal and professional importance of recertification may have been elevated for some, or it may have been abandoned by those who felt overwhelmed.

If recertification is held as important, and challenges in ongoing education seem overwhelming, CLCC can listen and help. Prioritizing a second job, financial issues, parenting children, mental health, housing problems, and absent, aging, or sick family, compounded by many other situations, can be difficult to navigate while continuing education.

Certificants are encouraged to contact CLCC as early in their recertification cycle as possible when barriers to ongoing education appear. Making an early plan for education that can be worked through can help. It's not always easy but waiting for certification to lapse is waiting too late.



PDU Ideas

The Child Life Certification Commission Communications Committee is dedicated to providing information regarding all matters of certification. One area that is a challenge often expressed by ACLP members is obtaining PDUs. The difficulty in obtaining PDUs can be related to costs associated with continuing education sessions, lack of access to available opportunities, or the ability to find topics related to domain-specific requirements. The good news is that there are opportunities for PDUs in unexpected places, with options that are free and/or available online. The Communications Committee would like to take this time to introduce or remind the membership of additional methods for obtaining PDUs. The following is a list of PDU opportunities that is in no way all-inclusive but has a wide scope of offerings that will provide PDUs. Some have a cost attached to them and many are free.

Please note: The following list of PDU opportunities is provided for your review. Other than ACLP offerings, ACLP and CLCC do not endorse any activity listed here and make no claims as to the quality of offerings listed. It is the responsibility of the CCLS to evaluate the content and learning outcomes for all PDUs. For a complete listing of PDU-eligible activities, please refer to the [Recertification Manual](#).

If you have additional PDU opportunities that you would like to share with our community or questions/comments, please email them to: cert_comms@childlife.org

Webinars:

- [ACLP](#)
- [The Beryl Institute](#)
- [The Convenient Classroom](#)
- [UPedia](#)
- [edWeb.net](#)
- [CureSearch](#)
- [Texas Health Steps](#)
- [Erikson Institute](#)
- [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#)
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- [DandleLION Medical](#)
- [Association for Play Therapy](#)
- [Hospice Foundation of America](#)
- [Health Care Tool Box](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#)
- [The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare](#)
- [Coalition for Compassionate Care in California](#)
- [Healthcare Services for Children with Special Needs](#)
- [Wonders and Worries](#)

ROUNDS - Nursing, Schwartz, Wellness, Spiritual

- [Indiana University](#)
- [Cincinnati Children's Hospital](#)
- [Seattle Children's Hospital](#)

Workshops:

- [Bo's Place](#)
- [American Art Therapy Association](#)
- [Life is Good Playmaker Training](#)

Conferences:

- [ACLP](#)
- [Great Lakes Association of Child Life Professionals](#)
- [Midwest Child Life](#)
- [Child Life of Greater New York](#)
- [Florida Association of Child Life Professionals](#)
- [New England Child Life Professionals](#)
- [National Alliance for Grieving Children](#)

ACLP:

- [Presenting or co-presenting a professional workshop, webinar, seminar](#)
- [Staffed poster session](#)
- [Internship supervision](#)
- [Publishing](#)
- [Professional Service - serving on the Board of Directors, Committee or Task Force](#)



An Interview with a Member of the Recertification Audit Committee

The Recertification Audit Committee is comprised of volunteer CCLSs who serve as reviewers for the annual random audit of applications to recertify through Professional Development Units.

What is your name, position, and how long you have been involved in CLCC?

Michelle Barksdale Mathews, Child life specialist, Student Coordinator at Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children in Huntsville, AL, CLCC: chair-elect for Item Writing, member of recertification audits. I've been involved with CLCC since 2017.

Give an elevator description of your commission/committee.

The Recertification Audit Committee reviews all applications for recertification, including meeting the number of the required hours and the appropriate domain requirement.

What do you like best about volunteering for CLCC?

I appreciate being able to work with a number of people, who are in ways like-minded, striving for the same goal (e.g., uphold our standards of certification and best serve our membership), while at the same time being diverse and within all walks of child life (e.g., an array of experiences and knowledge).

How has volunteering in CLCC supported your professional growth/development?

Personally, it has helped me observe the big picture of certification, and in turn how that affects all pieces involved in our membership. It has challenged me to think deeper, not only with item writing but through perspective and an overarching greater good of why we do what we do. This growth in professionalism has spilled over into my life as a child life specialist working within the hospital and within my region.

What is a common misconception that members may have about your commission/committee?

That being audited is scary. :) It is definitely a process, but there are ways to prepare for recertification.

How can members best prepare for being audited?

The best preparation for auditing is to upload your information as you complete your PDUs. It's a bit harder to remember all sessions attended, amount of time, domain, etc. when time has passed. Keep documentation that includes your certificate of attendance. Please refer to the [Child Life Professional Certification Maintenance and Recertification Manual](#) for complete details on what is needed for documentation.

How can I help support my team/colleagues who may be audited?

Reminding one another to input data into the certification portal is helpful, before the time of recertification. Although our goal is to not introduce stress with an audit, it can sound scary. Just like with anything in life, perceived stress and anxiety is still stress and anxiety. Validate your coworkers' feelings. Then offer to help process what information is missing or needed and how to fulfill the requirement.



Recertification Audit FAQs

Originally published in the CCLS Connection in 2019 [Child Life Certification](#):

For many, when it comes to re-certification, thoughts of a potential audit of Professional Development Units (PDUs) can be met with confusion and despair. Fortunately, the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) provides resources to help support CCLSs through the process. This article will describe the recertification audit process and provide some quick tips to help members be prepared if their application is audited. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

Who gets audited?

There are two levels of audit:

1. *Content Audit*: The first is a review of the content of an application, where the reviewer looks at whether the PDUs are applicable, tied to the Exam Content Outline (domains), and calculated appropriately. The selection of applications for content audit happens automatically by the online system that CCLSs use to submit their applications. Every fifth application submitted (or 20%) is selected as they are submitted.
2. *Documentation Audit*: Of those selected for the content audit, 25% are randomly selected for a documentation audit in which the CCLS is required to submit materials documenting participation in the required PDUs. This equates to 5% of total applicants for recertification being required to submit supporting documentation.

Who conducts the audit?

The CLCC Recertification Audit Committee conducts the content review. The committee is comprised of your CCLS peers who receive special training. ACLP staff review materials submitted for the documentation audit.

What information do I need to provide if I do get audited?

It is highly recommended to keep a file of documentation of all PDU activities attended in case of a random audit. If audited, you will have two weeks to submit your documentation. Reviewers look for documentation of attendance/participation, not registration. Therefore, registration documents, flyers, and announcements are not accepted. Each of the PDU types allowed has at least one form of acceptable documentation. The Recertification Manual lists appropriate forms of documentation for each activity type.

The most common forms of documentation include:

- Certificate of attendance
- PDU Verification Form
- College/university transcript
- Certificates of CEUs
- Report of professional development activities from human resources department

Please note that for ACLP annual conferences, those being audited are required to submit the certificate of attendance that is only available onsite at the conference. If an applicant does not have the certificate of attendance, another form of documentation such as the PDU Verification Form must be submitted.

What happens if I made a mistake on my application? Will I lose my certification?

CLCC does not want to deny recertification applications! Although every CCLS is held to the same standards, we try to be as supportive as possible. We will work with those who are audited to try to solve any issues with the application. If your application is audited, you will have the opportunity to remediate any errors. If a reviewer has any questions about the information submitted, ACLP staff will contact you for clarification. You will be able to add additional PDUs (provided they were earned prior to the October 31st deadline) or correct PDU entries previously submitted. You will be allowed 2 weeks to resolve any problems. If an

application is denied prior to the registration deadline for the certification exam, the CCLS would be permitted to take the exam. However, if the deadline has passed, the applicant's certification would expire at the end of the year. The only other option would be to appeal to CLCC for an exception to the requirements. Historically, exceptions to requirements and policies are very rare, but so is the denial of a recertification application. Usually, through the steps mentioned above audited CCLSs have been able to ultimately pass the audit.



Certification Exam Administration

The certification exam was administered August 15-30 with the following results:

- # of Candidates: 175
- New CCLSs: 137
- Pass Rate: 78%

The Child Life Certification Commission would like to congratulate the following new CCLSs!

Amanda Ablan	Emily Krile
Ashley Abraham	Ariel Laidler
Nichole Allen	Gabrielle Lamb
Lauren Ammons	Eunice Lee
Reghan Anderson	Mollie Leimkuehler
Natalie Arthur	Danielle Leroux
Nicole Asbed	Vickie Liang
Samantha Bachrach	Chloe Light
Charlotte Baker	Kate Luo
Sarah Barclay	Krista MacLeod
Alexis Beaman	Shanel Macom
Tia Beck	Ellen Mariano
Taylor Belk	Brooke Martino
Raizel Beningson	Victoria Matejka
M'Kayla Benne	Mallory McCarty
Molly Berry	Emily McNulty
Joy Blazofsky	Marlene Medina
Jenny Boyer	Cassidy Merano
Amelia Brackett	Samantha Metzger
Nate Buursma	Madison Moore
Samantha Cameron	Sidney Moreno
Paige Cave	Marsha Moriah
Cara Clancy	Hannah Mudge
Erin Cloughesy	Kim Nguyen
Kim Corey	Kate Nixon
Amy Craley	Ben Palmer
Breiana Crouch	Hali Palmer
Kaitlyn Curci	Shreya Patel
Deirdre Curtin	Kahley Paulsel
Sariah Dalumpines	Rebecca Persons
Nicole DeGeorge	Naomi Potts
Faith Denison	Bailey Pratt
Alexandra DeVuono	Elizabeth Price
Lauren Dexter	Rachel Quartel
Hannah Doty	Cassidy Reed
Catherine Dunn	Alexis Rhodes
Alicia Dykman	Lilianna Ridout
Molly Englander	Karina Rivera (Avilez)
Ashley Eppolito	Rachel Rock
Jennifer Estrada	Emma Rohn
Emma Ferdinands	Lesly Romero
Carly Festenstein	Aubree Ronan
Michelle Fritsche	Hallie Ruffin
Bethany Gallion	Alison Rusche
Kelley Gavel	Hannah Rush
Kristen Glowacki	Rachel Rymer
Daniella Gonzalez	Pnina Safier
Amanda Grabski	Krista Schafer
Julia Greco	Heather Schneider
Meghan Hanson	Dalia Schreier
Alison Hellman	Sarah Sitton
Maureen Heneghan	Allyson Smith
Melissa Hernandez	Tricia Smith
Shalise Hickman	Melinda Snyder
Haylee Hilson	Melissa Steen
Courtney Hinkle	India Taylor
Elise Hirt	Hailey Thomas
Abigail Hoekstra	Julia Thomer
Cassidy Howard	Haley Unruh
Mary Hudelson	Corinne Vandagriff
Kathryn Hulbert	Madeline Velazquez
Caitlin Jachna	Frances Viste
Emily Keis	Laura Weber
Amy Kelly	Natalie Wilch
Karis Kelly	Kara Williams
Megan Kelly	Emily Wriglesworth
Catherine Kemperman	Lauren Yaeger
Annie Laurie King	Kathryn Yochim
Madeline Klozik	

Certification Maintenance

Existing annual maintenance fees for 2022 were due by 1/31/2022; to avoid loss of the CCLS credential, reinstatement is due by 12/31/2022. Roughly 98% of CCLSs who owed this fee have made their payment.

Thank you for maintaining your certification!

Recertification

The deadline to recertify through Professional Development Units is October 31!

CCLs who are due to recertify in 2022 also have the option to recertify by exam. The exam will be administered from November 1 -15; the deadline to register for this testing window is October 27.

Number of CCLs due to recertify in 2022: 1,086

CCLs by Geographic Regions

Total CCLs: 6,456

Countries		U.S. States	
Australia	4	AK	8
Brazil	1	AL	78
Canada	367	AR	16
China	1	AZ	139
Georgia	2	CA	604
Hong Kong	9	CO	118
India	1	CT	79
Japan	61	DC	20
Kenya	2	DE	26
Kuwait	1	FL	274
Luxembourg	1	GA	174
Mexico	3	HI	10
New Zealand	3	IA	93
Norway	1	ID	19
Philippines	4	IL	252
Puerto Rico	2	IN	98
Qatar	5	KS	47
Romania	2	KY	56
Singapore	5	LA	68
South Africa	1	MA	265
Spain	2	MD	116
Switzerland	3	ME	18
Taiwan	4	MI	180
Turkey	1	MN	167
United Kingdom	10	MO	186
		MS	26
		MT	8
		NC	239
		ND	12
		NE	40
		NH	31
		NJ	180
		NM	22
		NV	22
		NY	291
		OH	307
		OK	44
		OR	45
		PA	212
		RI	17
		SC	93
		SD	16
		TN	150
		TX	586
		UT	85
		VA	108
		VT	20
		WA	126
		WI	112
		WV	10
		WY	1
		Other	28

Thank you CLCC Communications Committee

CLCC would like to recognize the team of volunteers who serve on the CLCC Communications Committee and make this newsletter possible. Thank you!

Chair, Sarah Framarin Chair-Elect, Katie Walker
Members: Caitlin Vasquez, Bindy Sweett, Toni Crowell-Petrungaro, Katherine Burley

Association of Child Life Professionals
7600 Leesburg Pike Suite 200 West | Falls Church, VA 22043
(571) 483-4500 | 800-252-4515

To edit your communication preferences [Unsubscribe Here](#)



Sent to: aenright@childlife.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

Association of Child Life Professionals, 7600 Leesburg Pike, Suite 200 West, Falls Church, Virginia 22043, United States