


## Comparison of NCCA-Accredited Group Exercise/Fitness Certifications

As of December 2021, five organizations offered an NCCA-accredited Group Exercise/Fitness Instructor certification. These include the National Exercise Trainers Association (NETA), the American Council on Exercise (ACE), the Athletics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA), the National Council for Certified Personal Trainers (NCCPT), and the National Aerobics & Fitness Trainers Association (NAFTA). The table below provides a comparison of these certification programs.

	Most Popular Study Package Regular Fee	Certification Test-Only Regular Fee	Number of Exam Questions	Exam Time	Pass Rate	Retake Fee	CPR with hands-on practical skills evaluation required	Recertification Period	CECs/CEUs* needed for recertification	On-time Recertification Fee <sup>◇</sup>
	\$399	\$249	120	120 minutes	73% (2020)	\$129	Yes	2 years	20	\$65
<b>ACE</b>	\$749	\$249	150	180 minutes	79% (2020)	\$199	Yes**	2 years	2.0 <sup>†</sup>	\$129 <sup>‡</sup>
<b>AFAA</b>	\$599	\$249	120	120 minutes	62% (2020)	\$149	Yes**	2 years	1.5 <sup>†</sup>	\$99
<b>NAFTA</b>	N/A	\$199	100	120 minutes	85% (2020)	\$179	Yes**	2 years	15	\$39 online \$49 mail
<b>NCCPT</b>	N/A	\$599	140	120 minutes	68% (2020)	\$99	No**	2 years	2.0 <sup>†</sup>	\$75

\* CECs = Continuing Education Credits, CEUs = Continuing Education Units

\*\* ACE, AFAA, and NAFTA also require AED certification. NCCPT requires CPR certification, but will accept CPR certifications completed entirely online.

† 0.1 ACE CEC, 0.1 AFAA CEU, or 0.1 NCCPT CEU are each equivalent to 1.0 NETA CEC.

‡ \$129 for those holding one ACE certification, \$69 each for those holding two ACE certifications, \$59 each for those holding three ACE certifications, \$49 each for those holding four ACE certifications.

◇ NCCPT provides a 30-day reinstatement grace period, AFAA provides a 90-day reinstatement grace period, NETA, ACE, and NAFTA provide a 180-day reinstatement grace period.

The table above reflects publicly available information as of December 14, 2021.