


Comparison of NCCA-Accredited Group Exercise/Fitness Certifications

As of March 2024, four 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 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.

	Best Value Study Package Regular Fee	Test-Only Regular Fee	Number of Exam Questions	Exam Time	Pass Rate	Retake Fee	Recertification Period	CECs/CEUs* Needed for Recertification	On-time Recertification Fee [◇]
	\$399	\$249	120	120 minutes	81% (2023)	\$129	2 years	20	\$75
ACE	\$465	\$249	150	180 minutes	74% (2023)	\$199	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$129 [‡]
NAFTA	\$299	\$199	100	120 minutes	85% (2020)	\$179	2 years	15 [†]	\$39 online \$49 mail
NCCPT**	\$1,398	\$599**	140	120 minutes	83% (2022)	\$99	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$75 [‡]

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

** An additional \$79 exam proctoring fee may apply.

† 0.1 ACE CEC or 0.1 NCCPT CEU are each equivalent to 1.0 NETA CEC. 1.0 NAFTA is equivalent to 1.0 NETA CEC. NAFTA and NCCPT CEUs must be petitioned for NETA CEC approval.

‡ \$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. \$75 for those holding one NCCPT certification, \$50 each for those holding 2 or more NCCPT certifications.

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

** NCCPT is operated by ISSA.

The table above reflects publicly available information as of March 15, 2024.