


Comparison of NCCA-Accredited Personal Trainer Certifications*

| | Certification Test-Only Regular Fee | Number of Exam Questions | Exam Time | Pass Rate | Retake Fee | CPR/AED with hands-on practical skills evaluation required | Recertification Period | CECs/CEUs** needed for recertification | On-time Recertification Fee | Late Recertification fee – 1-90 days post-expiration | Late Recertification Fee – 91-180 days post-expiration |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
|  | \$349 [◊] | 120 (100 scored + 20 pretest) | 120 minutes | 65% (2017) | \$99 | Yes | 2 years | 20 | \$55 | \$70 [§] | \$85 [§] |
| ACE | \$399 | 150 (125 scored + 25 pretest) | 180 minutes | 68% (2016) | \$199 | Yes | 2 years | 2.0 [†] | \$129 [‡] | \$169 [§] | \$199 [§] |
| ACSM | \$349 (non-member) | 150 (120 scored + 30 pretest) | 165 minutes | 53% (2016) | \$175 | Yes | 3 years | 45 | \$45 | \$70 [§] | \$70 [§] |
| NASM | \$599 | 120 (100 scored + 20 pretest) | 120 minutes | 61% (2016) | \$200 | Yes | 2 years | 2.0 [†] | \$99 | \$149 [§] | NA [§] |
| NSCA | \$435 (non-member) | 155 (140 scored + 15 pretest) | 180 minutes | 74% (2016) | \$435 | Yes | 3 years | 6.0 [†] | \$90 (non-member) | \$125 [§] (30 days) | \$200 [§] (plus unpaid recert fees) |

◊ For an additional \$50 (if registration is received > 30 days before the workshop date), candidates may upgrade to attend a live review workshop

* As of April 2018, fifteen organizations offered an NCCA-accredited Personal Trainer certification. This comparison represents only five of the fifteen certification programs.

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

† 0.1 ACE CEC, 0.1 NASM CEU, or 0.1 NSCA CEU = 1.0 NETA CEC or the equivalent of one hour. NSCA CEUs must be petitioned for approval of NETA CECs.

‡ \$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.

§ NASM provides a 90-day reinstatement grace period; NETA, ACE, and ACSM provide at 180-day reinstatement grace period; NSCA provides a 30 day late renewal and reinstatement at any time conditional on meeting reinstatement requirements and \$200 reinstatement fee plus unpaid past recertification fees.

The table above reflects publicly available information as of April 4, 2018.

