


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	66% (2018)	\$129	Yes	2 years	20	\$65	\$80 [§]	\$95 [§]
ACE	\$399	150 (125 scored + 25 pretest)	180 minutes	70% (2018)	\$199	Yes	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$129 [‡]	\$169 [§]	\$199 [§]
ACSM	\$349 (non-member)	150 (120 scored + 30 pretest)	165 minutes	66% (2018)	\$175	Yes	3 years	45	\$45	\$70 [§]	\$70 [§]
NASM	\$599	120 (100 scored + 20 pretest)	120 minutes	66% (2017-18)	\$200	Yes	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$99	\$149 [§]	NA [§]
NSCA	\$435 (non-member)	155 (140 scored + 15 pretest)	180 minutes	77% (2018)	\$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 September 2019, thirteen 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 September 5, 2019.

