


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

As of September 2019, only 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 Athletics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA), and the National Council for Certified Personal Trainers (NCCPT). The table below provides a comparison of these certification programs.

	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	Late Recertification fee – 1-90 days post-expiration	Late Recertification Fee – 91-180 days post-expiration
	\$249 <sup>◇</sup>	120 (100 scored + 20 pretest)	120 minutes	83% (2018)	\$129	Yes	2 years	20	\$65	\$80	\$95
<b>ACE</b>	\$249	150 (125 scored + 25 pretest)	180 minutes	63% (2018)	\$199	Yes**	2 years	2.0 <sup>†</sup>	\$129 <sup>‡</sup>	\$169	\$199
<b>AFAA</b>	\$249	120 (100 scored + 20 pretest)	120 minutes	68% (2017)	\$149	Yes**	2 years	1.5 <sup>†</sup>	\$99	\$149 (\$99 + \$50 late fee)	NA <sup>§</sup>
<b>NCCPT</b>	\$199	140 (125 scored + 15 pretest)	120 minutes	65% (2017)	\$99	No**	2 years	1.5 <sup>†</sup>	\$75	\$100 <sup>§</sup> (\$75 + \$25 late fee)	NA <sup>§</sup>

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

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

\*\* ACE and AFAA 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 and ACE provide at 180-day reinstatement grace period

The table above reflects publicly available information as of September 5, 2019.

