


Comparison of NCCA-Accredited Personal Trainer Certifications*

	Most Popular 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 [◊]
	\$549	\$449	120	120 minutes	65% (2024)	\$129	2 years	20	\$75
ACE	\$745	\$499	150	180 minutes	69% (2023)	\$249	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$129 [‡]
ACSM	\$649	\$399 (non-member)	135	150 minutes	61% (2023)	\$199	3 years	45 [†]	\$55
NASM	\$1,399	\$599	120	120 minutes	79% (2023)	\$199	2 years	2.0 [†]	\$99
NSCA	N/A	\$435 (non-member)	155	180 minutes	66% (2022)	\$435	3 years	6.0 [†]	\$90 (non-member)

* As of March 2024, thirteen organizations offered an NCCA-accredited Personal Trainer certification. This comparison represents only five of the thirteen 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. 1.0 ACSM CEC = 1.0 NETA CEC. ACSM CECs and 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 March 29, 2024.