

March 14, 2017

Dear Fellow Scholars – Graduates and Students,

We have exciting news to share with you!

As you know, our profession is thriving and the field of health coaching is growing, with new programs and practitioners emerging every year to serve the public. That growth also means more variability in the skills and preparation of health coaches employed everywhere from hospitals to universities, insurance agencies to private practices. That is why our program, along with 52 other health coaching programs across the country, has collaborated with the International Consortium for Health and Wellness Coaching (ICHWC, formerly NCCHC) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to produce a new certification exam to reinforce excellence in health coaching.

The Health & Wellness Coach Certifying Examination (HWCCE) has been designed to set minimum standards for competence in areas such as the coaching relationship, communication techniques, processes for behavior change, ethics, professionalism, and more. All practitioners who pass the examination and meet the additional eligibility requirements will be designated National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coaches (NBC-HWC). These practitioners will be the exemplars of competence in health coaching, demonstrating a standard of practice that members of the public can rely on when choosing a health coach partner.

The HWC Certifying Examination has been created through a partnership between the [ICHWC](#), of which our program is a member, and the [NBME](#), co-sponsor of the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) and an international leader in the assessment of health professionals. The exam will be administered for the first time this year, September 2 – 16, at Prometric testing centers across the United States. Registration instructions, eligibility requirements, fees (discounted for the pilot administration), a Bulletin of Information, and more resources can be found at www.nbme.org/hwc. **All examinees must be registered by May 15, 2017.** (All supporting documentation, including coaching logs, must be submitted by this date.)

You are receiving this letter because as a practicing graduate of our program (or soon to be), you already possess many of the skills and experiences in coaching that define an able and trustworthy professional. We would be proud to have you apply that expertise by sitting for this new examination, in order to help set standards of competence for our profession that can be trusted by the public, and can be used as a differentiating credential in your own practice.

Please review this information/links carefully, and also see the attached FAQ's. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Francis Ardito at fardito@clcollinois or Dr. Joana Pabedinskas at jpabedinskas@clcollinois.edu. We would be honored to have our program well-represented at the first administration of the HWC Certifying Examination and we hope you will be part of that cohort!

Best,

Dr. Francis Ardito and Dr. Joana Pabedinskas
Health and Wellness Promotion
Biological and Health Sciences
College of Lake County

The Health & Wellness Coach Certifying Examination (HWCCE)

Frequently Asked Questions for College of Lake County Graduates and Students

What link should I follow to learn more about the specific exam requirements?

<http://ichwc.org/individuals/>

What does, “An Approved Transition Program” mean?

Approved transition programs are a select few (53 in total) academic programs internationally that have been recognized as providing high quality coach-preparation education. CLC is proud to be among this group of highly regarded institutions of higher education. If you decide to apply for the exam, please be sure to follow the requirements for those that have completed an “Approved Transition Program.”

Which CLC Programs Qualify?

CLC graduates from either one of the following programs qualify to sit for the exam, under the Approved Transition Program requirements:

- Certificate Program in Health and Wellness Coaching
- AAS in Health and Wellness Promotion – Health and Wellness Coaching Specialization

When must I complete the CLC program in order to qualify?

Any prior CLC program completer who has met all requirements for graduation (or already graduated) qualify, as long as you have completed either of the aforementioned programs on or before the registration deadline of May 15th of 2017. Please note that, if you are completing one of the required programs by the end of the spring term, 2017, you will not have your diploma in time to meet the registration deadline. See the next FAQ for more details.

What documentation will I need to provide in order to show evidence of completing a CLC program?

If you have already graduated, you can provide a copy of your CLC diploma as evidence of having completed an Approved Transition Program. If you are graduating/completing one of the two required CLC programs during Spring of 2017, then contact Dr. Ardito (fardito@clcillinois.edu), and he will provide a letter of completion that you can use as evidence. This letter will only be provided if successful completion can be verified at the time of your request.

What about the required coaching sessions and journal?

See the specific requirements for the required coaching sessions at <http://ichwc.org/individuals/> . The terms are relatively broad – so keep in mind that, while you may not have served as a professional coach in the past, many of you have, in fact, taken a “coaching approach” in a prior or current job – that has allowed you to coach others and thereby satisfy the requirements as outlined in the link provided.