

NCCA Accredited Personal Training Certification Comparison

NCCA (NCCA is the National Commission for Certifying Agencies) accredited personal training certification programs are the most widely recognized in the industry.

Organization	ACE	NASM	ACSM	NSCA
Certification	Personal Trainer	Certified Personal Trainer (CPT)	Certified Personal Trainer (cPT)	NSCA-Certified Personal Trainer (NSCA-CPT)
Established	1985	1987	1954	1993
Industry recognition	High	High	High	High
Accreditations	NCCA	NCCA	NCCA	NCCA
Prerequisites	18 years old, Adult CPR/AED Certificate	18 years old, Adult CPR/AED Certificate	High School Diploma, Adult CPR Certificate	18 years old, Adult CPR and AED Certificate, high school diploma or equivalent
Exam Questions	150	120	125-150	140
Exam Time	3 hours	2 hours	2.5 hours	3 hours
Exam Cost	\$249 for computer based; \$184 re-test	\$549	\$219 ACSM Members \$279 other candidates \$150 re-test	\$285 NSCA Members; \$235 re-test \$420 non-NSCA Members; \$370 re-test
Recertification	every 2 years	every 2 years	every 3 years	every 3 years
Recertification Cost including CEU (Approx.)	\$400	\$700	\$800	\$500