



# **International Coach Federation**

## **Finding a Coach Training Program**





# ICF

INTERNATIONAL COACH FEDERATION

## ***Finding a Coach Training Program***

### **ICF Program Accreditation**

- As an independent and objective organization, ICF does not offer coach training itself. Rather, ICF offers an accreditation process to coach training programs.
- **Please note:** ICF accredits specific training programs rather than schools. Accredited programs must also submit a renewal application every three years to maintain ICF approval.



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Three types of recognition are available from ICF:

- **Accredited Coach Training Program (ACTP)** – Comprehensive programs of 125 hours or more. ACTP programs offer six (6) observed coaching sessions by an experienced coach and a final exam that takes the place of the ICF final exam.
- **Approved Coach Specific Training Hours (ACSTH)** – Programs of 30-120 hours of pre-approved coach training.
- **Continuing Coaching Education Courses (CCE)** – Advanced or niche specific courses, typically thirty (30) hours or less, that are pre-approved as coach training.



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### **ACTP Graduates**

- Coaches that complete an ACTP program (with final exam) are eligible to apply for a credential using the streamlined ACTP Application Form.
- Please note that the FULL ACTP program must be completed in order to apply for a credential using an ACTP Application.



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### **ACSTH Graduates**

- Coaches that complete an ACSTH program may apply for a credential using the Portfolio Application Form, once the appropriate amount of training hours has been obtained.
- Portfolio applicants are required to complete a final exam with ICF as part of the application process.



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### **CCE Graduates**

- Graduates of CCE program may use CCE credits toward an ICF credential when applying through the Portfolio route.
- Credentialed coaches may also use CCE credits to renew their PCC or MCC credential every three years.
- ICF chapters, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and the Virtual Community are eligible to offer CCE credits to coaches through their monthly programs.



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### **Non-Accredited Programs**

- Completion of an ACTP, ACSTH, or CCE program is not required in order to be eligible to apply for an ICF credential. However, ICF cannot guarantee that training from a non-accredited program will be accepted.



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All accredited programs submit to a rigorous review and must contain certain elements. When searching for a training program, accredited or not, ICF recommends the following criteria:

- Does the program follow and teach the Core Competencies, Ethical Standards, and Definition of Coaching as defined by the ICF?
- Does the program offer a significant level of direct interaction between trainer and student? (face-to-face or voice-to-voice instruction)
- Does the program offer constant feedback, both written and oral, to students?



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- ICF has approved over 50 ACTP and ACSTH programs worldwide.
- While a program may not be headquartered near you, many programs offer teleclasses or will offer their program in various locations throughout the world.
- ICF recommends that you research coach training programs not based on their location, but based on their offerings.



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### **Locating a Coach Training Program**

When you search for a coach training program, consider the following questions:

- How do I want to receive my training? Face-to-face or voice-to-voice? Or a combination of the two?
- Am I willing to travel to attend the training program of my choice?
- How much time can I allow for my training program? A year? Six months?
- What is my budget for coach training?
- Do I agree with the training program's definition of coaching?



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### **Locating a Coach Training Program**

- Visit the ICF Web site at [www.coachfederation.org](http://www.coachfederation.org) and click on “Coach Training” in order to learn more about programs and to access a list of all ACTP, ACSTH, and CCE programs.
- The International Coach Federation accredits new programs throughout the year.



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# International Coach Federation Finding a Coach Training Program

International Coach Federation  
[credential@coachfederation.org](mailto:credential@coachfederation.org)

+1-859-219-3580

1-888-423-3131

*Thank you for your interest in  
ICF Credentialing!*



International  
Coach Federation