

ACRP Certification Program

CCRA[®] CCRC[®] CPI[®]

The **Trusted Mark of Excellence**
in Clinical ResearchSM

MARCH CERTIFICATION EXAM:

March 1-10, 2012

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 23, 2012

Applications will be accepted through February 6 with a \$150 late fee.



The Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (The Academy) is an affiliate organization of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals.

The Benefits of Certification

Earning your designation demonstrates you have achieved the clinical research industry's premier *Certification*. This career milestone will validate your clinical research knowledge, skills, and application — joining more than 25,000 of your colleagues in their dedication to improving the quality of clinical research.

Taking the step to become Certified, or requiring *Certification* for your team, leads to the advancement of the clinical research profession through enhanced subject safety, regulatory compliance, and public confidence in clinical trials.

For employers, regulators, sponsors, and other stakeholders, *Certification* can serve several purposes — from providing evidence to a regulatory agency of a research team's experience and qualifications, to validating competency when selecting a research site or considering a new employee. Recent evidence has indicated that regulators believe certification reduces risk to research subjects. There are fewer errors, lower costs, more rapid turnaround, and greater safety in trials when certified personnel are involved.

Feedback from the industry is clear — *Certification* is invaluable.

Top 10 Reasons to Earn Your ACRP Certification

1 Credibility.

ACRP *Certification* serves as an impartial, third-party endorsement of your knowledge and experience against international standards in clinical research. It adds to your credibility as a clinical researcher and sets you apart from other professionals.

2 Improves career opportunities and advancement.

ACRP *Certification* can give you the “edge” when being considered for a promotion or other career opportunities. ACRP *Certification* clearly identifies you as an employee who has demonstrated proficiency of internationally accepted clinical research principles, techniques, and application of best practices on-the-job.

3 Increases on-the-job responsibilities.

ACRP *Certification* is a clear indicator of your willingness to invest in your own professional development. Certified professionals are aware of the constantly changing environment around their profession and possess the desire to anticipate and respond to change.

4 Enhances skills and knowledge.

Achieving ACRP *Certification* requires training, studying, and keeping up-to-date with changes in the profession. *Certification* showcases your individual mastery by confirming proficiency in the field. ACRP *Certification* also requires *Maintenance of Certification* every two years, to ensure you stay informed and continue to develop as a clinical research professional.

5 Earnings potential.

Many clinical research professionals who have become ACRP certificants experience salary and wage increases and/or bonuses based on their *Certification* status. In addition, ACRP certificants are in high demand and aggressively recruited.

6 Demonstrates your engagement.

Earning ACRP *Certification* shows your peers, supervisors and, in turn, trial subjects, your commitment to your chosen career and the clinical research profession at-large, as well as your ability to perform to set standards.

7 Strengthens the profession's image.

ACRP's *Certification Program* seeks to grow, promote, and develop certified professionals, who can serve as role models for Good Clinical Practice (GCP) in the clinical research field.

8 Accomplishment.

ACRP *Certification* is a reflection of personal achievement because you have validated your skill set, specific to the job role you perform, by meeting internationally recognized standards set forth via ICH Guidelines.

9 Builds self-esteem.

ACRP *Certification* is a step toward defining yourself beyond a job description or academic degree while gaining a sense of personal satisfaction.

10 Recognition.

As an ACRP certificant, you can expect increased acknowledgement from your peers for taking that extra step in your professional career.

About ACRP Certification

Choose the right *Certification* for you or your team.

Certification exams are renowned for their rigor. They are not exams that simply test your ability to recall what can be read in a book. The exams are also designed to measure your ability to perform a particular job in practical scenarios. The exams measure judgment, application of knowledge, and problem-solving ability. Rarely are easy answers to complex issues available in our daily work. This reality is reflected in the *Certification* exams.

Because of the quality of our programs, recognition of *Certification* through ACRP is spreading worldwide. As a global organization with a broad network of chapters and business partners, The Academy has Certified more than 25,000 clinical research professionals in over 70 countries to date.

“...formal training and *Certification* of investigators and clinical research coordinators in GCP has the potential to increase protocol adherence and improve clinical trial quality.”

HAEUSLER, J.

*Certification in good clinical practice and clinical trial quality:
A retrospective analysis of protocol adherence in four multicenter trials in the USA.*
Informa Healthcare Clinical Research and Regulator Affairs. 2009, 26(1-2): 20-23.

Certification Specific to Your Job

In addition to certifying more clinical researchers than any other organization in the world, The Academy is also **the only organization providing Certification specific to the role you perform.**

The Academy offers three *Certification Programs* for clinical research professionals:

- CPI® – Certified Physician Investigator
- CCRA® – Certified Clinical Research Associate
- CCRC® – Certified Clinical Research Coordinator

Specialty *Certification* is already known as the path by which medical professionals demonstrate their expertise in targeted fields of practice. *Certification* in a specialty area is the key indicator to sponsors, regulators, employers, subjects, other research team members, and the public at large that the certificant is thoroughly versed in role-specific processes and requirements. These are necessary skills for the safe design conduct, analysis, and management of clinical trials.

The ONLY ACCREDITED Certification Programs in Clinical Research



On April 15, 2010, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredited the CCRA® and CCRC® programs. Achieving NCCA accreditation is a significant milestone for ACRP, The Academy, and the clinical research profession.

NCCA has certified hundreds of well known and highly respected certification programs and uses the highest standards of analysis and review to evaluate programs for accreditation.

More information about the importance of NCCA accreditation is available online at www.credentialingexcellence.org/ncca.

"Certification provides an external validation of the capabilities learned through experience in research."



"Obtaining the CCRA® and CCRC® designations has opened doors for my career growth and also provides solid networking opportunities. I have been able to establish a network of colleagues around the country, where we get together, share ideas, and learn from each other."

KEVIN J. WEATHERWAX. CCRA®, CCRC®

Manager, Project Management and Monitoring Core;
MICHR IND/IDE Assistance Program (MIAP)

Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR)

The Premier, Global Certification Program in Clinical Research

For more than 35 years, ACRP's commitment to providing education, networking, and leadership opportunities to clinical research professionals of all levels of experience and in all specialty areas has remained steadfast. ACRP's commitment is the foundation for the standing of its *Certification Programs* as the leaders in the field. No other provider of certification to members of the clinical research team can claim the sheer number of certificants, or the depth and breadth of programs, as ACRP.

Furthermore, no other provider stresses the importance of continuing professional development of certificants as strongly as ACRP. The continued investment in one's own development is as important as the initial achievement of earning a designation. Certified individuals are required to meet bi-annual professional development requirements in order to maintain their certified status, which guarantees that those who hold an ACRP designation are up-to-date on developments in their field.

Certification Program Enhancements

- One Global Exam
- 10-Day Testing Windows
- Immediate Exam Score Results
- Over 450 Testing Sites

ONE WORLD, ONE EXAM

One global, harmonized exam is offered based on the consistent and recognizable ICH standard for each of the primary clinical research roles — Clinical Research Associates, Clinical Research Coordinators, and Physician Investigators. The Academy is the only organization offering *Certification* based upon these specific job functions.

As the clinical research industry continues to globalize, the streamlining and movement to a universal standard continues to progress. Recognizing and addressing the need for a consistent level of competency across all geographic regions remains of utmost importance.

"Certification gives value to the profession."

10-DAY TESTING WINDOWS

All exams are administered in a computer-based format and allow for a 10-day testing window for each cycle. Applicants can select a date and time that fits their schedule (apply early, as appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis).

IMMEDIATE RESULTS

The wait for exam results is over. With the computer-based format, preliminary results are available immediately upon completion of the exam. Official confirmation of results will be provided

approximately 30 days after the exam window closes; candidates can now leave the test site knowing how well they performed.

MORE THAN 450 SITES

The number of secure test sites has quadrupled to more than 450 globally, increasing convenience and reducing travel time and cost. Candidates will take their exam in a professional, environmentally controlled site managed by our industry-leading exam delivery provider, Prometric.

**For more information about the *Certification Programs*
or any other related topic, visit**

www.acrpnet.org/certification

or email

certification@acrpn.net

EXAM PREPARATION

ACRP provides online resources to help you prepare for the *Certification* exam. Learn more about available exam preparation resources at www.acrpnet.org/prepare.

Initial Certification Application Process

Decided to take *Certification* exam? Much like the *Certification* exams, the initial *Certification* eligibility requirements are rigorous — but the application process is straightforward. Once you submit your application, it will be reviewed for eligibility. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Please follow the detailed instructions provided in the *Certification* Guides at www.acrpnet.org/certificationguides.

If you are deemed eligible, you will be given instructions to schedule your test site, date, and time. Availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible.

For information on applying for your exam, please visit www.acrpnet.org/certification.

Eligibility Requirements

Initial *Certification* eligibility is determined by academic qualifications and practical work experience. The requirements are different for each of the three *Certification Programs*

(CCRC®, CCRA®, and CPI®). For complete eligibility requirements, view the *Certification* Applicant Guides at www.acrpnet.org/certificationguides.

Apply for Certification

Visit www.acrpnet.org/apply to review the steps to apply for *Certification* and to take the *Certification* Exams. All deadlines and requirements for seeking and maintaining *Certification* can also be found at www.acrpnet.org/certification. The site offers an online application and a wealth of information to help potential certificants determine if they

meet the requirements in their respective professional role. The qualifications have been established with input from leading clinical research professionals and other stakeholders in the research enterprise, and are analyzed and updated frequently in order to uphold the validity and reliability of industry's premier designations.

MARCH
CERTIFICATION EXAM
March 1-10, 2012

APPLICATION
DEADLINE
January 23, 2012

Applications

An application form is available at www.acrpnet.org/apply. To have your initial *Certification* eligibility reviewed you must submit your completed application form and all required supporting documents. To ensure the reliability of the Academy's *Certification Programs*, some applicants are selected to participate in a Document

Verification Program, in which additional documentation may be required to establish satisfaction of the eligibility requirements.

**Applications are due
January 23, 2012**

Applications will be accepted
from January 24 - February 6,
with a \$150 late fee

ACRP Certification Program FAQs

What is Certification?

Certification is a voluntary process to recognize individuals for meeting professional standards set by an impartial third-party. ACRP Certification is the formal recognition of clinical research professionals who have met eligibility requirements and demonstrated proficiency of specific knowledge and job-related skills by passing a standardized exam.

What are the Benefits of ACRP Certification?

- Earning your designation demonstrates you have achieved the clinical research industry's premier *Certification*. This career milestone will *validate* your clinical research knowledge, skills, and application—joining *more than 25,000* of your colleagues in their dedication to improving the quality of clinical research.
- Taking the step to become certified, or requiring *Certification* for your team, leads to the advancement of the clinical research profession due to subject safety, regulatory compliance, and the public's understanding of clinical trials.
- For employers, *Certification* can serve several purposes from providing evidence of experience and qualifications of a research team to the FDA, or other regulatory bodies, during an inspection, to validating competency when considering a new employee.
- *CCRA® and CCRC® are Accredited Programs*—ACRP *Certification* programs are the only ones in clinical research accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA sets independent standards for the development and operation of certification programs. This assures the validity and credibility of the process; that it reflects current, job-specific practice and fairness to candidates. For more information on the NCCA, please visit www.credentialingexcellence.org/ncca.

ACRP Certification Program FAQs

Am I Eligible?

Exam eligibility is determined by academic qualifications and practical work experience. Two years full-time or equivalent part-time clinical research experience performing specific job functions is required to sit for an exam.

Please view the *Certification Guides* for more details at www.acrpnnet.org/Certification or e-mail certification@acrpnnet.org.

When are the Certification Exams?

Certification Exams are offered in March and September every year. The next exam period is *March 1-10, 2012*.

When is the application period open for the March 2012 Certification Exams?

APPLICATIONS OPEN:
October 17, 2011

APPLICATIONS DUE:
January 23, 2012

Note: Applications will be accepted through February 6, 2012 with a \$150 late fee.

How much are the exam fees?

March 2012—ACRP Certification Exam Fees					
Exam Type	Member	Non-Member	Application Fee (non-refundable)	Exam Fee	Total* (not including late fees, if applicable)
CCRA®	✓		\$110	\$365	\$475
CCRA®		✓	\$110	\$545	\$655
CCRC®	✓		\$110	\$330	\$440
CCRC®		✓	\$110	\$510	\$620
CPI®	✓		\$110	\$455	\$565
CPI®		✓	\$110	\$785	\$895

The Value of Certification

Since 1992, ACRP has been the *leading certifier* of clinical research professionals. In the first and only **accredited** certification program of its kind, ACRP and its affiliate, the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (The Academy) *Certification Programs* have certified more than 25,000 clinical research professionals to-date, worldwide.



"Having a global Certification Program that acknowledges the highest standards of clinical research and implements best practices that reduce risks is a major milestone for the field. Not only should these clinical research professionals, from all over the world, feel tremendous pride in their Certification-status, but their trial participants can be confident in the quality of care they are receiving—that's why I have maintained my Certification for over 15 years."

SUSAN WARNE, LVN, CCRC®

The Value of Certification

Certification is evidence of your personal commitment to higher standards. This career milestone will validate your clinical research knowledge and skills—improving the quality of clinical research around the world. There is growing awareness that a clinical research team, where all members are certified, has more efficient operations and provides higher quality care.



"Upon joining APPI and ACRP, I was glad that *Certification* was offered by the organization, because it gives us a standard against which we can measure ourselves. I became certified to show that I am indeed at that level of accomplishment and made it mandatory for all our clinical research personnel.

We maintain our Certification not only to assure ourselves that our knowledge is current, but also, to be able to show the same to sponsors, which are increasingly becoming more discerning when selecting sites. They appreciate not only the proof of a certain standard, but the strength of our ongoing commitment to this level of accomplishment."

ROBERT HARDI M.D., AGAF, CPI®

If you are not certified, The Academy and its affiliated organizations would like to invite you to join your colleagues that have achieved *the trusted mark of excellence*SM. To learn more about the *Certification Program* or to apply for the next exam, visit www.acrpnet.org/certification.

About Us



Founded in 1976, the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) leads the world in addressing the unique issues and challenges clinical researchers face daily in their professional lives. Through the voluntary efforts of our 18,000 members, ACRP has become a global forum for the exchange of ideas and the leading resource for information on industry-specific news, advances, issues, trends, and regulations. The Association's mission is **to provide global leadership to promote integrity and excellence for the clinical research profession.**



The Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (The Academy) is an affiliate organization of ACRP, oversees the for the CCRA®, CCRC®, and CPI® *Certification Programs*, and is responsible for all core decisions related to Certification activities. Its mission is **to advance and promote the professional interests of clinical research professionals by defining, promoting, and maintaining the highest standards and the best practices in the field of clinical research worldwide.**

ACRP

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ACRP CERTIFICATIONS

THE TRUSTED MARK OF EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCHSM

"When I began working at a sponsor company, they requested that all CRAs get certified. I had heard that the ACRP exam was harder but was more widely recognized, so that was the one I decided to take. Since that time, being Certified has helped me professionally in terms of having an edge when interviewing, being constantly sought after by recruiters, and staying informed of what is relevant."

—Cheryl Cox, CCRA[®]



The Value of Certification

ACRP Certifications have become **the industry standard** for qualified clinical research professionals, worldwide. Achieve your **CCRA[®]** (Certified Clinical Research Associate), **CCRC[®]** (Certified Clinical Research Coordinator), or **CPI[®]** (Certified Physician Investigator) designation from the only organization in the world that allows professionals to attain Certification in the job function they actually perform.



**SCAN THIS CODE TO
LEARN MORE.**

Don't have the app?
Download it for free on
your mobile device at
www.getscanlife.com.

Earn Your Certification

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