

CYC Certification - Candidate Requirements

Exam- passing score (by level)

Application with:

- Experience verification
- Professional development documentation
- Membership in a professional association
- Supervisor Assessment & 2 Colleague References
- Written portfolio *(required for Professional level certification only)*



Field Experience

Charts below show the certification level appropriate for your work experience and education.

Field experience can include full-time and part-time paid work, a supervised internship, or Foster Parenting.

(Relevant CYC degrees include: Education, Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Recreation, Social work, and Sociology. Other degrees may be determined by board approval).

Entry Level Candidates

Need at least 2,000 hours of experience

OR CYC relevant degree:

Diploma / Degree	Hours of experience required
No diploma / non- relevant degree	2,000 hours
Child Development Associate (CDA)	None
CYC relevant Bachelor's / Master's	None

Associate Level Candidates

Need a diploma and 6,000 hours of experience

OR combination of degree plus experience:

Diploma / Degree	Hours of experience required
High School Diploma / GED	6,000 hours
Non-relevant Associate's / Bachelor's / Master's / PhD	4,000 hours
CYC relevant Associate's / Bachelor's / Master's / PhD	2,000 hours

Professional Level Candidates

Need a degree and 6,000 hours of experience

OR combination of degree plus experience:

Degree	Hours of experience required
Associate's	6,000 hours
Non-relevant Bachelor's / Master's / PhD	4,000 hours
CYC relevant Bachelor's / Master's / PhD	2,000 hours

Professional Development

The chart below indicates the number of training/education hours required in each competency domain per level of certification. (College/University credits are calculated as 1 credit = 16 training hours)

Associate & Professional level candidates must show at least 100 hours within 5 years of the application submission. (The balance of hours can be from anytime during your career.)

Your documentation should include a log of hours (arranged & totaled by domain) and corresponding proof of completion (such as transcripts, certificates, etc.).

(See the competency alignment page for descriptions of each domain.)

Competency Domain		Entry	Associate	Professional
Professionalism:		3 hours Ethics	15 hours	20 hours
Cultural & Human Diversity:		None	15 hours	20 hours
Applied Human Development:		1 hour Trauma /ACEs	20 hours	20 hours
Relationship & Communication:		None	40 hours	40 hours
Developmental Practice Methods:		8 hours Behavior	60 hours	80 hours
Additional Hours (any competency):		None	None	70 hours
Total		12 hours	150 hours	250 hours

Association Memberships

Individual membership with an association specific to your practice setting is required for all levels of certification. Below are some national associations which are recognized for CYC certification:

Association for Child and Youth Care Practice	https://acycp.org/
National After School Association	https://naaweb.org/
National Association for the Education of Young Children	https://www.naeyc.org/
National Partnership for Juvenile Services	https://www.npjs.org/
The Professional Association of Boys & Girls Clubs	https://www.bgcpros.org/
American Camp Association	https://www.acacamps.org/
National Foster Parent Association	http://nfpaonline.org
National Association of Social Workers	http://www.naswdc.org
National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification	https://nctrc.org/
National Association of Extension 4-H Agents	https://www.nae4hydp.org/

Competency alignment

The chart below describes the competency domains to categorize your training/education hours.

(Full publication of competency descriptions is at:

https://cycgb.org/images/pdfs/2010_Competencies_for_Professional_CYW_Practitioners.pdf)

CYC Competency Domains
Professionalism <ul style="list-style-type: none">Awareness of the ProfessionProfessional Development and BehaviorPersonal Development and Self CareProfessional EthicsAwareness of Law and RegulationsAdvocacy
Cultural and Human Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cultural and Human Diversity Awareness and InquiryRelationship and Communication Sensitive to Cultural and Human DiversityDevelopmental Practice Methods Sensitive to Cultural and Human Diversity
Applied Human Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contextual-Developmental AssessmentSensitivity to Contextual Development in Relationship and CommunicationPractice Methods that are Sensitive to Development and ContextAccess Resources that Support Healthy Development
Relationship and Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interpersonal CommunicationRelationship DevelopmentFamily CommunicationTeamwork and Professional Communication Skills
Developmental Practice Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none">Genuine RelationshipsHealth and SafetyIntervention PlanningEnvironmental Design and MaintenanceProgram Planning and Activity ProgrammingActivities of Daily LivingGroup ProcessCounselingBehavior GuidanceFamily and Caregiver EngagementCommunity Engagement