

2025

ACADEMY OF CLINICAL
RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS

ANNUAL

REPORT

ACRP 

ACADEMY
OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS


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MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMY CHAIR

In 2025, the Academy continues its leadership in clinical research certification, reaching significant milestones. The organization has now certified over 45,000 clinical research professionals since its inception, with approximately 2,500 candidates tested this past year. An impressive 70% of those tested, around 1,800 individuals, earned new ACRP certifications.

A major focus in 2025 was the alignment of all exams with ICH E6 (R3) guidelines, a significant undertaking supported by approximately 100 subject matter experts. The updated exams are slated for launch on July 15, 2026.

Further exam enhancements include updates to the ACRP-PM and ACRP-MDP exams. The CCRC and CCRA exam programs have also successfully completed re-accreditation. Additionally, the Academy launched new ACRP Retired Certifications, allowing professionals leaving the industry to maintain their hard-earned credentials.

These achievements are a testament to the dedication and collaboration of certificants, volunteers, and staff. The organization looks forward to continued opportunities in 2026 and thanks everyone for their ongoing support in advancing clinical research.



ROBERT O'CONNOR, CCRA, ACRP-CP, FACRP

Senior Clinical Scientist, Procter and Gamble Co
Chair, Academy Board of Trustees, 2025

2023 - 2025 STRATEGIC VISION, MISSION, VALUES, GOALS, AND PROGRAMS

About the Academy

ACRP Certification is administered by the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (the Academy), an independent affiliate of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP).

Vision

Clinical research is performed responsibly, ethically, and professionally worldwide.

Mission

Promote and maintain high standards and best practices of clinical research by recognizing those professionals who demonstrate a well-defined competency through valid and reliable credentialing programs.

Organizational Values

Professional Excellence: We exemplify a commitment to ethical practice by conducting our activities in a transparent, professional, and responsible manner that promotes workforce excellence.

Integrity: We ensure fairness, accuracy, validity, and reliability in the development and administration of the certification program to ensure it meets the highest standards as defined by experts in the field.

Service: We expect excellence, innovation, continual organizational review, and improvement in delivering our programs to meet and exceed expectations.

Community and Collaboration: We work together with those whom we lead, serve, and partner with to promote competence and enhance the clinical research community.

Strategic Goals

The Academy will focus on maintaining the high standards of credentialing programs, enriching awareness of those programs, enhancing competency for credentialed professionals in clinical research, and sustaining the organization's viability.

1. Continue to develop, maintain, and administer valid and reliable credentialing programs [focus on maintaining high standards].
2. Promote greater recognition of the value of professionals credentialed by valid and reliable programs [focus on enriching awareness] to increase the reach of current certification offerings and expand the scope of credentialing programs for clinical research professionals [focus on enhancing competency].

ACRP'S FLAGSHIP CERTIFICATION AND SPECIALTY CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS

ACRP Certified Professional (ACRP-CP®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals of all types, across diverse roles and functions on the clinical study team.

Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals with experience monitoring and supervising the conduct and progress of clinical trials on behalf of a sponsor.

Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals with experience coordinating and facilitating clinical trial activities in adherence to Good Clinical Practice, under the direction of a principal investigator.

Certified Principal Investigator (CPI®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals with experience as a principal investigator or sub investigator on multiple studies.

ACRP Medical Device Professional (ACRP-MDP®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals with specialized knowledge in medical device clinical trials. Candidates must be ACRP Certified to sit for this exam.

ACRP Project Manager (ACRP-PM®) is a credential formally recognizing clinical research professionals with specialized knowledge in project management. Candidates must be ACRP Certified to sit for this exam.

SINCE 1992,
MORE THAN

45,000

INDIVIDUALS FROM OVER 100 COUNTRIES HAVE
BEEN CERTIFIED BY ACRP.

"Earning my ACRP Certification twenty years ago provided a crucial foundation, validating my expertise and commitment to best practices in clinical research from day one. This sustained recognition has been instrumental in opening doors to increasingly complex roles, fostering trust, and empowering me to lead and innovate within the evolving landscape of clinical research."



**CHRISTINA BRENNAN, MD, MBA,
CCRC, FACRP**

Senior Vice President, Clinical Research
Northwell Health

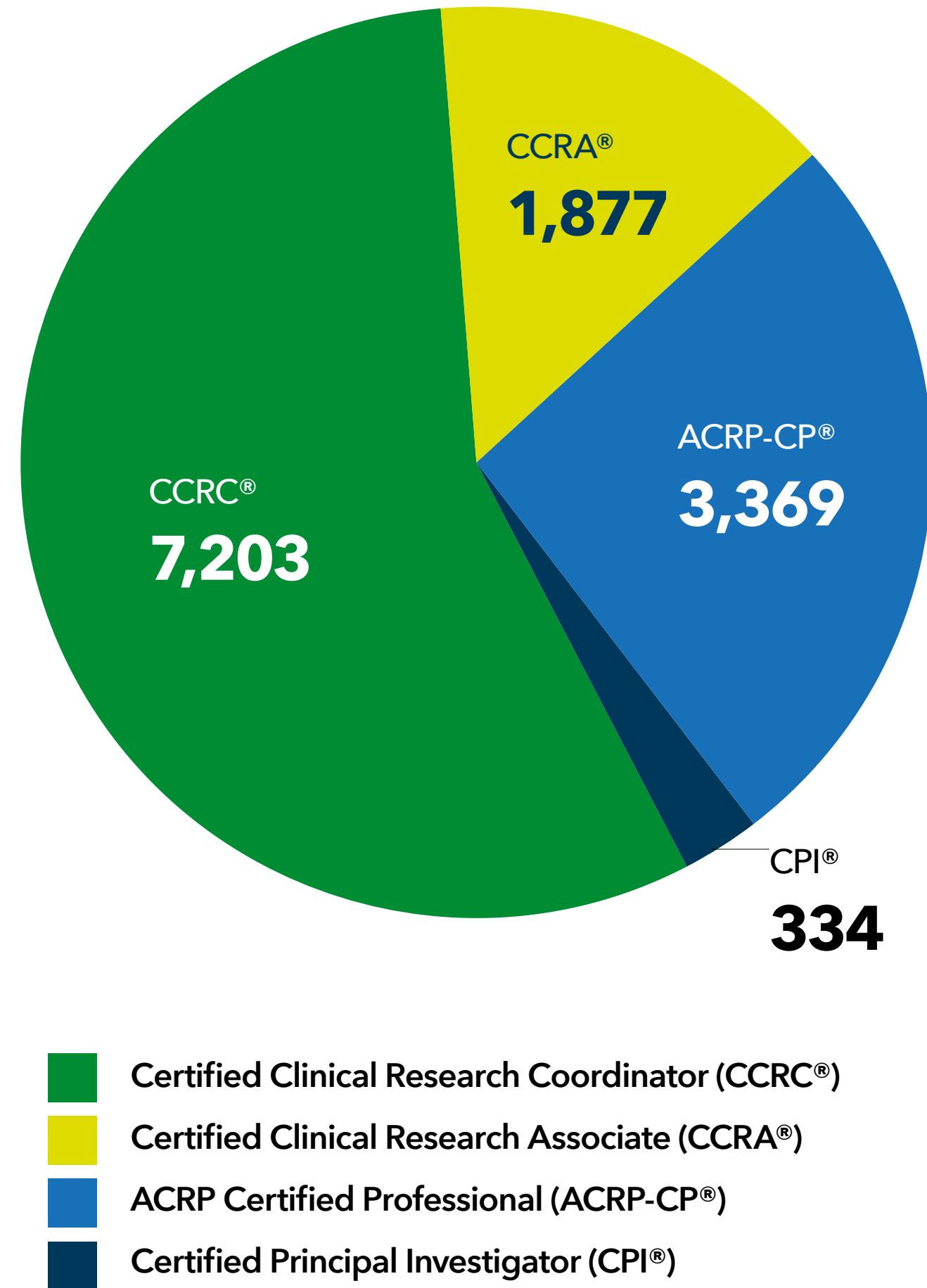
Certified Since 2005

DEMOGRAPHICS OF ACTIVE ACRP CERTIFICANTS

n=12,783

In 2025, 2,843 individuals applied for ACRP Certification, 2,834 individuals were found eligible to test, and 2,169 individuals were granted their initial certification—raising the number of active ACRP Certificants to 12,783 at year-end.

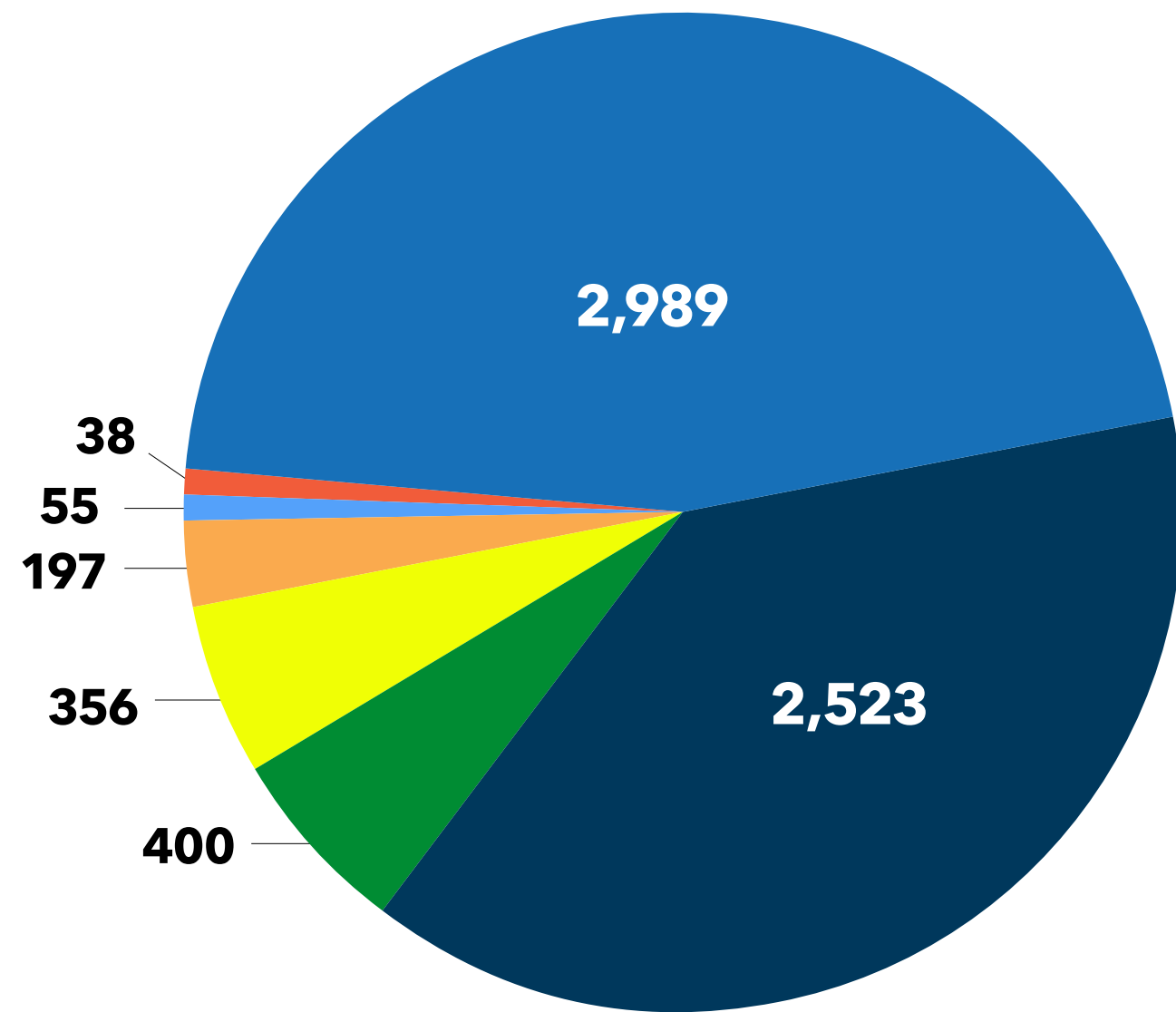
CERTIFICATIONS



PRIMARY ROLE

Clinical Research Coordinator	3,927
Director or Manager of Clinical Trial Operations	1,470
Monitor or Clinical Research Associate	1,390
Research Manager	1,006
Clinical Research Nurse	942
Project Manager	941
Clinical Research Scientist	343
Regulatory Specialist	342
Quality Control Specialist	319
Medical Director	268
Investigator	266
Executive	202
Other	1,367

CLINICAL RESEARCH FOCUS



- Study Conduct
- Trial Management
- Business Operations and Administration
- Regulatory Affairs
- Not Currently Conducting Research
- Medical Affairs and Safety
- Bioinformatics

PRACTICE SETTING

Pharmaceutical/Biotech Company	2,480
Academic Medical Center/University	2,448
Hospital	1,792
Clinical Study Site (free standing/ independent)	1,747
Contract Research Organization (CRO)	1,254

COMPANY SIZE



CONTINENTS

<p>12,080 NORTH AMERICA</p>	<p>61 OCEANIA</p>
<p>336 ASIA</p>	<p>48 SOUTH AMERICA</p>
<p>238 EUROPE</p>	<p>20 AFRICA</p>

GENDER

Female	9,117
Male	1,806
Prefer Not to Answer	17
Transgender	6
No Response	1,837

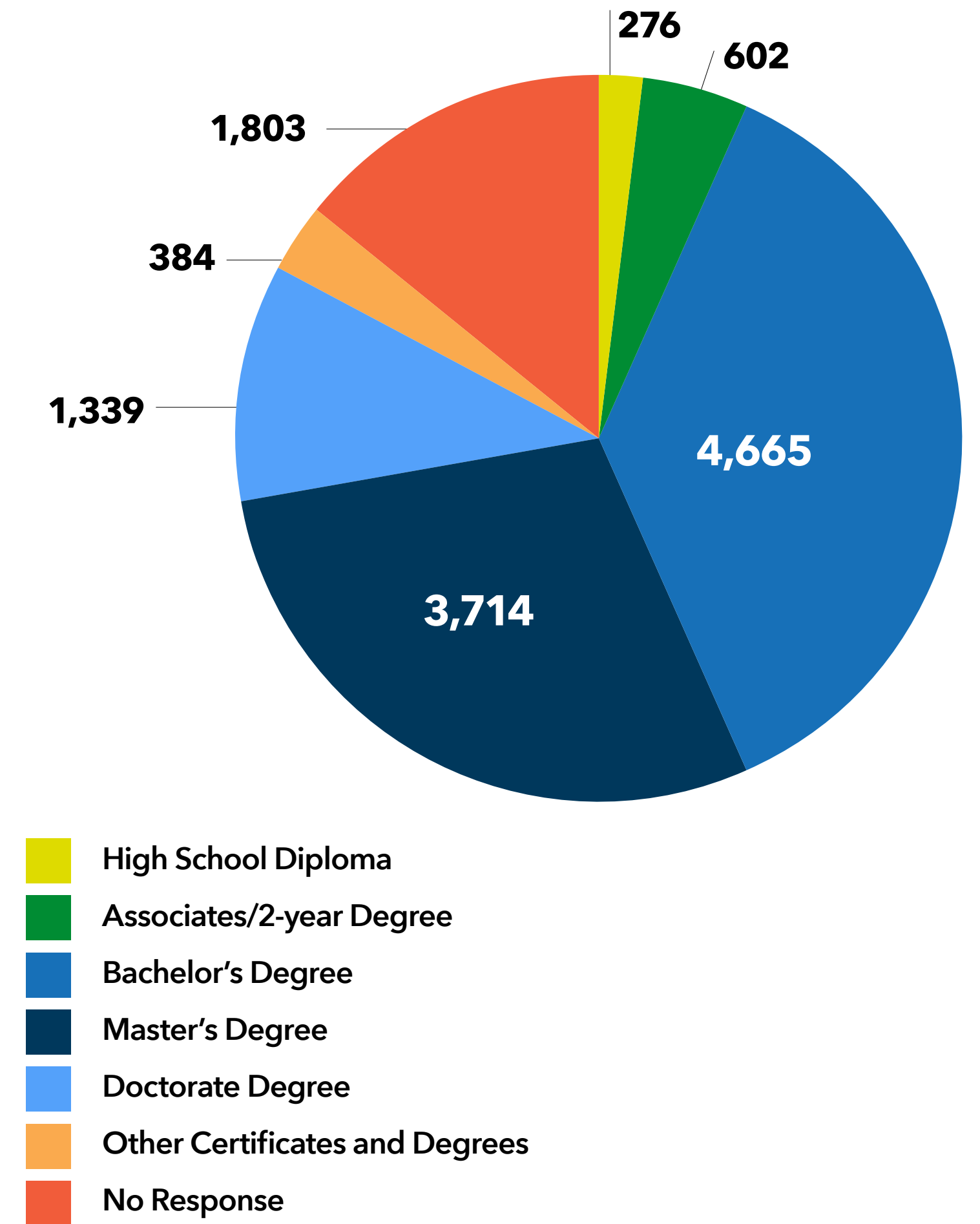
RACE AND ETHNICITY

White	5,252
Asian	973
Hispanic/Latino/Latinx	832
Black/African American	557
Other	224
Pacific Islander	25
Native American	20
No Response	4,900

ACRP MEMBER

Member	5,530
Non Member	7,255

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



EXPLANATION OF TERMS

TOTAL SCORED ITEMS ON EXAM: The current examination length is 125 questions. However, 25 of those are pre-test questions. The pre-test questions are evaluated for possible inclusion in an exam at a later date. Information on how candidates perform on those questions is collected without the questions affecting a candidate's score.

TOTAL SCALED SCORE POSSIBLE: This is the highest score possible and represents a perfect score. The Academy uses a scaled score. Scaled scoring is a common practice among certification programs with multiple forms of the exam.

PASSING POINT: This is the raw score a candidate must receive to pass the exam. The raw score correlates to the number of questions a candidate must answer correctly, based on which form of the exam the candidate is taking. That number can differ from form to form. The number of questions that must be answered correctly is determined by evaluating the exam's overall difficulty level. The more difficult the exam, the fewer questions a candidate would have to answer correctly to be assessed as having mastered the content. The Academy uses the Modified Angoff method to establish the passing point. The exam is not scored on a "curve" and there is not a predetermined number or percentage of candidates that will pass. The passing score is set for each exam form.

RELIABILITY ESTIMATE: Internal consistency reliability estimates were computed using Cronbach's coefficient alpha (Cronbach, 1951). Cronbach's alpha tells us how well the questions in a test relate to each other using a statistical measure ranging from 0 to 1, where higher values indicate greater internal consistency. The Cronbach alpha statistic may not be reliable for exams with small candidate volumes.

STANDARD ERROR OF MEASUREMENT: The standard error of measurement yields an estimate of the average amount of error associated with a test score received on an Academy exam. A large standard of error indicates a significant amount of error can exist in the score received. The small standard of error for the Academy exams suggest an accurate measurement of the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting clinical research safely, effectively, and in accordance with globally recognized standards.

Each accredited certification program is overseen by a Global Exam Committee made up of currently certified clinical research professionals who work with a professional testing agency to develop each exam. The exams for each program (CCRC®, CCRA®, ACRP-CP®, CPI®) go through several review steps by each Global Exam Committee before being released for administration. In addition, the passing standard is set by a diverse panel of currently certified clinical research professionals.

Currently, there are over 100 active Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). They are Academy certificants who participate in special training in how to write multiple choice test questions or participate in the Exam Committee for each program. Every draft test question must be linked to a topic area found on the Exam Content Outline (ECO) for a specific designation, as the Outlines are specific to each job role. Each question must also be referenced directly to a specific section of the ICH Guidelines E2A, E6 (R2), E8 (R1), E9, E9 (R1), and E11 (R1). References are designed to provide supporting evidence for the correct answer.

"My CCRC and ACRP-PM certifications have been crucial to my commitment to scientific research, kept me knowledgeable and current about changes to policies and allowed me to experience benefits in my career trajectory."



MEDINA BELLO, CCRC, ACRP-PM

Health Science Specialist; Senior Coordinator
Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Veteran Affairs
Medical Center

Certified Since 2020

VOLUNTEERS

ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academy leadership is provided by a volunteer-based, member-elected Board of Trustees. Trustees serve a minimum term of three years and can be re-elected for one additional three-year term.



CHAIR
Robert O'Connor, CCRA, ACRP-CP, FACRP
Senior Clinical Scientist, The Procter & Gamble Company's Baby, Feminine, and Family Care BioSciences Department



Alisha Daniels, MD, MHA, CCRC, ACRP-PM
Executive Director
Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network
Washington University



VICE-CHAIR
Dee Tilley, RN, CGRN, CCRC, ACRP-MDP, ACRP-PM, FARCP
Clinical Research Nurse, Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center



Glenda Guest, BS, CCRA, RQAP-GCP, ACRP-MDP, FACRP
President, Assured of Quality Consulting & Training



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Kris Herring, PhD, MS, ACRP-CP, ACRP-PM
Associate Center Director
Duke Cancer Patient Experience Research Center
Duke University



PUBLIC MEMBER
Kristin Smedley
Founder, Thriving Blind Academy



Ramona Ramdeo, DNP, FNP-C, CPI, CCRC
Senior Director of Clinical Research
Department of Medicine
Northwell Health, Inc



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Associate Professor of Dermatology,
The University of Alabama at Birmingham



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Chief Executive Officer, ACRP



Calvin Brador, CCRA, ACRP-PM
Senior Clinical Lead, ProPharma

2025 GLOBAL EXAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACRP-CP® Global Exam Committee

Bev Assman, CCRA, ACRP-CP
 Sassan Azad, ACRP-CP
 Juan Camilo Cuya, ACRP-CP
 Musirah Khan, ACRP-CP, ACRP-PM
 Nicki Tieken, ACRP-CP, ACRP-PM
 MeeLee Tom, CCRA, ACRP-CP, ACRP-MDP
 Uchechi Nwaba, ACRP-CP
 Scott Ward, ACRP-CP

CCRA® Global Exam Committee

Brian Aldrich, CCRC, ACRP-MDP
 Stacey Banks, CCRC, ACRP-MDP
 Ramses Davila, CCRC
 Gabriel Garcia, CCRC
 Dinnah Zoe Ignacio, CCRC
 Kristina Landes, CCRC
 Hubert Lesur, CCRC
 Jessica Rios, CCRC
 Ashley Smith, CCRC

CCRC® Global Exam Committee

Brian Aldrich, CCRC, ACRP-MDP
 Stacey Banks, CCRC, ACRP-MDP
 Ramses Davila, CCRC
 Gabriel Garcia, CCRC
 Dinnah Zoe Ignacio, CCRC
 Kristina Landes, CCRC
 Hubert Lesur, CCRC
 Jessica Rios, CCRC
 Ashley Smith, CCRC

CPI® Global Exam Committee

Nael Abdelsamad, CPI
 Jame Callis, CPI
 Maricor Grio, CPI
 Timmy Li, CPI
 Brock McConnehey, CPI
 Jackson Snyder, CPI, ACRP-MDP
 Vivienne van de Walle, CPI, ACRP-PM, ACRP-MDP
 Janice Wang, CPI

"Being certified through ACRP over the past several decades has given me a great foundation for the skills and competencies that drive success in a career in Clinical Research. I have been able to use these skills and my experiences with ACRP to help others obtain certification as well. It allows us all across the world to speak the same language with credibility and collectively move the field forward with the highest standard of quality."



MELISSA LAWS, CCRC

Associate Director of Research and Science
 University of Utah Data Coordinating Center

ACRP Certified Since 2008

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CERTIFICATION

ACRP remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing excellence in clinical research certification through innovation and global engagement. Building on the progress we made in 2025, we continue our work in 2026 with a strong focus on enhancing the value, relevance, and accessibility of our certification programs.

In the coming year, ACRP will introduce newly developed practice examinations across all certification programs, providing candidates with expanded tools to prepare with confidence. We are also advancing the next generation of certification exams aligned to ICH E6(R3), ensuring our credentials reflect the most current international standards for Good Clinical Practice and remain responsive to the evolving clinical research landscape.

Innovation continues to be central to our efforts. ACRP is actively exploring the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the test development process. This work is focused on identifying opportunities where AI can enhance efficiency and consistency—while maintaining the integrity, fairness, and defensibility expected of an accredited certification program.

Equally important is our ongoing collaboration with academic partners to strengthen career pathways in clinical research. By working with Academia, we aim to better support students and emerging professionals as they enter and advance within the workforce, reinforcing the long-term vitality of our profession.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication and expertise of ACRP's volunteer community. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Subject Matter Experts who contribute their time and knowledge to support our certification programs. Their commitment is essential to maintaining the quality and credibility of ACRP Certification.

As we continue this work, we remain committed to continuous improvement and to engaging our global community in shaping the future of clinical research certification.



STEVEN GONZALEZ, ICE-CCP
Director, Certification, ACRP