



ACRP



**MAINTENANCE OF  
CERTIFICATION HANDBOOK**

Association of Clinical Research Professionals  
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**ACADEMY**  
OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS



**ACRP**

■ FOR LEARNING ■ FOR LISTENING ■ FOR LIFE

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For Complete Certification Program Policies and Procedures, go [here](#)

## Maintenance of Certification Checklist

### Step 1

Stay current! This Handbook provides the current requirements, enhancements, and other important details. Update your contact information at [www.acrpnet.org](http://www.acrpnet.org) to receive personalized updates and reminders regarding your *Certification*.

### Step 2

Complete 24 points of Continuing Education (CE) and/or Continuing Involvement (CI) activities within the last two (2) years.

Report the following information about each CE activity:

- Activity Type
- Provider
- Activity Name
- Activity length in minutes (optional)
- Activity Points
- Date Completed

### Step 3

Renew or join ACRP's membership while applying if you intend to be a member and take advantage of the reduced member rate. Membership is ***not required*** for *Certification*.

### Step 4

Submit your application (online or printed method) complete with all reported points and payment. Apply online and receive an instant e-mail confirmation of receipt. Allow two (2) weeks for an e-mailed status update if submitting printed application.

### Step 5

Do you hold more than one certificate and plan on maintaining all designations at once? If so, you are eligible to receive the multiple designations \$50 USD discount. You can now apply online!

## About Maintenance of Certification

The goal of the *Certification* process is to ensure, as much as possible, the continuing competence of each certificant and maintain the professional standard of those engaged in clinical research.

The purposes of the Continuing Competency requirements established by the Academy are that CCRCs, CCRAs, CPIs, and ACRP-CPs continue to:

- **obtain** current professional development information;
- **explore** new knowledge in specific content areas;
- **master** new clinical research-related skills and techniques;
- **enhance** approaches to effective clinical research, both within their specified job role and beyond;
- **further** develop professional judgment;
- **conduct** clinical research in a safe and ethical manner.

## Maintenance of Certification Requirements

*Maintenance of Certification* is required every two (2) years. Each candidate for *Maintenance* must demonstrate that the current requirements are met to successfully re-certify and be permitted to continue to use the designation.

**There are two (2) options for meeting the requirements prior to your *Certification* expiration date:**

- Earn points *or*
- Pass the current *Certification* exam.

<b>Maintenance of Certification – Two Options</b>				
<b>Option 1 – <u>CCRA, CCRC,</u> <u>ACRP-CP</u> <i>Only</i> Earn Points</b>	Continuing Education – Research Specific (required) 12	Continuing Education (research/healthcare) <u>and/or</u> Continuing Involvement 12		Total 24
<b>Option 1 – <u>CPI Only</u> Earn Points</b>	Continuing Education – Research Specific (required) 8	Continuing Involvement (required) 12	Continuing Education and/or Continuing Involvement 4	Total Points 24
<b>Option 2 – <i>Maintenance</i> by Exam for all</b>	Pass the current exam (CCRA, CCRC, CPI or ACRP-CP) prior to your Certification expiration date. Submittal of Maintenance application and fee are required by certification expiration.			

1. **Earn** a total of 24 points
  - a. **CCRAs, CCRCs and ACRP-CPs only** – minimum of twelve (12) points from participation in *research-related* Continuing Education programs. The remaining twelve (12) points may be supplemented through Continuing Education program activities and/or Continuing Involvement activities.
  - b. **CPIs only** – minimum of eight (8) points from participation in *research-related* Continuing Education programs and a minimum of twelve (12) points from Continuing Involvement activities. The remaining four (4) points may be supplemented through Continuing Education and/or Continuing Involvement activities.
2. **Report** all 24 points by the time of application.
3. **Submit application and payment**

*Maintenance of your Certification is separate from ACRP membership renewal.*

## Continuing Education vs. Continuing Involvement: What's the Difference?

Continuing Education and Continuing Involvement are the two categories in which a certificant can participate in activities and earn points toward maintaining certification. Continuing Education is also referred to as “coursework” or “training”.

### What is Continuing Education?

There are two types of continuing education relevant to YOUR certification:

- **Research Specific**  
Research Topics are defined as those that cover the actual “practice” of clinical research. Examples include Informed Consent, Ethics, GCP, Regulatory Affairs, etc.
- **Healthcare Specific**  
Disease/Bodily System/Healthcare Topics deal with the prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of physical well-being. Examples of this can include Oncology, Psychiatry, results of trial studies, etc.

### What is Continuing Involvement?

Continuing Involvement is participation in a capacity other than learning. The certificant can be attending a meeting, serving/volunteering, presenting information, or providing oversight. Examples include attendance at Investigator Meetings, Site Initiation Visits, inclusions on a 1572, authoring a journal article, etc.

Continuing Involvement activities are:

- Always related to your role in clinical research.
- Sometimes required as part of one's position.
- Required for CPIs.
- Optional CCRAs, CCRCs and ACRP-CPs.

## Maintaining Certification through Participation in Continuing Education

CCRA<sup>®</sup>, CCRC<sup>®</sup>, CPI<sup>®</sup> and ACRP-CP<sup>®</sup> certificants must meet the following criteria by the *Certification* expiration date. Information about each of these requirements is found in the sections that follow.

## Research Program Topics

For *Maintenance* purposes, **Research Topics** are defined as those that cover the actual “practice” of clinical research and follow topics covered on the Detailed Content Outline (DCO) for your designation. These topics should cover transferrable knowledge and skills, not those specific to your workplace, such as company SOPs, protocols, or specific software. Examples of **Research Topics** include, but are not limited to:

- Trial Management
- Investigational Product Management
- Protocol Development
- Safety
- Human Subject Protection
- Document Management
- Trial Oversight
- Ethics
- Adverse Events
- Informed Consent
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- ICH Guidelines
- Regulatory Issues
- Monitoring
- Statistics

To view more acceptable Research Topics, visit the appropriate link below:

- [CCRA Detailed Content Outline \(DCO\)](#)
- [CCRC Detailed Content Outline \(DCO\)](#)
- [CPI Detailed Content Outline \(DCO\)](#)
- [ACRP-CP Detailed Content Outline \(DCO\)](#)



## Healthcare Program Topics

**Healthcare Topics** are those that deal with the prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of physical well-being. Training to gain access or query a specific database or software, even if healthcare related, is not acceptable. Consideration is also given to specific skills that, while not clinical research or healthcare related, are acknowledged as an advanced set of skills invaluable to the work of clinical research. These specifically include: project management, soft skills, grant writing and medical writing.

Courses pertaining to a particular disease are generally considered to be **Healthcare Topic** hours. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Pharmacology
- Medical devices
- Soft Skills
- Palliative / Hospice care
- Psychiatry
- Oncology
- Endocrinology
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Results of clinical trial studies
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course

## Acceptable Providers of Accredited Continuing Education

Programs completed through acceptable accredited providers with a certificate of hours/points or those pre-approved by the ACRP may be claimed.

If the program does **not** have accreditation from a known accrediting body (See “*Examples of Acceptable Providers*” chart below), the applicant must submit the program details for approval. E-mail [support@acrpnnet.org](mailto:support@acrpnnet.org), at any time, with the course title, timed agenda/course overview, and objectives.



## Examples of Acceptable Providers of Accredited Continuing Education Contact Hour/Points

Acceptable Providers of Accredited Continuing Education	Examples of Types of Credit Offered
ACRP	ACRP, CBRN, CME
All state and national nursing associations	CBRN, ANCC, CNE
American Council on Pharmaceutical Education	ACPE
Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education	CME, <i>AMA Category 1</i>
Other national healthcare-related associations offering continuing education contact hours	CITI* Courses – Human Subject Protection, PRIM&R, MAGI Conference, SoCRA, RAPS, DIA, SCDM, etc.
Regulator-sponsored educational programs	FDA, NIH, IRB
Healthcare-related college/university courses	College credits
IACET	CEUs
CITI Program	<i>CME, AMA Category 1</i>
In-Company Training*	No credit offered – submit for review

\*In-company training on research topics with specific learning objectives awarding a certificate/proof of attendance and specifying the number of hours. (*Note: SOP, protocol specific and software training are not acceptable.*)

Courses which are **not** acceptable for *Maintenance* purposes include but are not limited to those with topics in CPR or BLS training, first responder or blood pressure training.



## Determining the Length of Continuing Education Activities

A certificate indicating the number of hours received must have been awarded for all web-based training. The Academy cannot determine the number of points for web-based training and reserves the right to request certificates of attendance and/or transcripts from any reported activities.

For participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and in-service trainings, points are awarded according to the actual amount of time spent under instruction, at a ratio of 1:1. That is one (1) hour awards one (1) point.

Sessions less than 45 minutes in duration are not accepted. Sessions forty-five (45) minutes to one (1) hour in length are awarded one (1) point. Points can be pro-rated for sessions exceeding sixty (60) minutes (*i.e., a session one hour and fifteen minutes in length = 1.25 points*)

Certificates of completion may use different terms to represent “points”. The chart below displays the point conversions and different terms used to refer to points.

Activity	Time Spent	Points on <i>Maintenance Application</i>
<b>Continuing Education Session</b>	< 45 minutes	0 points
	45-60 minutes	1 contact hour = 1 point
	90 minutes	1.5 contact hour = 1.5 points
<b>Activity Awarding CMEs</b>	60 minutes	1 CME = 1 point
<b>Course Awarding CEUs</b>	60 minutes	0.1 CEU = 1 point 1.0 CEU = 10 points
<b>University Course</b>	1 semester	1 semester credit = 15 points

If it is unclear how many hours may be claimed for a course, please contact the course provider to request written verification of the course length prior to submitting any information to ACRP for review.

## Continuing Involvement Activities – CCRA, CCRC & ACRP-CP Only

Continuing Involvement is another area in which a candidate for Maintenance can earn points toward the stated *Maintenance* requirements. These are activities other than participating in a continuing education event. Continuing Involvement is not required to maintain a CCRA, CCRC or ACRP-CP certification. Continuing Involvement activities are always related to your role in clinical research and sometimes required as part of one’s position.

The following chart lists activities that are currently awarded Continuing Involvement Points for *Maintenance* purposes. These activities must be listed online through the “My CCRA/CCRC/ACRP-CP Certification” link within your ACRP profile.

<b>CCRA, CCRC &amp; ACRP-CP Only Continuing Involvement Activities</b>				
Activity Name	Points per activity	Maximum times it can be claimed	Maximum Points for this activity	Examples of Documentation
Continuing Education developer or presenter in clinical research or related topic (to both research and non-research audiences)	2	4	8	Copy of program with speakers and objectives or presentation abstract including organization, location and dates (not required for ACRP Global Conference speakers)
Authorship of journal paper on clinical research (cannot be self-published)	2	4	8	Journal citation including authors
Participate in or present at investigator meeting (in-person or virtual)	2	2	4	Documentation of meeting date, time and proof of participation and/or presentation
Participate in a site initiation visit	2	2	4	Documentation of meeting date, time and proof of participation and/or presentation
Active participation in regulatory authority meeting (does not include an audit)	2	2	4	Proof of attendance
Involvement in a New Marketing Application process (specifically compiling a section or writing a clinical study report)	2	2	4	Supervisor documentation of specifically compiling a specific section or writing a clinical study report (signature page or supervisor letter confirming role)
Authorship of protocol	2	2	4	Supervisor documentation of role

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Inclusion on a 1572 (or equivalent regulatory authority document) as active investigator or sub-I	2	2	4	Copy of 1572 (both sides) or equivalent regulatory authority document
Service as a peer reviewer for scientific articles	4	per 12 months of service	8	Confirmation of appointment as peer reviewer that includes dates
Service as a peer reviewer of clinical research-related papers or clinical research grants	4	per 12 months of service	8	Confirmation of appointment as a peer reviewer that includes dates
Service on DSMB/IDMC or equivalent	4	per 12 months of service	8	Letter from DSMB/IDMC chair outlining level of participation and # of meetings attended
Volunteer service on IRB/IEC	4	per 12 months of service	8	Letter from IRB/IEC chair outlining level of participation and # of meetings attended
Service on healthcare-related exam committee	4	per 12 months of service	8	Copy of certificate/proof of participation
Service as a clinical research exam item writing writer	0.50	per question submitted	12	Proof of participation
Service on an association's clinical research-related committee (Editorial Advisory Board, Conference Session Review, Regulatory Affairs Committee permitted) (Membership, Nominating or General board service is not permitted)	4	per 12 months of service	8	Proof of participation
Planning (ACRP-CP Only) Examples include business operations, feasibility assessment, site selection activities, regulatory document participation	2	4	8	Letter/Email from management confirming participation
Overseeing (ACRP-CP Only) Examples include management and administration	2	4	8	Letter/Email from management confirming participation

## Continuing Involvement Activities – CPI Only

Continuing Involvement is a way of making sure that CPIs are still involved in clinical research in a meaningful way. Continuing Involvement is participation in a capacity other than learning. Continuing Involvement activities are always related to your role in clinical research and are sometimes required as part of one’s position.

CPIs **MUST** submit at least 12 points from the activities chart below. Continuing Involvement activities must be listed online through the “My CPI Certification” link within your ACRP profile.

<b>CPI Only – Continuing Involvement Activities</b>				
Activity Name	Points per activity	Maximum times it can be claimed	Maximum points for this activity	Examples of Documentation
Continuing Education developer or presenter in clinical research or related topic (to both research and non-research audiences)	2	4	8	Copy of program with speakers and objectives or presentation abstract including organization, location and dates (not required for ACRP Global Conference speakers)
Participate in or present at investigator meeting (in-person or virtual)	2	2	4	Documentation of meeting date, time and proof of participation and/or presentation
Participate in a site initiation visit	2	2	4	Documentation of meeting date, time and proof of participation and/or presentation
Participate in close out visit	1	3	3	Report signature page
Active participation in regulatory authority meeting (does not include an audit)	2	2	4	Proof of attendance
Authorship of journal paper on clinical research (cannot be self-published)	2	4	8	Journal citation including authors
Authorship of journal paper on a therapeutic topic (cannot be self-published)	2	4	8	Journal citation including authors
Authorship of protocol	2	2	4	Supervisor documentation of role
Authorship/review of clinical study report (sole or co-authorship)	2	2	4	Report signature page that includes protocol # or study name
Inclusion on a 1572 (or equivalent regulatory	2	3	6	Copy of 1572 (both sides) or equivalent regulatory authority document

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authority document) as active investigator or sub-I				
Medical Monitor for clinical research trial	1	3	3	Name listed on protocol title page (sponsor)
Clinical research compliance officer for institution	12	1	12	Copy of appointment letter
Director of research center	12	1	12	Copy of appointment letter
Involvement in a New Marketing Application process (specifically compiling a section or writing a clinical study report)	2	2	4	Supervisor documentation of specifically compiling a specific section or writing a clinical study report (signature page or supervisor letter confirming role)
Investigational New Drug or Device Application/Clinical Trial Exemption Application	2	2	4	Supervisor documentation of authoring the application (signature page; supervisor letter confirming role)
Service as a peer reviewer for scientific articles	4	per 12 months of service	8	Confirmation of appointment as peer reviewer that includes dates
Service as a peer reviewer of clinical research-related papers or clinical research grants	4	per 12 months of service	8	Confirmation of appointment as a peer reviewer that includes dates
Service on DSMB/IDMC or equivalent	4	per 12 months of service	8	Letter from DSMB/IDMC chair outlining level of participation and # of meetings attended
Volunteer service on IRB/IEC	4	per 12 months of service	8	Letter from IRB/IEC chair outlining level of participation and # of meetings attended
Service on healthcare-related exam committee	4	per 12 months of service	8	Copy of certificate/proof of participation
Service as a clinical research exam item writing writer	0.50	per question submitted	12	Proof of participation
Service on an association's clinical research-related committee (Editorial Advisory Board, Conference Session Review, Regulatory Affairs Committee permitted) (Membership, Nominating or General board service is not permitted)	4	per 12 months of service	8	Proof of participation

Presentations and articles must be in clinical research-related topics in order to be considered for points.

- *Presentation Development and Delivery*: A single presentation can be claimed only once per year. The same presentation can be counted a second time the following year only if the presentation required significant updates prior to being presented again.
  - Certificants are permitted to include presentations they were paid to develop and present to the extent allowed by the above chart. Certificants cannot claim participation points for programs that they present, only Continuing Involvement points.
- *Authorship* of an article pertaining to Clinical Research
  - Certificants are not required to be the primary author to be able to claim points for a published article.
  - An article must be published within the appropriate time frame for the current *Maintenance* cycle.

## **Maintenance Document Verification Process**

The Academy conducts a random verification of the *Maintenance* applications received. Candidates whose applications are selected, will be e-mailed notification requesting copies of certificates of completion and other documentation substantiating the points claimed for the current *Maintenance* period.

If a certificant does not comply with the request for documentation by the date set forth in the notice, the Academy may revoke the certificant's *Certification*.

If it is determined that a certificant's submission does not meet the *Maintenance* program requirements, the certificant will be asked to rectify the discrepancy by a specific date. If the certificant does not comply by the set forth date, the Academy may revoke the certificant's *Certification*.

It is recommended that certificants keep a file of all documentation supporting the claim for points until their next *Maintenance* period is completed.

## **Taking the Exam for Maintenance**

Taking and passing the current form of the exam is acceptable and satisfies all *Maintenance* point requirements (*i.e., all 24 points*). The exam must be taken and passed **before** the candidate's *Certification* expires. A candidate must then submit a copy of his/her score report with the *Maintenance* application. This would include taking another Academy *Certification* exam to obtain an additional credential (*i.e., a CCRC<sup>®</sup> taking the CCRA<sup>®</sup> exam in order to also achieve the CCRA<sup>®</sup> designation.*)



To use the Exam for *Maintenance* purposes, these steps must be followed **before** the *Certification* expires:

- Apply for the exam using the [Maintenance by Examination Form](#) in accordance with the regular exam window deadlines. The exam is offered at a reduced fee because no application review is required.
- Take and pass the exam.
- Apply for *Maintenance* in accordance with the regular process and deadlines—submit an application with payment and upload/attach a copy of the score report.

If a candidate wishes to use the exam for another Academy designation, as in the example above, for *Maintenance* he or she must still submit an exam application with full payment, undergo application review and be deemed eligible for that program. In this instance, the **Maintenance by Examination Form** cannot be used.

If a candidate is unsuccessful on the examination, he or she may still submit the necessary 24 points to satisfy the *Maintenance* requirements before the *Certification* expires.

## Points Reporting

Continuing Education and Continuing Involvement activities (or *Maintenance* by Examination) that satisfy the *Maintenance* requirements **must be completed and reported** within the appropriate timeframe for a candidate's *Maintenance* period, as shown below.

Points must be earned two years prior to your *Certification* expiration date. Only points earned between the following dates will be considered:

\*If you earned ACRP Certification in 2018, you may report points earned as early as the date listed on your current certificate.

**June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2020 (Certifications expiring May 2020)**

**December 1, 2018 – November 30, 2020 (Certifications expiring November 2020)**

All points earned through ACRP are automatically reported to the candidate's record upon completion of the continuing education activity evaluation. All points can be viewed by logging into your profile within the ACRP website and clicking on the "My CCRA/CCRC/CPI/ACRP-CP Certification" link. If ACRP points are not listed, go to the "My Courses" link to complete the activity and the evaluation.

The candidate can view and report points at any time during the two (2) year period. All Continuing Education and Continuing Involvement activities not reported by ACRP must be self-reported using one of these methods:



- **Online** – At any time, log on to [www.acrpnnet.org](http://www.acrpnnet.org) with your e-mail address and password; click “My Account” then “My Profile”. From there, select the account link that reads “My CCRA/CCRC/CPI/ACRP-CP Certification”. Click on the “Activities Points Requirement” Link.
- **During application process** – Please have all activities details ready to report before starting the online application process. You will not be able to submit your application and payment until you have met the activities points requirement.

Report the following information about each activity:

- Activity Type – research or healthcare (other)
- Provider
- Activity Name
- Activity Length in Minutes (optional)
- Activity Points
- Date Completed

All documents for *Maintenance* must have the name of course, date, number of contact hours, and the participant’s name printed on the certificate to be acceptable for credit. All other information listed is required for completing the *Maintenance* application and is the certificant’s responsibility to obtain.

Please do not include or upload certificates of completion during the points reporting or application process. This documentation is requested from candidates who are selected for the random *Maintenance* Documentation Verification Process only (see *Maintenance* Document Verification Process section). It is recommended to keep all documentation supporting the claim for hours/points until their next *Maintenance* cycle is completed. The Academy reserves the right to request further documentation.

## Accessing the Application

Applications can be submitted approximately four (4) months prior to your *Certification* expiration. Remember to **first** update your ACRP Membership status if you plan to take advantage of the member rate for maintaining.

<i>Certification</i> Expiration Date	Apply by (postmarked by)	24 Points- Earning Period
May 2020	May 31	June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2020
November 2020	November 30	Dec 1, 2018 – Nov 30, 2020

\*Earning period and expiration date subject to change due to COVID-19.



**To apply online follow these steps:**

- Log onto the ACRP website with user id and password. Click on “My Account”, then “My Profile”.
- Under Account Links, select “My CCRA/CCRC/CPI/ACRP-CP Certification”
- If you have all your required points entered into your account, click the blue button that reads “Submit Maintenance Fee”.
- If you have not yet earned/entered your 24 required points, click the link that reads “Activity Points Requirement” to view a breakdown of your current points and to also add points. Once you have entered the required amount, the blue “Submit Maintenance Fee” button will appear.

For check or money transfer transactions, the points requirement must be completed first.

**Payment & Fees**

Payment must be submitted simultaneously with the *Maintenance* Application and twenty (24) points. Rates for *Maintenance of Certification* can be calculated on the [Maintenance webpage](#) and are displayed in the chart below.

Dates	Member	Non-Member
<b>Early Bird</b> September – Nov 30, 2020	\$225	\$300
<b>Regular Period</b> December – Jan 31, 2021	\$250	\$325
<del>Late Period with Late Fee</del> N/A	<del>\$325</del>	<del>\$400</del>

**Maintenance of Certification fees are non-refundable.** It is the certificant’s responsibility to meet the program requirements and timelines. If an incomplete or deficient submission is made and not rectified by the *Certification* expiration date, all fees will be forfeited and the certificant will lose the designation.

~~Late Fees~~

~~All applications received via e-mail, fax, or postmarked after the **May 31/Nov 30** expiration dates (whichever applies) will be assessed a \$75 late fee in addition to the *Maintenance* fee.~~

The Academy will attempt to notify all certificants at their last known mailing and e-mail address approximately four (4) months prior to the expiration date of their current *Certification*. However, it is



ultimately the responsibility of the certificant to monitor his/her *Certification* expiration date and submit all program requirements by the set deadlines.

### Dual Certificant Discount

If more than one of the Academy's credentials is held, the certificant may maintain both designations at the same time, which will roll both expiration dates forward by two (2) years. By maintaining together, the certificant will receive a \$50 USD discount and only needs to submit a total of 24 points.

If maintained separately, the certificant will pay the full price for each credential, and must submit separate points for each designation, for a total of 48 points.

### Notification of Review

Your *Maintenance* submission goes through review for compliance with the requirements once it has been received. Upon successful review of meeting the requirements, applicants receive an e-mail notice confirming that the *Certification* has been extended for two (2) years and that an updated certificate will be sent in the mail. **The review process may take up to 2 weeks.**

To request a duplicate or electronic copy of a certificate, please contact [support@acrpnnet.org](mailto:support@acrpnnet.org).

### Non-Compliance of the Maintenance Requirements

Candidates for *Maintenance* are expected to submit an application for *Maintenance* that fulfills all the necessary requirements no later than his/her *Certification* expiration date. A candidate will be considered non-compliant if:

- no application for *Maintenance* was submitted;
- if the application submitted does not meet the stipulated requirements and the candidate has not rectified any deficiencies; or
- if randomly selected, the candidate has not satisfied the requirements of the Document Verification Process.

If compliance is not achieved by the *Certification* expiration date, the candidate's *Certification* will expire and the designation will be permanently removed from his/her record. The individual must stop using the designation and/or representing him or herself as certified. In order to become certified again, applying for Certification and passing the exam is required.

### Extenuating Circumstances

The Academy will take under consideration, on a case-by-case basis, extenuating circumstances that have prevented a certificant from being able to earn the program requirements during the two-year

*Maintenance* cycle. Examples include significant personal illness or family crisis and military deployment. (Circumstances that will **not** be considered include: change of address so that notices were not received; work schedules; long work hours; maternity/paternity leave; or failure to realize that he/she is due to maintain). Requirements cannot be waived but specific timeframes may be.

It is the responsibility of the certificant to notify the *Certification* program staff as soon as possible, but **prior** to his/her *Certification* expiration date, of such an occurrence. The initial notice should be submitted via e-mail to [support@acrpnnet.org](mailto:support@acrpnnet.org) and include the certificant's name, circumstance, and phone number.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q: Where can I find the *Maintenance* application?**

**A:** Application are available online approximately four (4) months prior to your *Certification*'s expiration date. To access, log onto the ACRP website with your user id and password. Click on 'My Account' and then 'My Profile'. Select the account link that reads 'My CCRA/CCRC/CPI/ACRP-CP Certification'. Once the activities have been added and the points have been met, a blue 'Submit Maintenance Fee' appears. Click on that to proceed with submittal and payment.

**Q: What if I am paying by check?**

**A:** ACRP now accepts electronic check payments. Complete your application online - payment will only be processed if the required points have been added to your record.

**Q: How can I be sure you received my *Maintenance* application?**

**A:** You will receive an automatic e-mail receipt once your payment has been processed.

**Q: How will I be notified if my application was approved?**

**A:** An e-mail notification will be sent upon successful completion of your *Maintenance* application. A certificate will be mailed within three weeks to the address that is listed on file. Also, log onto your profile on the ACRP website and confirm the expiration date of your *Certification*. When *Maintenance* is successful, your *Certification* expiration date will advance two (2) years.

**Q: I submitted my payment, why do I keep receiving notices that I need to maintain my *Certification*?**

**A:** Please log onto your profile on the ACRP website and confirm the expiration date of your *Certification*. When *Maintenance* is successful, your *Certification* expiration date will advance two years. If your application was not received (your expiration date has not changed in the registry), then verify that the payment submitted was for *Maintenance* and **not** membership renewal. ACRP Membership and *Maintenance of Certification* are separate programs requiring separate applications and fees.

**Q: How do I add my hours/points?**

**A:** Contact hours/points (activities) can be entered by logging onto your profile on the ACRP website. Click on the account link that reads ‘My CCRA/CCRC/CPI/ACRP-CP Certification’. Click on ‘Activity Points Required’ link. From there, click on either the CE (continuing education for research or healthcare activities) or CI (continuing involvement) button to add your activities.

**Q: What are the types of points I can submit for maintenance?**

**A:** Continuing Education (Research, Healthcare), and Continuing Involvement. Be sure to read the Maintenance Handbook for points/hours requirements.

**Q: What is the definition of each continuing education topic area?**

**A:** Candidates for *Maintenance* can take continuing education offerings in two (2) topic areas.

- Research – topics that cover the actual ‘practice’ of clinical research and follow the Detailed Content Outline (DCO) for that specific designation.
- Healthcare – topics that cover the prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of physical well-being.

**Q: What date do I use?**

**A:** Enter the date that you attended or completed the program. If the program was longer than one day, enter the last day of the event.

**Q: Do I have to upload/submit my course certificates at the time of *Maintenance*?**

**A:** This is not required. Records of certificates should be kept in case you are randomly selected to participate in the Verification process.

**Q: What if I don’t have any points? What other option do I have to maintain my *Certification*?**

**A:** As an alternative to earning points, you can take and successfully complete the current form of the Exam for your credential prior to your *Certification* expiration date.

**Q: What if I want to maintain two credentials simultaneously?**

**A:** If you hold two or more ACRP *Certifications*, you may maintain both certifications at the same time and receive a \$50 discount. Another benefit of maintaining both designations simultaneously is that the 24 points can be applied to both designations. Done separately, a total of 48 points must be completed (24 points for each credential).

**Q: I added my hours/points and submitted payment. Is that all I need to do?**

**A:** Adding hours/points and submitting payment is completing the Maintenance application. Once your application is submitted, please allow up to two weeks for review. An updated certificate will be mailed out three weeks after completion of maintenance.

# ACADEMY

OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS



**Q: Will my ACRP Membership dues cover my *Maintenance* fees?**

**A:** No. Membership and *Maintenance of Certification* are two separate programs. Membership is renewed annually, while *Maintenance* is due every two (2) years.

***Please note:*** The Academy **does not invoice** for *Certification*. If you received an invoice, it was to renew your Membership in ACRP. A separate fee needs to be paid (as part of an application) to maintain your *Certification*.

**Q: Do I have to be an ACRP Member in order to maintain my *Certification*?**

**A:** Membership is not required however, the maintenance fee is reduced for members.

**Q: If I did not fulfill the *Maintenance* requirements but have already submitted my payment, will I receive a refund?**

**A:** *Maintenance of Certification* fees cover the review of your application and therefore are non-refundable. It is the certificant's responsibility to be compliant with the program requirements and timelines. If an incomplete or deficient submission is made and not maintained by the required deadlines, all fees will be forfeited and the certificant will no longer be permitted to use the designation.