

Lifestyle Medicine (LM) Program Certification for Treatment and Education Programs



Description

The LM Program Certification is a designation that can be awarded to structured programs that use a consistent protocol. The Program Certification designation is not for clinics, departments, individual practices, or health systems.

Practices or health systems that wish to grow their LM knowledge and alignment should consider having staff join as individual [members of ACLM](#), as well as pursuing [individual Certification of staff](#) in LM through the American College of Lifestyle Medicine or the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine, as appropriate.

The Program Certification is divided into two tracks – LM Treatment Programs and LM Education Programs. The requirements for each are similar but slightly different, and are presented below.

Applications will be live in the second quarter of 2024. If you would like to ask more questions about the requirements, please email ACLM Sr. Dir. of Research Dr. Micaela Karlsen at mkarlsen@lifestylemedicine.org.

Minimum Requirements



Requirement	Treatment	Education
Time since launch	Active for at least one year	Active for at least one year
Alignment with Pillars of LM	In alignment with the six pillars of Lifestyle Medicine, for those pillars which are a focus of the program (focus on all six pillars is not required)	In alignment with the six pillars of Lifestyle Medicine, for those pillars which are a focus of the program (focus on all six pillars is not required)
Adverse side effects	Treatment has no known adverse side effects or anticipated/resulting increased need for medications for chronic disease as a result of program participation	Treatment has no known adverse side effects or anticipated/resulting increased need for medications for chronic disease as a result of program participation
Minimum number of completed participants	100 completed participants to date	300 completed participants to date
Evidence-based foundation	Program design is strongly informed by existing scientific evidence in terms of both content and mode of delivery	Program design is strongly informed by existing scientific evidence in terms of both content and mode of delivery



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Minimum Requirements

Requirement	Treatment	Education
Treatment supervision and medication management	<p>Program staff supervise health metrics, lab work, and medication management, or communicate directly with prescribing providers (specialists or PCPs) of enrolled participants</p> <p>Participants should also be in contact with their PCP as needed</p>	<p>Participants are asked to agree to work closely with their PCP and/or prescribing provider for supervision of health metrics, lab work, and medication management</p>
Evaluation	<p>Health outcomes should be evaluated by appropriately trained program staff and should be directly relevant to program goals.</p>	<p>Pre-post program assessments, at minimum a survey and preferably one or more validated survey(s) are included in program structure to evaluate changes in health behaviors and knowledge relevant to program goals</p>
Evaluation schedule	<p>Health outcomes must be assessed at baseline and again upon treatment program completion for all participants</p>	<p>Self-reported health behaviors and relevant knowledge must be assessed at baseline and again upon program completion for all participants</p>
Research	<p>A minimum of two peer-reviewed publications demonstrating improvements in health outcomes relevant to program goals following program completion, with a minimum sample size of 30</p>	<p>A minimum of one peer-reviewed publication demonstrating improvements in outcomes of knowledge or health behavior changes relevant to program goals following program completion, with a minimum sample of 30</p>
Scalability	<p>Not scored for LM Treatment Programs: not required, but if program is scalable or has been replicated or scaled, this information should be included</p>	<p>It must be feasible to replicate the education program at multiple sites or to broadly scale it</p>



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Additional List of Lifestyle Medicine Program Certification Application Questions

In addition to questions on the minimum requirements presented above, the following information will be asked for context but not scored

- Contact information
- Executive summary of program development, history, structure and goals, content, growth, and current level of implementation
- Professional expertise/profiles of founders/developers
- Detailed description of intervention/education product. This should include:
 - Objectives and expected outcomes
 - Content delivered
 - Format, including:
 - Setting (in-person/virtual/self-paced content)
 - Type of interactions/live sessions (live, automated, self-paced curriculum, etc.)
 - Facilitators/teachers and qualifications
 - Duration, timepoints, and expected contact hours
- Follow-up resources, including required or optional follow-up after active intervention or educational product concludes
- Implementation history should provide an overview of the use or potential use of the program in various settings, including:
 - Setting of origin
 - Implementation with external partners/collaborators
 - Scalability in various settings
 - List of external settings or partners in which program has been used
- At least one professional reference letter from a collaborating partner or healthcare professional familiar with the program
- Patient testimonials