Levels of ACCT Challenge Course Practitioner Certification

Experiential Systems offers three levels of challenge course practitioner certification. These levels are based on the current certification levels outlined within the ACCT published Practitioner Certification Standards. Within each level are multiple tracks or training options.

A practitioner can be certified at each level as a site specific certification or a full certification. A site specific certification is valid only at the course that the practitioner was trained at. A full certification follows a practitioners to other courses where similar systems and program equipment are utilized.

The following summaries are based on the ACCT 8th edition of standards. In addition to below canidates will be able to pass both a skills verification and written test.

ESI offers both open enrollment trainings and certification testing for the following designations:

**Level 1 Challenge Course Practitioner Certification**

Level 1 certification is intended for entry level challenge course practitioners who would have no previous challenge ropes course experience. Every training that Experiential Systems performs at a newly constructed course is focused to be a Level I site specific certification.

The Level 1 facilitator will have a thorough understanding of initiatives and low ropes course elements and/or traditional high ropes course elements and belay systems.

All Level I candidates must be at least 18 years of age.
Level 1 Certification Tracks, Training Hours:

- Full Certification - High and Low Elements
  Minimum 40 Hours

- Spotted Activities Only
  Minimum 20 Hours

- High Activities Only
  Minimum 20 Hours

- Site or System Specific
  Minimum 8 Hours

The hours listed above are minimum hours. Certification Training may be longer based on the variety of systems and elements that will need to be covered and the number of participants in the training. The more unique systems the longer training will need to be.

Prior Work History: No prior work history required

Certification Duration: 1 years

Level 2 Challenge Course Practitioner Certification

Level 2 certification is intended for individuals who have been in the challenge ropes course field for some time and can meet the core technical and facilitation skills required for operation of most high and low ropes course elements. A level 2 practitioners can demonstrate mastery of all Level 1 competencies. Level 2 training are designed to provide additional skills and knowledge that can be drawn from to address unique situations and provide leadership to less experienced practitioners. Level 2 practitioners must have documentation of 200 hours of experience delivering programs on a challenge course.
If ESI has been providing your training for multiple years with some or all of the same staff they may be eligible for a Level 2 Certification which lasts 3 years.

All Level 2 candidates must be at least 18 years of age.

**Level 2 Certification Tracks, Training Hours:**

- Full Certification - High and Low Elements  
  Hours (80 Hours Total) Minimum  
  40 Additional

- Spotted Activities Only  
  Hours (44 Hours Total) Minimum  
  24 Additional

- High Activities Only  
  Hours (44 Hours Total) Minimum  
  24 Additional

- Site or System Specific  
  Hours (24 Hours Total) Minimum  
  16 Additional

The hours listed above are minimum hours. Certification Training may be longer based on the variety of systems and elements that will need to be covered and the number of participants in the training. The more unique systems the longer training will need to be.

Previous documented training may be accepted toward required hours depending on the type of training, how recent it was conducted and what organization provided the training. (Syllabuses Required).
Prior Work History: Level 2 Practitioners need to have 200 documented hours of facilitation experience.

Hours should be documented via the Challenge Course Practitioners Portfolio.

Certification Duration: 3 years

**Challenge Course Manager (CCM) Certification**

Challenge Course Manager certification is intended for individuals who have been in the challenge ropes course field for some time and can meet the core technical and facilitation skills required for operation of most high and low ropes course elements as well as demonstrate the ability to supervise others, develop site specific operation procedures, conduct in-services and implement the operations management of a facility. Level 2 practitioners will have documentation of 200 hours of experience delivering programs on a challenge course. A Challenge Course Manager will have a documentation of 500 hours of experience delivering programs on a challenge course.

**Challenge Course Manager (CCM) Certification Tracks, Training Hours:**

All tracks shall require an additional 30 hours of management training 16 of which need to be specific to course management.

- Full Certification - High and Low Elements Minimum 110 Hours

- Spotted Activities Only Minimum 74 Hours

- High Activities Only Minimum 74 Hours
Site or System Specific Minimum

54 Hours

The hours listed above are minimum hours. Certification Training may be longer based on the variety of systems and elements that will need to be covered and the number of participants in the training. The more unique systems the longer training will need to be.

Previous documented training may be accepted toward required hours depending on the type of training, how recent it was conducted and what organization provided the training. (Syllabuses Required).

Prior Work History: The Challenge Course Manager Level requires 500 documented hours of facilitation experience.

**Hours should be documented via the Challenge Course Practitioners Portfolio.**

Certification Duration: 5 years

"Challenging In" to Certification for Seasoned Professionals

Individuals with significant industry experience may be eligible for "challenging In" to each of the levels of Certification offered. At each level a portfolio of experience and documentation of trainings attended will be required. Below are some basics to help you determine if you have the experience to qualify for this level. Please contact us if you require additional information on this process.

Determination of one’s ability to challenge in to a level is up to the discretion of Experiential Systems.
What does Challenging In Look Like?

After your Challenge Course Practitioners Portfolio and Challenge Course Facilitator Self-Assessment have been received a ESI representative will contact you to clarify any questions and to let you know if you are accepted into the challenging in process. You will need to attend a Testing Day. This testing day will be approximately 9 hours long and require you to physically demonstrate all the skills required for the level you are attempting to challenge in to. In addition to the Skills Verification you will additionally have to take a written test of short answer questions to document your knowledge of current industry operation and/or management standards.

Experience and Portfolio Required to Challenge In

Level 1: 100 hours of program experience and training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%.

Level 2: 400 hours of program experience 80 hours of documented training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%.

Challenge Course Manager: Level II Certification plus 600 hours of program experience, 30 hours of managerial training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%.

Steps To Challenge In

1. Complete a Challenge Course Practitioners Portfolio
2. Complete the Challenge Course Facilitator Self-Assessment
3. Submit both your portfolio and Self-Assessment to Experiential Systems.
4. Wait to be contacted by ESI for questions or acceptance to the Challenge In Process.
5. Schedule attendance for a Test Day
6. Attend Test Day and Demonstrate Skills and Complete Written Test
7. If you are in compliance with all Technical skills and pass written test with at least an 80% you will receive a certificate within 10 business days.

8. Hold onto your Certificate and continue to document your facilitation and training experience.

9. Re-certify when the time comes.

**Re-Certification**

Once certified you will need to re-certify. This is typically done through the same process as Challenging In. A portfolio and Self-Assessment will need to be submitted at the time of registering for the Test Day.

**Experience and Portfolio Required to Challenge In**

Level 1: 50 hours of program experience and training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%. Need to Re-Certify Annually

Level 2: 150 hours of program experience 24 hours of documented training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%. Re-Certify Every 3 Years.

Challenge Course Manager: 300 hours of program experience, 30 hours of documented training plus ability to pass written test with at least a score of 80%. Re-Certify Every 5 Years.