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## Curricular Approaches to Programs for Lactation Professionals

It is possible to offer a Lactation Consultant program in either a certificate program or an associate degree program. Often, a community college may be more likely to begin a new program at the certificate level and then will consider a degree program after it has proven the need.

### Certificate Program

A Certificate Program would be appropriate for students who have a previous Associate Degree or higher degree in a health care or science field and have likely completed the General Education content.

### Associate Degree Program

An Associate Degree Program would be attractive to a student who has not completed the General Education content. Thus, a high school graduate or someone who is changing professions would benefit from a program that provides all the General Education content as well as the Lactation content.

The *Sample Associate Degree Program in Breastfeeding and Human Lactation* illustrates examples of possible General Education courses that fulfill the IBLCE requirement for general education and continuing education topics. It shows how this content might fit into an Associate Degree when combined with the LEAARC-required lactation curriculum. It also reflects possible title and content examples for seven (7) lactation courses which are intended to cover the didactic and clinical elements included in Appendix B to the LEAARC Standards and Guidelines, *Curriculum for Program in Human Lactation*.

### Possible Course Areas for Lactation Content in a Certificate or Associate Degree Program

Introduction to Breastfeeding and Lactation Concepts	Overview of normal breastfeeding including mother, newborn and family
Fundamentals of Breastfeeding	Assessment, documentation, patient teaching, use of devices
Breastfeeding and Lactation I	Continued concepts of breastfeeding including challenges for mother, newborn and family
Public Health Aspects of Lactation	Public / community concepts including evidenced-based practice
Transition to practice	Concepts of ethical professional practice and responsibilities as a lactation practitioner
Practicum I	Pre and postpartum in doctor's offices, clinics, hospitals
Practicum II	Public / community health focus

### Other resources available on LEAARC website:

*Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Lactation Education Programs*

*Proposing an Academic Program in Human Lactation*

*Sample Associate Degree Program in Breastfeeding and Human Lactation*