

# KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

ACRP Certification vs. SOCRA Certification



## THE FACTS

	ACRP Certification	SOCRA Certification
Open to Members and Non-Members	✓	✗
Specific to Job Roles	✓	✗
Administered by Independent Board	✓	✗
Linked to Fewer Protocol Deviations	✓	✗
Linked to More Favorable Outcomes from Regulatory Audits	✓	✗
Applicants Must Meet Eligibility Requirements	✓	✓
Exam Available Worldwide	✓	✓
Continuing Education Required for Maintenance	✓	✓
Certification Programs Reviewed and Updated	✓	✓
TransCelerate Biopharma Recognized	✓	✓
ANCC Magnet Recognized	✓	✓
Accredited by Independent Body	✓	✓

## DID YOU KNOW?

Sites with higher numbers of certified staff achieve a **4% higher net operating profit.**

Sites with higher numbers of certified staff initiate **three times as many trials** as sites with fewer certified staff.

(ACRP/CenterWatch Financial Operating Benchmark Report, 2014)

## COSTS

	ACRP Certification	SOCRA Certification
Initial Certification Application	\$450	\$450
Maintenance of Certification	\$215 (Every 2 Years)	\$350 (Every 3 Years)
<b>Average Annual Cost of Maintaining Certification</b>	<b>\$107.50</b>	<b>\$116.67</b>

	ACRP Certification	SOCRA Certification
<b>Open to Members and Non-Members</b>	ACRP Membership is not required.	Participation in SOCRA Certification program includes mandatory SOCRA membership.
<b>Specific to Job Roles</b>	Three distinct, role-specific programs (CRA, CRC, PI) validating required knowledge, skills, and abilities based on function, rather than job title. Each program's requirements validate that a certificant's experience reaches beyond general clinical research exposure.	One program, open to clinical researchers in any job role within clinical research, from data managers to PIs.
<b>Administered by Independent Board</b>	ACRP Certification programs are administered by the independent 501c(6) Academy of Clinical Research Professionals' Board of Trustees. The Academy's mission is to 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.	Administered by a Certification Committee.
<b>Linked to Fewer Protocol Deviations</b>	CCRC® and CPI® certification have the potential to increase protocol adherence and improve clinical trial quality through links to fewer protocol deviations (Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs, 2009).	No supporting data.
<b>Linked to More Favorable Outcomes from Regulatory Audits</b>	A positive correlation exists between the CPI® designation and favorable outcomes (NAI) for FDA audits according to the article CPI® Certification as Predictor of Clinical Investigators' Regulatory Compliance (Drug Information Journal, 2012).	No supporting data.
<b>Applicants Must Meet Eligibility Requirements</b>	At least 3,000 hours (approximately two years) performing essential, role-specific responsibilities, directly linked to competencies.	Two years full-time employment in clinical research.
<b>Exam Available Worldwide</b>	700+ test centers in 90+ countries; offered during 24-day testing windows, twice annually; candidates select appointment dates, times, and locations.	U.S. and Canada, some international locations, on specified dates, in single locations throughout the year.
<b>Continuing Education Required for Maintenance</b>	24 hours/points required every two years ( <b>12 points per year</b> ), with Continuing Education and Continuing Involvement options. Eight complimentary continuing education opportunities provided each maintenance cycle.	45 points of Continuing Education required every three years ( <b>15 points per year</b> ). No Continuing Involvement accepted.
<b>Certification Programs Reviewed and Updated</b>	The Academy every five years conducts a global Job Analysis Survey to ensure exams reflect current practice. The results validate the knowledge and skills needed within specific roles. Each program follows psychometric best practices and adheres to NCCA accreditation standards, in cooperation with the Academy's Test Development Specialists.	The certification exam content areas have been reviewed and validated through completion of a Job/Task Analysis. The exam is statistically and psychometrically validated by an independent consultant. The Certification Committee evaluates the results from the statistical/psychometric evaluations and updates the exam, as needed.
<b>TransCelerate Biopharma Recognized</b>	TransCelerate Biopharma, Inc. recognizes ACRP Certification as evidence of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training.	TransCelerate Biopharma, Inc. recognizes SOCRA Certification as evidence of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training.
<b>ANCC Magnet Recognized</b>	The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recognizes the CCRC® and CCRA® designations toward assisting a hospital in meeting requirements of its Magnet Recognition Program.	The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recognizes the CCRP designation toward assisting a hospital in meeting requirements of its Magnet Recognition Program.
<b>Accredited by Independent Body</b>	All three ACRP Certification programs accredited by The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA Standards ensure certification programs adhere to modern standards of practice, meaning they meet the highest standards for exam development, administration, and governance of certification and testing programs.	SOCRA's certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).