

Specialisation pathway at a glance for MENTOR COACH SPECIALIZATION (MCS)



WHY THE MCS?

- **Mentor coaching is a distinct discipline:** observing coaching, evaluating competence at the right credential level and providing developmental feedback.
- ICF created the MCS to strengthen consistency, quality, transparency and professional recognition.
- **For mentor coaches:** it provides a visible global standard for specialist expertise.
- **For coaches:** it makes it easier to identify appropriately prepared mentor coaches.

STANDARD PATH

- **Best for:** practitioners developing their mentor coaching practice or seeking structured preparation.
- **Education:** 41+ hours aligned with the ICF Mentor Coaching Competencies; at least 50% must be synchronous/live.
- **Evaluation training:** complete the relevant ACC BARS, PCC Markers and/or MCC BARS training (or equivalent).
- **Experience requirement:** none.
- ICF evaluation training counts toward the 41 hours as asynchronous education.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

- Digital badge for each approved MCS level.
- Listing on the ICF Mentor Coach Registry (unless you opt out).
- Visible recognition that your preparation and practice meet ICF mentor coaching standards.
- Eligibility to provide mentor coaching for ICF credential applicants and renewal candidates under the new requirements.

START

CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL

- **MCS-ACC:** active PCC or MCC, or a renewed ACC in good standing.
- **MCS-PCC:** active PCC or MCC in good standing.
- **MCS-MCC:** active MCC in good standing.
- You may apply for one, two or all three levels, depending on your credential and evaluation training.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

- **Best for:** experienced mentor coaches with a substantial existing practice.
- **Education:** 10+ hours aligned with the ICF Mentor Coaching Competencies; synchronous or asynchronous.
- **Evaluation training:** complete the relevant ACC BARS, PCC Markers and/or MCC BARS training (or equivalent). It does not count toward the 10 hours.
- **Experience:** mentor at least five individuals in the past three years who earned an ICF credential, or provide qualifying evidence from an ICF-accredited Level 1/2/3 program.
- Both application pathways lead to the same MCS designation.

APPLY AND RENEW

- **Application review:** estimated 4–8 weeks.
- **Introductory fee through Mar 2027:** \$50 ICF member / \$125 non-member. From April 2027: \$125 / \$200.
- **Multiple levels:** submit an application for each level, but only one application fee applies; ICF provides a code to waive subsequent level fees.
- **Renewal:** MCS is valid for 3 years. Maintain an active ICF credential and complete 10 hours of aligned continuing education. All MCS levels renew together.
- **Renewal fee:** \$100 member / \$200 non-member.

RESOURCES

Credentialing Path
Survey



UK ICF
Webinars

