



## PFCCS Faculty Continuum



### **PFCCS Course Instructor**

#### **What Are the Responsibilities of an PFCCS Instructor?**

Each licensed PFCCS course must be taught by at least two PFCCS-approved instructors, one of whom may be the course director. Becoming an PFCCS Instructor provides the committed individual with opportunities to educate others within his/her own community, as well as around the world.

It is recommended that provider courses serve as instructor identification courses, and that potential instructors are encouraged to participate in the instructor component of the course.

#### **What Is the PFCCS Instructor Curriculum?**

The PFCCS instructor curriculum consists of reading assignments and skill station tutorials, accompanied by discussion sessions, observation, and practice teaching during an PFCCS instructor course. As explained in the PFCCS Course Administration document, the instructor course may be embedded within the schedule of an PFCCS provider courses. Materials for holding an PFCCS instructor course are available on the [Licensed Activities Portal](#).

#### **How Does One Become an PFCCS Instructor?**

1. To become an PFCCS-approved instructor, an individual (referred to as “instructor candidate”) must apply for instructor status. Before submitting the application, an instructor candidate must complete one of these three pathways:
  - Successfully complete a PFCCS provider course (with  $\geq 80\%$  posttest score), including core skill stations, and complete the instructor curriculum.
  - Successfully complete a PFCCS provider course (with  $\geq 80\%$  posttest score), including core skill stations, and attend the Fundamentals Faculty Academy (FFA) course with successful completion of two core skills stations during the course.
  - Successfully complete a self-directed online PFCCS course (with  $\geq 80\%$  post-test score) and attend the FFA course with successful completion of two core skill stations during the FFA course.
2. After completing one of these pathways, the instructor application is available electronically on the [SCCM website](#).
3. With the instructor application, the instructor candidate must provide proof of the following:
  - Physicians
    - Critical care certification or activity, or board eligibility for certification
    - OR**
    - A  $\geq 50\%$  ratio of critical care practice\*, as supported by the letter from the medical or intensive care unit director\*\*

- Nurses
  - Baccalaureate degree with critical care certification  
**OR**
  - Graduate or higher degree with a ≥50% ratio of critical care practice\*, as supported by a letter from the medical or intensive care unit director\*\*
  
- Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners
  - Baccalaureate or higher degree with critical care certification  
**OR**
  - A ≥50% ratio of critical care practice\*, as supported by a letter from the medical or intensive care unit director\*\*
  
- Respiratory Therapists
  - Baccalaureate or higher degree with a ≥50% ratio of critical care practice\*, as supported by a letter from the medical or intensive care unit director\*\*
  
- Pharmacists
  - Baccalaureate or specialty degree in critical care  
**OR**
  - A ≥50% ratio of critical care practice\*, as supported by a letter from the medical or intensive care unit director\*\*

\**Critical care practice* refers to a didactic or education-based role focused on the critically ill or injured patient. The practice requirement ensures (as much as possible) that the instructor will be comfortable with the majority of lecture components and skill stations, and that he/she can answer participant questions with credibility.

\*\*Please use the [Practice Ratio letter](#).

4. Instructor candidates are also required to teach at least two PFCCS course components (didactic presentations and/or skill stations) within two years of instructor candidate application submission. The course date(s) and topics for these two components should be included on the application or emailed to [licensing@sccm.org](mailto:licensing@sccm.org).

### **What Is Required to Maintain the PFCCS Instructor Designation?**

After the application is submitted and approved, PFCCS instructors are required to continue **BOTH** of the following:

- Maintain certification, special/added qualifications or practice ratio in critical care
- Teach in at least one approved PFCCS course every two years

### **What Is the Associate Instructor Designation?**

Those who do not meet the criteria for becoming an PFCCS instructor but have significant experience in critical care may qualify for the PFCCS associate instructor designation. The criteria for associate instructors are:

- Successful completion of an PFCCS provider course
- Successful completion of the instructor curriculum component
- Submission of associate instructor application
- Significant clinical activity in critical care

## **FCCS Course Director**

### **What Are the Responsibilities of a PFCCS Course Director?**

The Course Director, with the assistance of the Course Coordinator, has the responsibility for planning, organizing, and conducting the PFCCS course. These responsibilities include applying to hold courses, selecting faculty, organizing course logistics, securing appropriate equipment, establishing participant registration processes, requesting necessary course resources, and providing CE/CME credits (if desired). The Course Director should also provide mentorship and guidance to instructors and coordinators.

It is the Course Director's responsibility to ensure that the course runs smoothly and is consistent with the goals, objectives, and vision of the SCCM. The Course Director may also fulfill the Course Coordinator role and can be considered one of the two required PFCCS Instructors or the primary instructor with two associate instructors.

### **How Does One Become an PFCCS Course Director?**

1. PFCCS instructors in good standing may apply to become a Course Director. The Course Director application is available electronically on the [SCCM website](#).
2. Before an PFCCS instructor submits the Course Director application, he/she must:
  - Teach in at least two PFCCS courses in the previous two years
  - Act as Course Director of at least one PFCCS course with the mentorship of an PFCCS Consultant
  - Obtain a [Course Director Letter of Recommendation](#), completed and signed by the observing PFCCS Consultant

### **What Is Required to Maintain the Course Director Designation?**

After the application is submitted and approved, Course Directors are required to continue the following:

- Maintain the certification, special/added qualifications, or critical care practice ratio required as an PFCCS instructor
- Direct or teach in at least one PFCCS course every two years
- Complete the Course Director responsibilities included above

## **PFCCS Course Consultant**

### **What Are the Responsibilities of an PFCCS Course Consultant?**

The Course Consultant is considered an expert in both critical care practice and the PFCCS program and has a duty to be very familiar with all aspects of the course and administration thereof. Responsibilities of the Course Consultant:

- Offer mentorship and guidance to first-time course directors and coordinators through weekly, biweekly, or monthly phone conferences
- Attend at least one day of a first-time PFCCS course (upon invitation)
- Assess the abilities and skills of first-time Course Directors to determine if they should be permitted to manage further courses without Consultant supervision.
- Debrief with the Course Director and Course Coordinator after the first or second day of the course. This debriefing will serve to finalize the relationship, evaluate the course, and discuss issues, concerns, and problems.

The Consultant may participate as a lecturer and be counted as one of the two required instructors. However, the Consultant may not act as the sole Instructor (even with two Associate Instructors) and should not lead skills stations, as that will inhibit his/her ability to evaluate all aspects of the course.

### **How Does One Become an PFCCS Course Consultant?**

1. PFCCS Course Directors in good standing may apply to become a Course Consultant. The Course Consultant application is available on the [SCCM website](#).
2. Before an PFCCS Course Director submits the Course Consultant application, he/she must:
  - Maintain SCCM membership
  - Teach or direct at least two PFCCS courses in the previous two years
  - Obtain a [Consultant Letter of Recommendation](#), completed and signed by an active PFCCS Consultant

### **What Is Required to Maintain the Course Consultant Designation?**

After the application is submitted and approved, Course Consultants are required to continue the following:

- Maintain SCCM membership
- Maintain the certification, special/added qualifications, or critical care practice ratio required as an PFCCS instructor
- Complete the Course Consultant responsibilities included above