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## Birth Doula Certification Requirements

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Hold a high school diploma, GED equivalency, or higher education.
3. Complete the self-paced study materials modules, including:
  - Doula Fundamentals
  - Childbirth Education Basics
  - Birth Doula Support Skills
  - Breastfeeding Basics for Doulas
4. Complete required reading checklist:
  - ✓ *The Birth Partner, 5th Edition*, by Penny Simkin
  - ✓ *Natural Hospital Birth, 2nd Edition*, by Cynthia Gabriel
  - ✓ [\*The Doula Business Guide, 4th Edition\*](#), by Patty Brennan
5. Pass the comprehensive Birth Doula online certification exam with a score of 85% or higher. When you have completed all the training requirements, email [patty@lifespandoulas.com](mailto:patty@lifespandoulas.com) to request access to the certification exam. The exam is open-book and self-paced. You can save your progress as you go and complete the test in multiple sessions if desired. You can take the exam as many times as necessary to achieve a passing grade.
6. Agree to abide by the Lifespan [Doula Scope of Practice](#).
7. [Complete and submit the online Birth Doula Certification Application](#). We will acknowledge receipt of your application within 24 hours of submission. Provided all requirements have been met, we will email your certificate within two weeks. Your certification has no expiration date. It is a lifetime certification.
8. Your training must be paid in full before we will award certification. If you are on a payment plan and can pay off your balance, please reach out to [patty@lifespandoulas.com](mailto:patty@lifespandoulas.com) to make arrangements. We ask that you wait to submit your application until your account is paid in full, but you can complete all the requirements and take the exam, so you are ready to submit the application as soon as that last payment goes through.

Thank you for pursuing certification as a Birth Doula with Lifespan Doulas. We are here to support you in this process. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your service in support of families during the childbearing year.

*Patty Brennan*