Scope of Practice for the
Advanced Lactation Consultant® (ALC®)
Advanced Nurse Lactation Consultant® (ANLC®)

Advanced Lactation Consultant (ALCs) and Advanced Nurse Lactation Consultants (ANLCs) are individuals who have successfully completed the Healthy Children Project's *Maternal and Infant Assessment* training program and the *Advanced Issues in Lactation Practice Management* training program and are certified by the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice (ALPP). They are clinical lactation care providers and qualified, professional members of the healthcare team.

ALCs and ANLCs have completed the required didactic education, hold the credential of Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) or International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), have demonstrated the competencies and skills required to provide safe, evidence-based support for pregnant, lactating and breastfeeding individuals, and have successfully passed a criterion-referenced examination. ALCs and ANLCs have an advanced education and competency level in the psychosocial and assessment skills. The rigorous competency-verification process required to sit for the Advanced Examination credentials is unique to the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice.

The purpose of the ALPP Advanced certification is to serve the public by identifying individuals who have advanced competencies in lactation management skills, clinical practice and knowledge.

Many individuals who hold the ALC or ANLC credential have other licenses and education, including nurses, peer counselors, doulas, dietitians, nutritionists, physicians, midwives, occupational and speech therapy, mental health counselors, etc. Because of the diverse background and training of ALCs and ANLCs, this listing does not encompass activities that many ALCs and ANLCs may conduct under the umbrella of other licensure, training, or knowledge.

ALCs and ANLCs have demonstrated the following:

1. Ability to construct and maintain conditions that predispose individuals to an uncomplicated breastfeeding experience through counseling, education and support.

2. Ability to monitor and evaluate behavioral, cultural and social conditions predisposing individuals to an uncomplicated breastfeeding experience.
3. Ability to assess for, monitor and evaluate physical conditions that predispose individuals to a complex breastfeeding experience.
4. Ability to monitor and evaluate behavioral, cultural and social conditions that predispose individuals to complex breastfeeding experiences.
5. Ability to apply knowledge of psychosocial characteristics of women as mothers to an appropriate plan of lactation care.
6. Ability to apply the mother's breastfeeding goals to an appropriate plan of care.
7. Ability to apply the lactation consulting process in the development of an appropriate care plan.
8. Ability to apply knowledge of the context of the mother's life and an appropriate care plan.
9. Ability to identify and advocate for aspects of breastfeeding management programs that facilitate optimal health outcomes.
10. Ability to assess breastfeeding using a multi-faceted approach.
11. Ability to use counseling skills and techniques that are supportive to breastfeeding individuals.
12. Ability to identify and advocate for public health strategies that serve to protect breastfeeding.
13. Ability to coordinate care consistent with standards of professional ethics and behavior.
14. Ability to assess physical, nutritional, and psychosocial aspects and the mental status of the breastfeeding dyad.
15. Ability to utilize reliable tools to assess affective/ineffective breastfeeding and milk transfer.
16. Ability to incorporate evidence-based approaches to clinical practice and make appropriate referrals operating on the continuum of the health care team.

Thus, the ALC or ANLC has demonstrated readiness to:

1. Assess the needs of individuals who are at risk of, or currently experiencing lactation difficulties, providing care and triaging referral to other care providers as needed.
2. Develop an evidence-based care plan specific to the needs identified through assessment and counseling.
3. Conduct comprehensive assessment of individuals and their babies related to breastfeeding.
4. Counsel and educate pregnant individuals and new parents regarding breastfeeding.
5. Promote breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding and care.
6. Provide care supportive of the whole family constellation when providing counseling.
7. Work collaboratively within the health care team.

8. Maintain knowledge and skills through regular continuing education.
9. Report safety issues to the appropriate authority, following the laws relating to confidentiality; Maintain strict client confidentiality as outlined in the ALPP Code of Ethics.
10. Report violations of the Scope of Practice as outlined in the ALPP Code of Ethics.
11. Disclose any financial or other conflicts of interest in relevant organizations providing goods or services. Ensure that professional judgment is not influenced by any commercial considerations as outline in the ALPP Code of Ethics.
12. Notify ALPP if convicted of criminal misconduct as outlined in the ALPP Code of Ethics.
13. Notify ALPP if sanctioned by another profession as outlined in the ALPP Code of Ethics