

ISSA vs. The Competitors

| | ISSA | NASM | ACE | ACSM | NSCA |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Full Name | The International Sports Science Association | National Academy of Sports Medicine | American Council on Exercise | American College of Sports Medicine | National Strength and Conditioning Association |
| First Personal Trainer Certification | 1988 | 1989 | 1991 | 1994 | 1993 |
| Best if you are | Passionate about fitness and want professional and practical programming to get results | Graduate of an exercise science or related program and want a scientific-style model for training | Group exercise enthusiast who wants to add general personal training concepts to group classes | Exercise science or related student in a college program also want a certification on top of a degree | Graduates of college programs in exercise science who want to work with athletes |
| Free Professional Website | Included Free | Only at premium packages | Not Available | Not Available | Not Available |
| Unlimited Lifetime Support | Included Free | Not Available | Not Available | Not Available | Not Available |
| Job Guarantee | Included Free | Only at premium packages | Not Available | Not Available | Not Available |
| Better Business Rating | A+ | A+ | A+ | A+ | A+ |
| Number of Reviews | 8,389 | 897 | 586 | 724 | 580 |
| TrustPilot Reviews | 4.8 of 5 | | | | |
| Facebook Reviews | 4.8 of 5 | 4.2 of 5 | 4.6 of 5 | 4.7 of 5 | 4.0 of 5 |
| Yelp Reviews | | 1.5 of 5 | | | |
| Review Link | TrustPilot | Yelp | Facebook | Facebook | Facebook |
| NCCPT Accredited Exam Offered | Included Free | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Typical Review Description | "Great support - in-depth and robust materials" | "Very tough exam - poor customer service" | "Good beginner-level certification" | "Lacking in study materials" | "For the strength and conditioning focused" |
| Exam Time | Unlimited | 120 mins | 180 mins | 120 mins | 180 mins |
| Exam Passing Score | 75% | 70% | 62.5% | 68.75% | 70% |
| Exam Pass Rate | 90% | 64% | 65% | 54% | 58% |
| Retest | Two free retests | \$199 | \$199 | \$175 | Members: \$300 Nonmembers: \$435 |
| Re-certification | Every two years | Every two years | Every two years | Every three years | Every three years |
| Re-certification CEUs | 20 hours | 20 hours | 20 hours | 45 hours | 20 hours |
| Re-certification Cost | Free with ISSA CEUs | \$99 | \$129 | \$45 | \$90 |

*Last Updated May 1, 2020