

# OHIO PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF CERTIFICATION: Frequently Asked Questions About OLC's Newest Certification Program

The Ohio Public Library Staff Certification is a program provided by the Ohio Library Council. This certification provides recognition to non-MLIS library staff for commitment to continuing education, the library profession, and the Ohio library community.

## Who is eligible for certification?

All non-MLIS public library employees are eligible to apply for this certification, providing they have:

- A high school degree, or equivalency, **and**
- Two years of experience working in a library **and**
- Ten credit hours of approved continuing education experience within the past two years.

## Why get certified? What will it do for me?

Public Library Staff Certification is designed to encourage and recognize library staff members who seek out educational opportunities that help them stay on top of new trends, support career development, enhance leadership skills, improve services to patrons, strengthen the profession, give the library credibility, and grow professional networks. This credential will demonstrate to your supervisors and potential employers that you are serious about your career and have made a commitment to pursue continuing education opportunities.

## What is the cost of certification?

The cost for initial certification is \$15 for OLC members and \$30 for non-members. Individuals interested in certification may want to check with their employer to see if part or all of the certification cost may be covered by the library.

## What will I receive when I become certified?

Certified Public Library Staff will receive a personalized certificate and a lapel pin.

## How long does initial certification last?

Ohio Public Library Staff Certification is valid for five years from the date of initial certification.

## What is required for re-certification?

During the initial five year period, individuals must earn 50 hours of documented continuing education credit in order to apply for re-certification. These credits are earned from activities such as attending conferences, participating in webinars, and taking part in staff training sessions. The cost of re-certification is \$15 for OLC members and \$25 for non-members.

## Where can I go to find more information?

For more information about certification, please visit [olc.org](http://olc.org) or contact the OLC office at (614) 410-8092 or [olc@olc.org](mailto:olc@olc.org). Professional Development Committee members will be available to answer your questions at OLC events.