

Conversation with a Certified Licensing Professional (CLP) – Mihaela D. Bojin, PhD, University of Iowa Research Foundation

Mihaela D. Bojin, PhD, is Associate Director of the University of Iowa Research Foundation where her responsibilities include intellectual capital management – licensing, marketing, strategic partnering, and policy development. Dr. Bojin initially earned the CLP credential in 2016 and is a member of the CLP Exam Development and Maintenance Committee, which is responsible for ongoing exam development efforts.



You initially earned the CLP credential in 2016. What motivated your decision to pursue CLP certification?

When I pursued the credential, I was interested in adding a professional credential to recognize my expertise. Getting certified is a rigorous process that required professional experience and passing a comprehensive exam. Holding the CLP credential lends more professional authority, given that this community is fairly small.

I think certification is important, particularly in areas where a single degree may not be sufficient to demonstrate expertise. Often licensing professionals have graduate degrees in technical fields, legal, and/or business areas, but rarely do they have degrees in all three. Thus, certification is key to identify licensing professionals that are knowledgeable and experienced in all areas.

What is your advice for other individuals who are considering pursuing CLP certification?

I strongly encourage it. This certification provides additional standing because getting certified requires not only passing a difficult and comprehensive exam covering a wide variety of topics but also professional experience in licensing.

To prepare for the exam, I read texts covering the CLP content domains, took professional development courses (LES University, AUTM, negotiation, and valuation courses), and drew from my professional experience.

How has your employer supported its employees regarding the CLP certification process and what motivated those decisions?

The University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF) is exceptionally supportive of professional development. Our staff attends conferences and professional development events, which are critical for us given the geographical distance from our peers.

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While CLP certification is not required for employment, it is a “great to have.” UIRF has supported my efforts to earn and maintain CLP certification by enabling me to attend conferences, events, organize meetings, and draft articles related to licensing that helped in my initial certification efforts and allow me to earn continuing education credits for recertification. I think the decision to provide this support is driven by my interest in maintaining this certification and by the credibility associated with it.

You have been certified for four years and completed the recertification process once (required every three years to maintain the credential). Do you have any closing thoughts about the investment you have made in your professional development?

I think obtaining this certification is an excellent opportunity for licensing professionals to maintain and continue their education in areas where they already have strong expertise and to expand knowledge in areas in which they might not be as experienced. These three letters – CLP – are a quick way of identifying those capable individuals that will be excellent business partners or employees.