

**ICF-LA Credentialing SIG, April 16, 2026**  
**Led by Carly Anderson, MCC and Nina Rubin, PCC**

**Handout for Learning Focus: Competency #5: Maintains Presence**

**Core Competency Definition**

*Is fully conscious and present with the client, employing a style that is open, flexible, grounded and confident.*

**From ACC, PCC and MCC Minimum Skills Requirement documents:**

**The key coaching skills across all levels for Competency 5: Maintains Presence:**

- The coach remains engaged and responsive to the client throughout the session.
- The coach remains curious and observant of the client.
- The coach intentionally provides space for reflection.
- The coach remains present through both conversation and silence.
- The coach partners with the client throughout the session.

**Behaviors assessed at ACC skill level**

- Coach is observant and responsive to the client.
- Coach demonstrates curiosity about the client, or their agenda, or both.
- Coach provides space for the client to lead during the session.
- Coach is silent to allow time for the client to reflect.

**Behaviors assessed at PCC skill level**

- Coach acts in response to the whole person of the client (the who).
- Coach acts in response to what the client wants to accomplish throughout this session (the what).
- Coach partners with the client by supporting the client to choose what happens in this session.
- Coach demonstrates curiosity to learn more about the client.
- Coach allows for silence, pause, or reflection.

**Behaviors assessed at MCC skill level**

- Coach responds holistically to the client in a manner that keeps the conversation flowing.
- Coach partners with the client in ways that support the client's needs.
- Coach consistently demonstrates curiosity.
- Coach creates space for silence, pause, or reflection.