

APRN CREDENTIALS

Credentials are titles and initials that are used after the name of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to designate the following: highest earned academic (or educational) degree in or related to nursing, nursing licensure credentials, and state designations that recognize the authority to practice as an APRN. The following are consistent with the APRN Consensus Model and are in accordance with sections 4723.01 and 4723.03 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) as well as section 4723-8-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC):

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
- Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

APRNs must use these credentials on legal documents, such as prescriptions and in medical records. There are a few exceptions to the standard credentials. For additional legally recognized credentials, please see section 4723.03 of the ORC and section 4723-8-03 of the OAC.

Doctoral Degrees

- DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice
- PhD Doctor of Philosophy (in Nursing)
- JD Juris Doctor
- EdD Doctor of Education

NOTE: Sometimes the educational title of “Doctor” or “Dr.” is used before the APRN’s name if the APRN, for example, has a PhD in nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The use of this educational title is not prohibited in the Ohio nursing laws and rules.

Master’s Degrees

- MS Master of Science (in Nursing)
- MSN Master of Science in Nursing
- MEd Master in Education

Nursing Licensure Credentials

- RN Registered Nurse

After the successful passage of an APRN national certification examination, the respective national certifying organization awards the APRN a credential that is based upon the type of APRN role and specific population. For examples of national certification credentials used in conjunction with the “APRN” credential, please see the list of APRN credentials accompanying this document. While other credentials may exist, national certifying organizations are changing their certification examinations (and credentials) to align with the APRN Consensus Model. To read more about the APRN Consensus Model visit the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website:

<https://www.ncsbn.org/736.htm>

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National Certifying Organization	Credentials
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP)	Nurse Practitioner-Certified (NP-C) Adult Nurse Practitioner-Certified (ANP-C) Family Nurse Practitioner-Certified (FNP-C) Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner-Certified (A-GNP-C)
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Certification Corporation	Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certified-Adult-Gerontology (ACNPC-AG) Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist-Adult-Gerontology (ACCNS-AG) Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist-Pediatric (ACCNS-P) Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist-Neonatal (ACCNS-N)
American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)	Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)
American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (AGACNP-BC) Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (AGPCNP-BC) Family Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (FNP-BC) Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (PPCNP-BC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (PMHNP-BC) Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist-Board Certified (AGCNS-BC) Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist-Board Certified (PCNS-BC)
Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC)	Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (ACHPN) (Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist)
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
National Certification Corporation (NCC)	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (NNP-BC) Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (WHNP-BC)
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)	Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP) Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS)