

MICRO-CREDENTIAL COMPREHENSIVE COMPARISON

	MICRO-CREDENTIAL	CERTIFICATION	CONTINUING EDUCATION
What is it?	Validates a <i>focused</i> subset of specialized knowledge, skills or competencies based on U.S. practice standards	Validates a <i>comprehensive</i> body of knowledge associated with a specialty practice	Indicates the completion of a <i>learning activity</i> and may or may not include a learning assessment
Who is it for?	Healthcare professionals providing an aspect of acute/critical care that requires specialized knowledge to deliver care safely and effectively	Licensed RNs and APRNs working in acute, progressive or critical care who meet the defined eligibility requirements for a specific certification exam	Healthcare professionals in a variety of roles
How is it earned?	By passing a micro-credential exam.	By passing a certification exam. Candidates must meet specific practice hour and licensing eligibility criteria in order to apply for the exam.	Completion of the educational activity. May include a post-test or a program evaluation.
What is the value?	Validates specific clinical knowledge in a defined area of practice.	Demonstrates that you have met rigorous standards, confirming your knowledge in a specialty area of practice.	Required for continued licensure and for certification renewal. May be used on resumes and volunteer applications to enhance marketability.
Are there renewal requirements?	No	Yes	No
Is it accredited?	No	Yes	No (A sponsor may be accredited to grant CE but the associated learning assessment is not accredited.)
How is it displayed?	Added to your resume, CV and/or online profile; not listed after your name in signature lines	Listed after your name following your degree(s) and RN/APRN license	Not displayed; tracked for professional development
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ COVID-19 Pulmonary and Ventilator Care ★ Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) ★ Sepsis 	CCRN, PCCN, CMC, CSC, ACNPC-AG, ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-P, ACCNS-N	Continuing education hours (CE, CNE, CME) or recognition points (CERP) after an education activity.