

	Certification	Micro-Credential	Certificate Program
What is it?	Validates a comprehensive body of knowledge associated with a specialty practice	Validates a focused subset of knowledge, skills, and/or competencies	An educational course (typically online self-study) followed by a post-assessment
How is it earned?	Must meet eligibility criteria and candidate must pass the certification exam	There are no eligibility criteria and candidate must pass the micro-credential exam	There are no eligibility criteria and candidate must take an educational course and pass the post-assessment
Who is this for?	Licensed RNs or APRNs who meet the eligibility requirements for the exam	Healthcare providers providing care in a specific subspecialty	Healthcare providers and other medical professionals
Is there an educational component/CE Hours earned?	No, there is no educational material provided. This is solely an exam-based certification	No, there is no educational material provided. This is solely an exam-based micro-credential	Yes, there is an educational course (typically online) that candidates must complete followed by a post-assessment that is specific to the educational content. Candidates who complete the course and pass the post-assessment will earn CE hours based on the length of the online course
What is the value?	Demonstrates that you have met rigorous standards, confirming your knowledge in a specialty area of practice	Validates specific clinical knowledge to manage patients in the specific subspecialty and enhances your marketability	Demonstrates that you have acquired the knowledge and skills specific to the educational content of the course
Is it accredited?	Yes	No	No, however, organizations that accredit specialty units (i.e. NAEC) may endorse the certificate program as meeting the staff educational needs to be accredited. <i>(AANN may be granted authority to provide CE by an accrediting body, but the ABNN post-assessment itself is not reviewed or validated by the accreditor.)</i>
Are there titling privileges?	Yes, the credential letters are listed after your name	No	No, however, candidates may list under their name that they are a “certificate holder” as a [certificate program] healthcare professional
Are there renewal requirements?	Yes, renewal is required typically every 5 years. Candidates can renew by earning CE contact hours or by retaking the exam	Not necessarily, however, organizations may require a renewal if practice in this particular subspecialty changes on a 3-5 year basis	Not necessarily, however, organizations may require a renewal if practice in this particular subspecialty changes on a 3-5 year basis
Examples	ABNN’s CNRN, SCRN programs	AACN’s COVID-19 Pulmonary & Ventilator Care	AANN & ABNN’s Seizure & Epilepsy Certificate Program