

How to list your credentials

A guide to displaying your credentials in the proper order.



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Nurses work hard to earn their academic, licensure, certification, and professional honors. Listing credentials according to national standards enhances credibility, educational integrity, and consumer confidence in nursing. The goal of this guide is to honor Kaiser Permanente nurses for their career accomplishments while aligning with established industry standards.

How should I list my credentials?

The standard order is:

- Highest earned degree
- Relevant non-nursing degree
- Nursing licensure
- State designations or requirements
- National certifications
 - A certification required for licensure is listed first, such as an advanced practice certification.
 - If there is more than one certification, the nursing certification is listed first
- Awards, honors, and fellowships
- Other recognitions

Examples of Credentials:

Mary Brown, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, CCRN-K
Betsy Jones, DNP, ANP, RN, CCNS, CCRN-CSC-CMC
Rob Stone, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACNPC, CCRN, FCCM
Ruth Smith, BSN, RN, PCCN
Julia Trujillo, BSN, BA, RN, CCRN, RRT
Laura Boutah, MS, BSN, RN, CENP
Jim O'Keefe, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN
Katherine Oakley, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CEN

Doctoral Candidate: Anne Day, DNP(c), RN, NEA-BC
Honorary Degrees: Marie Cruz, DNP, RN, PhD(h)

Reference: [American Nurses Credentialing Center Flier](#)

Why Is This Order Recommended?

1. Education degree comes first because once conferred, they are typically for life
2. Licensure and state designations / requirements identify authority to practice
3. National certification is awarded through accredited certifying bodies
4. Awards, honors, and fellowships are formal recognition for outstanding career achievement(s)

What If I Have More Than One of the Same Type of Credential?

List the highest education degree first, for example, Michael Anderson, PhD, MSN. In most cases, one degree is enough, but if your second degree is in another relevant field, you may choose to list it. For example, a nurse executive might choose Charlie Gordon, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC. A nurse whose highest degree is non-nursing might choose to list that degree first followed by their highest nursing degree, such as Anne Peterson, MEd, BSN, RN. If you have a doctorate or a master's degree in nursing, you should omit your baccalaureate degree.

Multiple nursing certifications may be listed in the order you prefer but consider listing them in order of relevance to your practice. Always list non-nursing certifications last.

For questions, contact the [Nurse Scholars Academy](#) at kpursescholars@kp.org