The average Purdue Global military student is awarded 54% of the credits needed for an associate's and 45% of the credits needed for a bachelor's. Most Commonly Searched: Most Commonly Searched: Nursing certification demonstrates a level of expertise in a specific discipline of health care. According to the American Board of Nursing Specialties, more than 1 million nurses hold one or more nursing specialty credentials. In addition, according to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, there are approximately 355,000 board certified nurse practitioners in the U.S. practicing in various primary care and acute care specialties. If you enjoy a specific nursing discipline, getting certified in that specialty may help you reach your goals. Learn what earning a nursing certification entails and how it could benefit you. Certification programs are created by or sponsored by professional associations and trade organizations. Certifications are earned through an assessment process and, depending on the credentialing organization, may need to be renewed every few years. Certification differs from state licensure, which defines the scope and role of an individual to practice professional nursing. However, some state boards of nursing (such as Minnesota and California) also offer certifications, and separate requirements could be necessary to keep the certification up to date in addition to, or in lieu of, the nursing license. Certification credentials provided by professional and trade organizations are nationally recognized and portable, meaning they are valid at any hospital or organization in any state. Earning a nursing certification shows a commitment to excellence. It demonstrates that you are dedicated to a certain subject area and that you took the time to educate yourself further in the field. Many hospitals and physicians' offices encourage their nursing employees to become certified in their chosen fields, as it may reduce a nurse's exposure to risk. In addition, some nursing certifications are becoming mandatory, such as those required for nurse practitioners. Certification can also provide more opportunities for further educational and career advancement opportunities.\* It shows that you meet national standards, which is attractive to employers. Certified nurses can work in various settings and with many different patient groups. Dozens of certifications are available for a nurse to earn and maintain, including family nurse practitioner (FNP), certified pediatric nurse (CPN), advanced oncology certified nurse (AOCN), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP). A number of new certifications in case management, nursing education, and professional development have also recently opened up for nurses. Getting certified is more than just a confirmation of your knowledge. It’s an indication of your competence and performance to administrators, colleagues, managers, and patients. This certification can also boost nurses’ confidence in their own decision making, which can help better job performance. After spending hours providing high-quality care, being certified is a validation of expertise. Certification is closely tied to improved patient care, according to several reputable organizations: There are dozens of nursing certifications available. Below, we give you a list of almost 30 certification boards; in addition, read: