

Which Resume Writing Certification Is Best For You?

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There are so many different resume certifications that it's confusing to understand the similarities, the differences, and which is best for YOU. Different certifications fit different people and their different needs and aspirations. This overview will help clarify.

The first question to ask yourself is why you want a certification. Is it to become trained as an expert resume writer who has the confidence and expertise to charge the "big bucks," or is it more about attracting clients? Either answer is fine! Credentials after your name instantly communicate a message of credibility to prospective clients, and that is a great thing!

Once you know the reason you want a credential, then you can decide which is best for you. All of the credentials are quite different in complexion, level of difficulty, and more. Here's a quick overview:

- The **Resume Writing Academy** awards the Academy Certified Resume Writer (ACRW) credential after you've completed a rigorous training program with classes, homework assignments, and multiple writing projects. RWA's objective is to train great resume writers, and it takes time, effort, and real commitment on your part. There is no renewal required for this credential. Once you have earned your ACRW, you have it for life as we assume you will only continue to get better and even more confident. Course registration and credential: \$2295. Complete details: <http://www.resumewritingacademy.com/rwa.php>
- The **Career Thought Leaders Consortium** awards the distinguished Master Resume Writer (MRW) credential. Requirements include submission of a prescribed portfolio of resumes and cover letters, along with an English language and grammar test. The size of the portfolio will depend on your existing resume industry certifications. \$299 for initial credential. \$99 for renewal every 2 years. Details: <http://www.careerthoughtleaders.com/mrw/mrw-credential/>
- The **National Resume Writers' Association** awards the Nationally Certified Resume Writer credential to those who meet its 4-step certification process. This involves earning CEUs, submitting a sample resume and cover letter, and completing an English grammar test and a writing test. Note that you must be a member of NRWA to be awarded this credential. I could not find pricing but did note that the NCRW must be renewed every 3 years. Details: <http://www.thenrwa.com/CareerExperts/Certification.asp>
- The **Professional Association of Resume Writers** offers the Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW) designation, the oldest resume-writing credential in our industry. It was the first that so many of us earned. It's reasonably priced with 4 modules (multiple-choice test, English language test, essays, resume writing projects). \$225 for initial certification. Check the website for renewal information and fees. Details: <http://www.parw.com/pdf/PARWCC-CPRW-Info.pdf>
- **Career Directors International** offers 5 resume-writing credentials, the most recognizable of which is the CARW – Certified Advanced Resume Writer (CARW). Two of CDI's certifications are specific to military resume writing. Because there are so many options, it's best to check the website for details about the requirements, which include sample resumes and cover letters, essays, testing, and more. Prices begin at \$200 and go up from there. Details: <http://www.careerdirectors.com/cert.htm#r>
- The **Resume Place** offers federal resume training through a number of different program options taught by Kathryn Troutman, Diane Burns, and their team of instructors. Get all of the information about their programs: <http://www.fedjobtraining.com/>