

Tip Sheet: ORCID ID Error Messages and How to Fix Them

If you see an **ORCID-related error or warning** in eRA Commons when identifying yourself or others, it usually means the ORCID ID is not properly linked to your eRA Commons account or there's a mismatch between accounts.

Most common ORCID-related errors/warnings [The ORCID ID](#)

- **“ORCID ID already linked”** – You cannot link the same ORCID to more than one eRA Commons account. If you see this, you must contact the **eRA Service Desk** to unlink the ORCID from another account before re-linking.
 - **Note:** eRA Commons is encouraging people to consolidate multiple accounts. I might put the link here. [Consolidate Multiple eRA Commons Accounts | eRA](#)
- **“ORCID not linked”** – Your ORCID is not connected to your Commons profile. You must follow the link in **Personal Profile** → **Create or Connect Your ORCID ID** and authorize NIH/eRA Commons access.
- **“ORCID mismatch”** – The ORCID in your Commons profile does not match the one in your NIH Biographical Sketch (SciENcv). This can cause warnings in NIH ASSIST during application review.
- **“ORCID unavailable”** – The ORCID is not recognized or cannot be retrieved from your Commons account.

How to fix ORCID link issues

1. Log into eRA Commons and go to **Personal Profile**.
2. Click **Create or Connect Your ORCID ID**.
3. If you have an ORCID:
 - Sign in at orcid.org and authorize NIH/eRA Commons access - found under your profile as *“Trusted Parties.”*
4. If you don't have an ORCID:
 - Register at orcid.org (provide primary email, optional backup, password, and employment info).
 - Authorize NIH/eRA Commons access.
5. Once linked, your ORCID will appear in your Commons profile and can be clicked to view your record.

If you already have an ORCID linked to another Commons account:

- Contact the **eRA Service Desk**, [Need Help? eRA](#) to unlink it from the other account before re-linking to yours.

If you see a mismatch warning in ASSIST:

- Check that the ORCID in your Commons profile matches the one in your SciENcv biosketch.
- If it doesn't, update the SciENcv record to match the Commons ORCID, or re-link the ORCID to Commons if needed.

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Tip: If you have already created NIH Commons Forms in SciENcv but the ORCID link was not finalized, you can re-certify the document in SciENcv, re-download, and re-upload into ASSIST to clear the error.

When to contact eRA Service Desk:

- ORCID already linked to another Commons account.
- Cannot complete ORCID link due to authentication issues.
- Need to remove an ORCID from Commons.
- Investigating ORCID mismatch warnings in ASSIST

By ensuring your ORCID is correctly linked to your eRA Commons account and matching across systems, you can avoid ORCID-related errors and warnings in both eRA Commons and NIH ASSIST.

Note:

Additional Instructions for Fellowship:

For NIH fellowship applications, the personal profile associated with the eRA Commons username entered in the Credential field for the PD/PI (fellowship applicant) must include an ORCID iD (e.g., orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789) to pass NIH validation requirements.

Additional Instructions for Career Development:

For NIH Individual career development award applications, the personal profile associated with the eRA Commons username entered in the Credential field for the PD/PI (candidate) must include an ORCID iD (e.g., orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789) to pass NIH validation requirements.

Additional Instructions for Trainees:

For NIH trainees, the Personal Profile associated with the eRA Commons user ID must be linked to an ORCID iD (e.g., orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789) in order to pass NIH validation requirements.