



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATION / ADMISSION FOR NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Q. When is your deadline for applications?

A. All application materials must be received by September 1.

Q. Are there any prerequisite courses that I must take before admission?

A. There are no prerequisite courses; however, upon acceptance into the School of Nursing Graduate Program, students may begin taking graduate-level core classes. Taking the core courses early will allow the student more time to focus on nurse anesthesia courses and clinical rotations during the program.

Q. Is there a part-time study option?

A. No, only a full-time program is offered.

Q. Do you accept any graduate transfer credit?

A. The School of Nursing can accept up to 20 credit hours for the nurse anesthesia program from outside institutions. However, courses must be **approved** for transfer by our Graduate Program Office. Please email Susan Bradford sb14@uakron.edu for more information.

Q. Do you interview candidates that were in previous anesthesia programs?

A. No, the program does not accept or interview candidates from previously admitted anesthesia programs.

Q. Are there any graduate-level core classes that I can take as a non-degree student status while waiting to hear if I am accepted into the program?

A. No. You must be fully accepted into the School of Nursing to begin taking courses.

Q. What times are classes offered?

A. Nurse Anesthesia classes are taught one day per week. Nursing core courses are all online with the exception of Advanced Physiological Concepts in Health Care I and II which is offered on Monday mornings.

Q. Are any courses offered online?

A. Yes only some core; 8200:603, 606, 607, & 619

Q. Is the GRE required?

A. The GRE is **not** required for admission.

Q. Is the CCRN certification required?

A. Yes; the CCRN certificate must be submitted before the interview.

Q. Is there a substitution for the CCRN?

A. The CCRN is a requirement and cannot be substituted by CEN, RN-C, etc. The CCRN is one of many criteria that we use to evaluate eligibility for admission into the Nurse Anesthesia program. The personal interview, grades, recommendations, and experience are all evaluated individually.

Q. How many students are accepted each year?

A. The number accepted each year depends upon the number of qualified applicants interviewed and the number of clinical slots available. This number varies from year to year. Typically 32-40 students per year are accepted.

ADMISSION INTERVIEWS

Q. When do admission interviews take place?

A. Candidates interview in mid-October.

Students admitted into the nurse anesthesia program will begin anesthesia course work in June of the following year.

Q. I was not accepted and wished to reapply. What is the process?

A. Contact the Nurse Anesthesia Program office and ask to have your file re-activated for the next class; ask how you can strengthen your application.

Q. What is the length of the program?

A. 27 months

Q. When are interviews held?

A. Annually (October)

Q. How many applicants are interviewed each year?

A. 80-95

Q. What is the average GPA of those accepted into the program?

A. 3.65

Q. How many students are admitted?

A. 32-40

Q. What should I be prepared to discuss in the admission interview?

A. Applicants should anticipate that interviewers will ask a broad range of questions that attempt to elicit the applicant's understanding of the nurse anesthetist's role, motivation, goals, and leadership potential as well as clinical knowledge. Clinical knowledge includes (but is not limited to) ventilator management, ABGs, vasoactive pharmacology, lab values, hemodynamics, cardiac, respiratory, and neurophysiology.

CRITICAL CARE EXPERIENCE

Q. What is the average range in years of critical care experience of those accepted into the program?

A. 2 to 6 years

Q. What types of critical care experience are accepted? Which are preferred?

A. Critical care experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories, or a U.S. military hospital outside of the United States. During this experience, the registered professional nurse has developed critical decision making and psychomotor skills, competency in patient assessment, and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring techniques.

A. A critical care area is defined as one where, on a routine basis, the registered professional nurse manages one or more of the following: invasive hemodynamic monitors (such as pulmonary artery catheter, CVP, arterial); cardiac assist devices; mechanical ventilation; and vasoactive infusions. Examples of critical care units may include but are not limited to: Surgical Intensive Care, Cardiothoracic Intensive care, Coronary Intensive Care and Medical Intensive Care

Q. I've only been in the ICU for three months, am I eligible for an interview?

A. No. You must have obtained the CCRN certification before being granted an interview, and that certification requires a minimum of 1750 hours of critical care experience to become eligible. Although one year of adult critical care experience is required before the interview, the Admissions Committee highly recommends two years.

Q. What type of ICU experience is best?

A. One year of **adult** ICU experience is required in a U.S. or Federal hospital before the interview.

Critical care experience provides applicants with experience in interpretation of invasive monitors, titration of vasoactive infusions, management of ventilated patients, and care of acutely ill patients (should frequently be part of your daily care given to patients).

A. The operating room, PACU, emergency room, catheter laboratory, and telemetry unit experiences are not accepted as critical care experience. (Flight nursing experience could be accepted only if the applicant has prior ICU experience and actively manages patients on ventilators and vasoactive drips during transports).

CLINICAL SITES

Q. How are clinical sites assigned?

A. Upon acceptance, you are asked to rank clinical site preferences. We attempt to place students at clinical sites that are within a reasonable driving distance from their homes.

A. Students residing in the Columbus area will do a one-month OB specialty rotation in Cleveland or Akron and a one-month CV specialty rotation in Youngstown.

Q. What is the difference between primary clinical sites and a clinical enrichment site?

A. The primary clinical sites are where the majority of cases are received and where you will spend the majority of your clinical. Most clinical sites do not have all types of cases needed to meet the requirements for training; therefore, most students are required to spend time at other clinical sites for specialty cases (OB, CV, and pediatrics). OB and CV rotations are 4-6 weeks in length; pediatrics 12 weeks.

Q. Where do students do clinical?

A. Students participate in clinical experiences at CCF Akron General Medical Center, Aultman Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, Chardon Surgery Center, UH Elyria Medical Center, Lakewest Hospital, Genesis Health System, Fulton County Health Center, Grandview Medical Center, Southview Medical Center, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, MetroHealth, Mt. Carmel Grove City Hospital, Mt. Carmel New Albany Hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital, OSU Main & East Medical Center, UH Parma Community Hospital, Pomerene Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Hospital, ProMedica Flower Hospital, ProMedica Children's Hospital, UH Portage Medical Center, Summa Barberton Hospital, UH St. John Medical Center, Summa Akron City Hospital, Crystal Clinic Saint Thomas, Crystal Clinic Montrose, Surgical Center of Southwoods, Salem Regional Medical Center, Tripoint Hospital, Union Hospital, Louis Stokes VA, Trumbull Regional Memorial Hospital, Western Reserve Hospital, and Wooster Community Hospital.

A. Students will administer anesthesia for patients of all ages with a variety of pre-existing conditions undergoing a full spectrum of surgical and diagnostic procedures. Clinical experiences include elective and emergent procedures, OB, cardiac, ICU, regional peripheral nerve blocks, and pediatric rotations.

MISCELLANEOUS

Q. Is financial aid available?

A. Applicants should contact the Financial Aid Office at 330-972-7032 to learn about typical sources of graduate student financial aid. The AANA Foundation awards more than 50 scholarships for nurse anesthesia students. Requirements for each scholarship and the amounts awarded vary.

Q. What is the employment rate for your most recent graduates?

A. 100% of graduates were offered and accepted employment within six months of graduation.

Q. Does the program offer an in-program review for the certification exam?

A. Yes, there is an in-program review course and practice exam in the final semester of the program. Students are also required to take the SEE exam during the program. This allows the student to identify areas of weaknesses and assist in preparation for the NCE.

Q. Can I work for the first two semesters?

A. Yes, you may continue to work in your critical care unit on a part-time basis, but not in the second year of the program.

Q. How do I spend time with a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) observing cases?

A. It is highly recommended that you contact a CRNA in your facility regarding the observation of an anesthesia provider. Some facilities are reticent to allow outside individuals to observe due to HIPAA regulations; however, it is typically easier to observe in the facility where you are an employee than another facility. (Due to COVID-19 crisis this will not be a requirement for 2020 application)

Q. If I receive my MSN and become a CRNA, will I have to obtain my DNP after 2025 to practice as a CRNA?

A. No, any anesthesia program where you become a CRNA with an MSN will be able to work as a practicing CRNA for your entire career.

Q. When will all CRNA programs be a doctoral program?

A. All programs must graduate their students with a DNP by 2025. Therefore, the 2022 incoming class will be entering under our DNP course work and no longer be a master's degree.

Q. Where do I get answers to my questions?

A. Please email your questions to Valerie Cox at vcox@uakron.edu