



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATION / ADMISSION FOR NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Q. When is your deadline for applications?

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

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

A. Yes: STAT 661 Stats for Life Sciences or equivalent graduate-level statistics course. Receives no credit toward the degree. The Graduate-level statistics course is compulsory; however, taking it before applying to or being accepted into the School of Nursing is unnecessary. 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?

Up to fifty percent of the total graduate credits above the baccalaureate required in a doctoral program may be transferred from an accredited college or university, including The University of Akron. All transfer credits must be at the "A" or "B" level in graduate courses. However, courses must be approved for transfer by our Graduate Program Office. Please email Susan Bradford at sb14@uakron.edu for more information on the specific amount that can be transferred.

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

A. 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 take courses.

Q. What times are classes offered?

A. Nurse Anesthesia classes are taught one day per week by synchronized online learning via Teams. Nursing core courses are all online with minimum on-campus requirements throughout the program.

Q. Are any courses offered online?

A. Yes all of them, however, some DNP courses have required in-person courses on the weekend.

Q. Is the GRE required?

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

Q. Is the CCRN certification required?

A. Yes; the CCRN certificate score must be submitted with the application.

Q. Is there a substitution for the CCRN?

A. No. The CCRN is a requirement and cannot be substituted by CEN, RN-C, etc. The CCRN is one of many criteria we use to evaluate eligibility for admission into the Nurse Anesthesia program. The personal interview, grades, recommendations, and experience are all evaluated individually.

Q. When does my observation sheet need to be submitted?

A. Must be submitted with the application.

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, 36-40 students per year are accepted.

ADMISSION INTERVIEWS

Q. When do admission interviews take place?

A. Candidates interview in early October. Students admitted into the nurse anesthesia program will begin anesthesia coursework in June of the following year.

Q. I was not accepted for an anesthesia interview. Is there anything I can do to reapply?

A. No, the decision is final.

Q. was not accepted after the anesthesia interview and wished to reapply. What is the process?

A. Please contact the Nurse Anesthesia Program office to request the re-activation of your file for the upcoming class. Additionally, inquire about ways to enhance your application. Rest assured, there is no need to reapply to graduate school.

Q. What is the length of the program?

A. 36 months

Q. When are interviews held?

A. Annually (October)

Q. How many applicants are interviewed each year?

A. 100

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

A. 3.75

Q. How many students are admitted?

A. 36-40

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

A. Prospective candidates must be prepared for interviewers to pose a diverse array of questions with the aim of gauging their comprehension of the nurse anesthetist's responsibilities, drive, aspirations, leadership abilities, and clinical expertise. ICU clinical knowledge, encompassing but not restricted to ventilator management, ABGs (arterial blood gases), vasoactive pharmacology, lab values, hemodynamics, cardiac, respiratory, and neurophysiology, will also be assessed during the interview process.

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 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 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 within a reasonable driving distance from their homes.

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

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, UH Lakewest Hospital, Genesis Health System, Fulton County Health Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Bethesda North Hospital, St. Vincent Medical Center Mercy Health, Grandview Medical Center, Southview Medical Center, Soin Medical Center, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, CCF Mercy Medical Center, MetroHealth, Mt. Carmel Grove City 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, UH Tripoint Hospital, CCF 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 various 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 graduate student financial aid sources. 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 six months before 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 weakness and assist in preparation for the NCE.

Q. Can I work for the first two semesters?

A. Yes, you may work part-time in your critical care unit if your grades are above B plus.

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 in another facility.

Q. Where do I get answers to my questions?

A. Please email your questions to Susan Bradford at sb14@uakron.edu