

## Post-BSN to DNP Pathway for Nurse Anesthesia Distance Accessible

### What is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)?

A Nurse Anesthetist, or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), is a licensed advanced practice nurse. After completing extensive didactic and clinical education and training, CRNAs become nationally certified. CRNAs safely administer over 40 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States. They practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sectors and in the U.S. military, including traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics, and physicians' and dentist offices.

The UAB Nurse Anesthesia DNP Pathway has received a ten-year accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education programs (COA). The UAB Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track has transitioned from a MSN to a DNP outcome degree.

### Who employs CRNAs?

CRNAs administer anesthesia in all settings where surgical procedures are being performed. This includes hospitals of all sizes, as well as outpatient clinics and physicians' offices.

### What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering nurse anesthesia?

Applicants must be graduates from a regionally accredited registered nursing program with a baccalaureate degree in nursing. All coursework towards a BSN must be completed by the interview date prior to the start of the Nurse Anesthesia DNP pathway the following year. Applicants are required to provide proof of a valid professional RN license in the U.S. Only candidates with at least one-year experience as an RN in a critical care setting are considered for admission; two years are preferred. Critical care nurses are those caring for critically ill patients who require invasive monitoring, administration of vasoactive drugs, and mechanical ventilation.

*Preferred Critical care units include:* CCU; CVICU; MICU; Neuro ICU; SICU; Burn/Trauma ICU; and Pediatric ICU.

We **do not** consider PACU, Neonatal ICU, Cardiac Step Down, Bone Marrow Transplant, Telemetry, or Emergency Room as critical care experiences for our application requirements.

If you have any questions about whether or not your critical care area is acceptable, please contact [jlavier@uab.edu](mailto:jlavier@uab.edu).

### What are the admission criteria?

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the School of Nursing at UAB
- Active, unencumbered Registered Nurse License in the state where you will be completing your clinical education
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on the science prerequisite courses, and a grade of 'C' or higher in all science pre-requisite courses
- (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). There is no minimum score, however all sections of the GRE must be completed prior to application (verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing). Submit to UAB (code 1856)
- A personal interview with the selection committee,
- If accepted, complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of required immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service, complete a background check, and urine drug screening, and
- ACLS/PALS certification by the July interview, additionally CCRN (optional) may also be submitted.

\* *There is no Waiver Process for the Nurse Anesthesia DNP pathway, A GRE exam is required.*

### What is the application deadline/timeline?

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Admissions deadline

**June:** Notification of interview

**July:** Interviews --- Decision notification two weeks after interview

**May:** Students begin course work in the summer semester

## For International Students:

- This program is distance-accessible and therefore not eligible for applicants who plan to enter the US in F-1 or J-1 student status.
- If you plan to enroll in the program in an immigration status other than F or J, please email International Student & Scholar Services at [iss@uab.edu](mailto:iss@uab.edu) for confirmation of your eligibility for the program.
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org), sent from the evaluators directly to the School of Nursing
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- A minimum combined score of 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

## Where will I conduct my clinical rotations?

The Nurse Anesthesia DNP Pathway has six components: a central component in Birmingham and five regional components located in Alabama (Dothan, Huntsville, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa and Mississippi). The first semester is completely online. Semesters 2, 3, 4 will meet face-to-face in Birmingham. The remaining semesters are an integration of clinical and online didactic education. Regardless of component, students will be required to come to Birmingham for periodic intensive learning and examination. In order to obtain clinical case numbers students are also expected to travel to clinical sites.

### Prerequisite Courses (May be taken at UAB or another institution):

Courses		Credit Hours	Courses		Credit Hours
BY 115	Human Anatomy	3 to 4	BY 116	Human Physiology	3 to 4
BY 261	Microbiology	3 to 4	CH 105/106*	Chemistry 105/106 or 115/116	3 to 4
MA 180	Descriptive Statistics	3			

Note: \* Chemistry must be completed with lab course

## Will I be able to apply to take a nurse anesthetist certification examination when I complete the Nurse Anesthesia DNP pathway?

Graduates can apply to take the certification examination administered by the NBCRNA. Satisfactory performance on this examination is necessary in order to practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

## Program of Study?

	Summer Term (12 Hours)			Fall Term (16 hours)			Spring Term (15 Hours)		
	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
First Year	NA 720Q	Anesthesia Pharmacology I	3	NA 702	Anatomy and Physiology for Nurse Anesthetists	6	NA 721	Anesthesia Pharmacology II	3
	NA 733Q	Informatics for Nurse Anesthetists	3	NA 731	Biochemistry and Physics for Nurse Anesthetists	4	NA 770	Anesthesia Pathophysiology I	3
	NUR 731Q	Philosophical, Theoretical, and Conceptual Foundations for Advanced Practice Nursing	3	NUR 700Q	Clinical Data Management and Analysis	3	NA 740	Principles I	4
	NUR 740Q	Health Policy and Politics: Implications in Health Care	3	NUR 735Q	Population Health in Advanced Practice Nursing	3	NUR 614Q	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
							NA 718	Focus on Adv. Nursing Practice Specialization	2
Second Year	Summer Term (13 Hours)			Fall Term (13 hours)			Spring Term (11 Hours)		
	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
	NA 708LQ	Anesthesia Practicum I	2	NA 742Q	Anesthesia Principles III	3	NA 710LQ	Anesthesia Practicum I II	5
	NA 741	Anesthesia Principles II	3	NA 745Q	Professional Aspects	4	NUR 738Q	Scholarly Seminar	3
	NA 750	Regional Anesthesia	2	NA 709LQ	Anesthesia Practicum I II	3	NUR 742Q	Program Evaluation Methods	3
	NA 771	Anesthesia Pathophysiology II	3	NUR 743Q	Evidence-Based Practice Strategies	3			
	NUR 729Q	Evidence Based Practice Design and Translation	3						
Third Year	Summer Term (11 Hours)			Fall Term (12 hours)			Spring Term (11 Hours)		
	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
	NA 795Q	Critical Concepts I	3	NA 796Q	Critical Concepts II	3	NA 797Q	Critical Concepts III	3
	NA 711LQ	Anesthesia Specialty Immersion I	5	NA 712Q	Anesthesia Specialty Immersion II	5	NA 713LQ	Anesthesia Specialty Immersion III	5
	NUR 739Q	Scholarly Project	3	NUR 739Q	Scholarly Project	4	NUR 701Q	Writing for Publication	3

Where can I get more information?  
Internet website: <http://www.uab.edu/na>

**General information about the application process:**  
Jacqueline Lavier, M.Ed.  
Program Manager  
(205) 975-3115 | [jlavier@uab.edu](mailto:jlavier@uab.edu)

**Information about Nurse Anesthesia:**  
Susan McMullan, PhD, CRNA  
Program Director  
[susanpmcm@uab.edu](mailto:susanpmcm@uab.edu)