

CAROLINAS MEDICAL CENTER NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM/ UNCC



APPLICANT BROCHURE

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Accreditation

Carolinas Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and through UNC Charlotte School of Nursing and Health Professions, accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education. Upon completion of the twenty-seven (27) month program, the graduate, assuming all requirements are met, is eligible to take the certification examination administered by the Council on Certification.

Mission

The Carolinas Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC is a single purpose collaborative endeavor which allows students to complete the requirements necessary to sit for the National Certification Examination, administered by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists and complete a Master of Science in Nursing degree awarded by the UNC Charlotte.

The program is committed to the education of Registered Nurses, with intensive care backgrounds, in the art and science of anesthesia nursing, on a full or part-time basis, and preparing them for practice in rural or urban areas.

Philosophy

The faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, in keeping with the principles, ideals and traditions of Carolinas Medical Center and the UNC Charlotte, believe that the preparation for the varied and changing roles of men and women in nurse anesthesia requires an education process that is competency based and self-directed. This educational process should foster self-awareness as a basis for lifelong personal and professional growth. The Nurse Anesthesia Program is committed to excellence, the development of the intellect and the encouragement and cultivation of professional and personal values, including sound moral and ethical values.

We believe that man has the capacity for physical, mental, social wholeness. As a thinking rational being, a person has the power to act on his/her own behalf, utilizing their own strengths and limitations to achieve health care goals.

Health is seen as the capacity of man to live within his/her physical, biological and social environments, achieving some measure of human life potential, growth and self-actualization. We view health as a dynamic process progressing toward optimal emotional and physical well-being. We believe that the goal of health is achieved through the exercise of sound health practices.

Man (used as a universal term) has experienced pain virtually since the beginning of time. Motivated by this fear of the pain experience, man has striven to alleviate or avoid pain in response to surgical intervention. Therein lies both the beginning and the purpose of anesthesiology-to alter the perception and response to pain. Utilizing the nursing process, nurse anesthetists collaborate with members of the health care team to provide quality patient care.

The nurse anesthesia program exists to educate registered nurses to administer individualized anesthesia care in a safe and competent manner. This philosophy supports the concept that nurse anesthesia should demonstrate a proficient level of scientific knowledge together with the application of learned skills and sound judgement pertaining to the practice of nurse anesthesia.

We believe that nursing is a scientific discipline. It is a human service health profession, which assists people in meeting their requirements to achieve health by focusing on teaching, caring, guiding, supporting and creating a healthy environment. The interactive process between the nurse and patient/client focuses on the individual's ability to take deliberate action for himself/herself and dependent others in order to obtain and/or maintain optimum wellness. As a disciplined practice, nursing is a practical science a body of knowledge concerned with bringing about practical results.

We believe that nursing is culturally defined and that society is the social system from which nursing evolves. Nurse anesthetists establish contracts with individuals, families and societal groups to help them deal with health problems related to anesthesia within the health care delivery system. In order to accept responsibility to society,

nurse anesthetists need to be involved as scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, teachers and developers of the profession of nurse anesthesia.

The Nurse Anesthesia Program is responsible to society in its commitment to the development of certified registered nurse anesthetists who are capable of performing in the discipline of anesthesiology in accordance with sound and prudent professional, moral and ethical standards.

We believe that the professional nurse anesthetist is educated at the graduate level, is committed to practice with excellence and clinical competence, and is accountable for his or her own practice. The nurse anesthetist collaborates with the patient/client and other members of the health care team. We further believe that the unique contribution that professional nurse anesthetists make, as members of the health care team, is in supporting and assisting individuals to act on their own behalf in matters related to health. We further believe that the program of studies is based upon scientific knowledge acquired in a selective manner from the fields of the biological, physical, chemical and socio-behavioral sciences.

We believe that learning best occurs in an atmosphere of mutual responsibility and respect in which student and teacher share common educational goals. The faculty of the graduate program will serve as facilitators and provide direction and support to students through a variety of educational experiences. The course of study is designed to prepare the nurse anesthetist for advanced practice in a specialized area of nursing through assumption of a primary role in nurse anesthesia.

Terminal Objectives

Upon completion of the nurse anesthesia program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Use the nursing process as a framework for nursing practice which promotes, maintains and/or restores optimum health of clients as follows:
 - a. Perform a pre-anesthetic interview and pertinent physical examination.
 - b. Interpret and evaluate available data for assessment of patient status.
 - c. Develop an appropriate individualized anesthetic management plan consistent with overall medical and nursing regimen.
 - d. Prepare in a structured and thoughtfully organized manner for anesthetic administration.
 - e. Select and utilize anesthetic agents and adjunctive drugs in keeping with the overall anesthetic management plan.
 - f. Select and utilize monitoring modalities based on patient status and surgical procedure.
 - g. Perform general anesthesia for all ages and categories of patients undergoing surgical procedures.
 - h. Perform and manage regional anesthesia in those instances when it is a component of the anesthesia management plan.
 - i. Provide a fluid, blood and electrolyte plan consistent with the client's physiological requirements and the anesthetic management plan.
 - j. Position and supervise positioning of surgical clients to assure optimal physiologic function and client safety.
 - k. Record an accurate and legible profile of anesthetic management.
 - l. Utilize mechanical ventilators effectively in the anesthetic and peri-anesthetic periods, based on pulmonary function studies, blood gas determinations and radiographs.
 - m. Manage anesthetic complications and sequelae consistent with practice standards.
 - n. Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation and/or function as a resuscitation team member or leader, and possess ACLS, BCLS, and PALS recognition.
2. Serve as an integral member of the anesthesia care team.
3. Insure the protection of their clients through application of sound principles of asepsis safety.
4. Provide patient services as a consultant and/or team member in areas collateral to anesthesia practice which may include respirator therapy, crisis intervention, and patient and health care personnel education.
5. Sustain and augment competency as a nurse anesthetist through planning, continuing education and lifelong learning.

6. Comprehend and function within the legal and ethical statutes regulating the practice of nursing and anesthesia and accept responsibility and accountability for individual actions.
7. Employ personal and professional strengths, recognizing limitations, and take appropriate actions consistent with valid self-awareness.

Expected Outcomes

Based on the Nurse Anesthesia Program's Terminal Objectives, the faculty has identified the following expected outcomes:

1. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the graduates will pass the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists' Certification Examination on the first writing, as verified by the certification report from the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists.
2. One hundred percent (100%) of the graduates will be employed as nurse anesthetists within six months of graduation.
3. Ninety-two (92%) of the students, admitted to the nurse anesthesia program, will complete the program within 27 months.
4. Eighty-four (84%) of the respondents to the graduate survey, one year following graduation, will evaluate their ability to perform entry level tasks, as adequate or above, in the role of anesthesia providers, anesthesia care managers, and active members within the discipline of nurse anesthesia.
5. Eighty-four (84%) percent of the respondents to the employer survey, one year following graduation, will evaluate the graduate's performance, as adequate or above, on the role of anesthesia provider, anesthesia case manager, and active member within the discipline of nurse anesthesia.

Application Procedure

Please send the completed and signed **Carolinas Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC** application form and a \$40.00 non-refundable check to:

Carolinas Medical Center
Nurse Anesthesia Program/
Attn: Student Affairs
PO Box 32861
Charlotte, NC 28232

Send the **UNC Charlotte Application for Graduate and Certificate of Advanced Study** package, a \$55 non-refundable administrative application check, a copy of your nursing license, three letters of reference, two official copies of all university and college transcripts and a statement of purpose to:

UNC Charlotte
The Graduate School
210 Cato Hall
9202 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

Have the results of your GRE sent directly to UNC Charlotte.

Applications are accepted year round. Interviews are held each January, April and September/October. Class starts each year in August, at the start of the UNC Charlotte fall Semester.

If you currently have a MSN from an accredited college of nursing, you will not receive a duplicate degree. However, you must apply to the University for a Post Master's Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia. Upon graduation you will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from the program and the University.

Attendance

There will be no unexcused absence from class with the exception of vacation and sick time. Frequent tardiness/unexcused absences from the clinical area may result in probation and/or suspension. Occasionally, changes in class times and days may be necessary. Students are responsible for checking their own class schedules.

Class Admissions Calendar/Length of Program

Class start each August one week before classes begin at UNC Charlotte and are completed twenty-seven (27) months later in December in conjunction with graduation at UNC Charlotte. Part-time enrollment may be negotiated on an individual basis.

Clinical Sites

At the present time, the program consists of one essential clinical site (Carolinas Medical Center) and 5 non-essential clinical site affiliations (Stanly Memorial Hospital, and Mission Hospitals, CMC Mercy, CMC University and CMC Pineville). The program actively seeks affiliations to augment clinical education. The number, character, and time spent at affiliations may change over time. No days off will be granted while on affiliations, except for holidays recognized by the affiliating institution. Specific requests regarding affiliation experience will be handled on an individual basis. Each student will be required to evaluate the clinical site experience. During Clinical Residency II and Clinical Residency IV, each student will evaluate Carolinas Medical Center. Each student will also evaluate each affiliate clinical site after his/her rotation.

Criminal Background & Rehire Status

Prior to the beginning of class, (after the interview and acceptance process approximately 90 days prior to the start of classes), applicants are asked to complete a Release for Carolinas HealthCare System to perform a background check as part of our Human Resources, CHS/CMC requirement for attendance to the Program. Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) obtains arrest and conviction records on all students assigned to our facilities. An arrest or conviction will not automatically eliminate you from the ability to have a student assignment at one of our facilities.

Students who are former employees of a CHS facility and are not eligible for rehire or have a maybe status will have their employee files reviewed to determine if this status will prevent them from clinical placement. If clinical placement is not permitted within the facility, enrollment into the program will be denied.

Criteria for Graduation

1. Completion of Terminal Objectives of the program.
2. Completion of all clinical and academic requirements for graduation established by Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), Council on Certification of Nurse anesthetists, (CCNA), the Nurse Anesthesia Program and UNCC
3. Submission of final Clinical Case Records.
4. Payment of all fines and fees.
5. Return of all Library books.

Criteria for Selection

Each applicant for admission must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School and the following criteria:

1. Current unrestricted licensure as a Registered Nurse. Current license in North Carolina or a compact state or the state identified by faculty for clinical practice before enrollment.
2. Baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from an accredited nursing program.
3. Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE); a score of 950 is preferred (MAT scores are not accepted).
4. A grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work after high school.
5. A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all basic undergraduate science courses taken since highschool (Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology).
6. Completion of an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of C or better.
7. An essay (statement of purpose), limited to a single page, describing the applicant's experience and objective in undertaking graduate study in the chosen specialty.
8. For the three letters of recommendation required by the Graduate School, all must be from persons familiar with the applicant's professional qualifications, such as clinical manager or supervisor, academic professor, or physician.
9. A minimum of 18 months of current full time critical care experience with adult clients prior to matriculation
 - a. Acceptable experience includes: Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, Trauma Intensive Care Unit, Neuro Intensive Care Unit, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit.
 - b. Experiences not acceptable include: Flight Team, Emergency Room, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and Operating Room.
10. Current certification in Basic Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Life Support with documentation provided only to Carolinas Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program.

11. Computer literacy is required for coursework.

12. Applicants who meet the admission requirements will be eligible to be invited for an interview with the Program's Admissions Committee, which are held in November, January, and April. Only after a successful interview, will the applicant be admitted. **NOTE:** The application process requires two applications – one to UNC Charlotte and one to Carolinas Medical Center.

Upon review and acceptance by UNC Charlotte School of Nursing, the applicant will be offered a personal interview with the Nurse Anesthesia Program Admissions' Committee.

Distance Education

Courses from the University may be offered on-line.

Drug Awareness

In order to ensure a safe and efficient work environment, we have adopted a drug-free work place policy, which follows existing personnel practices and procedures and includes pre-enrollment, for cause and random drug testing. All drug related incidents, pertaining to student's use of drugs, are initially referred to the Program Director. Please refer to the Carolinas HealthCare System Employee Handbook.

Evaluation/Progress Reports/Grades

It is expected that students will maintain satisfactory progress (B average) in all academic courses and clinical experience. Each student will be individually counseled, once per semester, by the Program Director, Associate Director, or Clinical Coordinator concerning their progress in the Program. Additional counseling will occur on an as-need basis. Students will receive grades though UNC Charlotte, each semester. Upon completion of the program each student will receive a Carolinas Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC transcript.

Expectations of the Nurse Anesthetist Student

The academic and clinical requirements of CMC Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC include the following physical and emotional functions:

1. Full range body motion including handling and lifting patients
2. Manual and finger dexterity
3. Eye-hand coordination
4. Standing for extensive periods of time
5. Corrected vision and hearing to normal range and color vision
6. Some exposure to communicable diseases and/or body fluids, toxic substances, medicinal preparations, inhalation anesthetics, other conditions common to a clinical environment
7. Occasionally lifts and carries items weighing up to 50 pounds.
8. Other requirements:
 - a. Being oriented to time, place and person
 - b. Ability to organize responsibilities, make decisions
 - c. Ability to analyze data or reports
 - d. Ability to deal effectively with others and work under pressure

Any questions or requests a student may have for reasonable accommodations should be directed to the Program Director.

Overall Expenses (Approximate)

Personal Purchases

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Personal Computer | Variable |
| 2. | White lab coat | \$39.00-\$42.00 |

Program Fees

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| A. | To be paid upon admission | |
| 1. | CMC tuition for the first year | \$3500.00 - \$1000.00 (deposit) = \$2500.00 |
| 2. | Books | \$2000.00 (approximate) |
| 3. | CHS Simulation Fee | \$750.00 |
| 4. | AANA Associate membership fee | \$100.00 |
| 5. | Equipment kit | \$26.00 |
| 6. | Activity fee | \$50.00 |
| 7. | ID Badge fee | \$10.00 |
| 8. | ACLS, BCLS, and PALS re-certification fee | \$250.00 (includes books; subject to change) |
| 9. | Criminal Background Check fee | \$40.00 * |
| 10. | Ear Mold | \$50.00 |
| 11. | Portfolio Binder | \$25.00 |
| B. | Second Year | |
| 1. | CMC tuition for the second year | \$4500.00 |
| C. | Other Expenses | |
| 1. | Review Course | \$1000.00 (subject to change) |
| 2. | Certification Exam | \$725.00 (subject to change) |
| 3. | Case Record & Evaluation Tracking | \$8.00 per month (subject to change) |
| 4. | Self Evaluation Exam (SEE) | \$125.00 (twice during the program) |

***Please note that if the cost of the Investigation exceeds \$40.00 you will be required to pay the additional fee.**

Equal Opportunity Statement

Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the Medical Center to conduct all personnel practices in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All applicants for the Nurse Anesthesia Program are treated without regard to race, religion, age, sex, national origin or disability. Qualified applicants with disabilities, who may need reasonable accommodations, as described in the ADA, should contact the Program Director.

Health Care Insurance

Major medical insurance, including dental insurance, is provided by Carolinas Medical Center, and becomes effective on the first day of classes. Additional insurance can be purchased for spouse and family.

Holiday Time

The following holidays are observed by the program: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Leave of Absence

A student in good standing may request a leave of absence due to personal reasons. Each request will be handled by the Program Director on an individual basis.

Liability Insurance

Malpractice insurance is provided by the Carolinas HealthCare System for all students.

Loans/Grants/Scholarships

Financial aid will be administered through UNC Charlotte. CHS offers each student a forgivable loan of (\$500.00 per month) for the entire 27 months of full time study. Additionally one or two scholarships funded by the CHS Foundation are awarded on a yearly basis.

Meals/Housing/Transportation

Meals may be purchased at cost in the hospital cafeteria. Housing must be provided by the student.

Nursing License, BCLS, ACLS, and PALS Certification

A current, valid North Carolina Nursing license must be maintained at all times. Students must maintain current BCLS, and ACLS and PALS Certification. The certifications must be maintained according to the American Heart Association recommendations. Maintenance of the above licensure and certification is the student's responsibility. Failure to comply will result in suspension from all academic and clinical activities until the expired nursing license, BCLS, ACLS and PALS certification is remedied.

Physical Examination

Evidence of good physical and mental health is required prior to registration. A medical report form is sent to successful applicants a few months prior to the start of class. As of July 1, 1986, state law requires all students entering programs, in the State of North Carolina to meet the required immunizations. Each student is responsible for and must complete their physical examination with CHS Employee Health prior to the start of class. During the physical examination each student will be required to participate in CHS Drug Awareness Program (see section on Drug Awareness.) It is the responsibility of the student to maintain appropriate physical health throughout the duration of the program.

Probation/Termination/Re-entrance

Students may be placed on probation for unsatisfactory administrative, academic and/or clinical performance. Those students not meeting the conditions of probation will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee will determine the final outcome for the student. Any student terminated for unsatisfactory academic grades, administrative behavior, and/or clinical residency failure will not be considered for re-enrollment. A student that voluntarily withdraws from the program for other than academic and/or clinical residency failure may be considered for re-enrollment.

Program Design

The Nurse Anesthesia Program is 27 months in duration, covering a total of 7 semesters of full time study. The first, second, and third semesters consist primarily of classroom (didactic) learning. Students will begin their orientation to the clinical learning area during their second semester. Clinical commitment will increase until the end of the program. Didactic instruction will continue throughout the program.

Stipends

At this time, the program does not provide stipends to its students except as discussed under Loan/Grants/Scholarships.

Student Employment

It is the policy of the Nurse Anesthesia Program to discourage extracurricular employment on the basis that the program of study is of such concentration that employment may tend to detract from the necessary time and effort required to complete the program in a satisfactory manner. During the entire education program, the student is not permitted to be employed as a nurse anesthetist by title or function. Any student not in full compliance with this mandate is subject to immediate dismissal from the program. The following guidelines shall be in regard to students who do elect to perform outside work during this program:

1. Students are permitted to work as an RN on their off-duty time.
2. Due to the difficulty of the program, it is strongly recommended that students plan to work no more than 16 hours per week.
3. Students are not allowed to work during probation.

Transfer

Transfer between programs of nurse anesthesia is discouraged. Applicants may transfer up to 6 semester hours of core course graduate credit; any additional transfer credits will be reviewed on an individual basis. These credits must be approved by UNC Charlotte. No credit for anesthesia courses taken outside of this program will be granted.

Tuition/Fees/Refunds

Tuition and fees are established by the CMC Nurse Anesthesia Program and the UNC Charlotte.

Refunds: A student who officially withdraws from the CMC Nurse Anesthesia Program/UNCC will receive a refund as follows:

1. During the first 2 weeks of the semester a 90%
2. During the 3rd and 4th weeks of the semester, a 40%
3. After the first 4 weeks, tuition is not refundable.

Vacations and Sick Leave

1. Normal breaks consistent with the UNC Charlotte academic calendar can be expected while students are in their first three semesters.
2. Second year students will report to the clinical area on Monday following final examinations of the third semester.
3. Vacation time will be awarded consistent with UNC Charlotte academic calendar. These breaks may not be the exact time or length as the university but shall be adjusted to accommodate clinical experience.
4. No terminal vacations will be granted.
5. Educational days for AANA, NCANA, or District Meetings may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director.
6. Students shall notify the clinical area, the CRNA (with whom they are assigned) and the program before 9:00 p.m. or after 5:00 a.m. in case of absence or illness.