

NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE, DOCTOR OF (D.N.A.P.)

Program accreditation

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
222 S. Prospect Avenue Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-4001
Phone: (847) 655-1160

Program goal

The mission of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional team to serve the public through the delivery of safe, cost-efficient, quality anesthesia services and to develop leaders and scholars who will advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia through research, scholarship and public service. The department achieves this mission by establishing an environment that promotes excellence, values diversity, stimulates creativity and recognizes achievement.

Student learning outcomes

The overall objective of the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program is to prepare graduates who have acquired knowledge, skills and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical thinking and communication to fulfill their professional responsibility as certified nurse anesthetists.

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will:

1. Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety, enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice
2. Analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner
3. Communicate effectively with patients, families, the public and other health professionals
4. Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health care and educational environments impacting nurse anesthetists
5. Develop effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in anesthesia patient care and the workplace
6. Employ teaching and learning principles for the nurse anesthetist in educating and counseling individuals, families, students-in-training and groups
7. Demonstrate nurse anesthesia scholarship through presentations, publications, leadership activities and collaboration with other disciplines
8. Utilize technology and information systems to analyze, manage and present data

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Other information

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Canvas.

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
D.N.A.P.	Fall only (entering with master's)	Aug 1	
	Spring only (entering with baccalaureate)	Mar 1	

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>).

Baccalaureate applicants must present the following minimum qualifications:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing or related science
2. Current, unencumbered licensure as a registered professional nurse in the United States and eligibility to obtain a registered professional nursing license in Virginia (prior to completion of the third semester)
3. Minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (preferred)
4. A minimum of one-year, full-time work experience, or its part-time equivalent, as a registered nurse in a critical-care setting (adult ICU preferred)
5. Three professional references (one of which must be from the immediate supervisor responsible for performance evaluations, including his or her contact number)
6. Personal interview with members of the admissions committee (by invitation)
7. Current Basic Life Support; Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support certifications (required for matriculation and must be maintained throughout the duration of the program)

NOTE: All application materials must be received by the March 1 deadline to consider the application complete.

Master's applicants must present the following minimum qualifications:

1. A graduate degree from an accredited university
2. Graduation from a nurse anesthesia educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
3. Certification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
4. Recertification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (if applicable)
5. Current licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice nurse (as applicable)
6. A minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
7. Personal statement including:
 - a. Reasons for seeking this educational opportunity
 - b. Career goals and how this degree will aid in that process
 - c. Prior lifework experience that will contribute to your success in the program
 - d. Potential areas of interest for the doctoral project

8. Three professional references

9. Personal interview (by invitation)

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), all candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice must be recommended by the faculty and:

1. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum
2. Complete a doctoral project
3. Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all work presented for graduation
5. Successfully complete the Self-Evaluation Examination offered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists.

Additionally, students who enter with a baccalaureate degree must meet all clinical requirements as specified by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists

Curriculum requirements

For students entering with a baccalaureate degree

Course	Title	Hours
DNAP 701	Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 702	Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar	3
DNAP 703	Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist	3
DNAP 704	Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3
DNAP 705	Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3
DNAP 706	Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3
DNAP 707	Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3
DNAP 708	Ethics and Health Care	3
DNAP 711	Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 712	Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education	3
DNAP 716	Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists	1
DNAP 717	Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists	2

DNAP 718	Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 721	Clinical Practicum I	3
DNAP 722	Clinical Practicum II	4
DNAP 723	Clinical Practicum III	5
DNAP 724	Clinical Practicum IV	5
DNAP 725	Clinical Practicum V	5
DNAP 731	Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 733	Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia	3
DNAP 734	Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 735	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I	4
DNAP 736	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II	3
DNAP 737	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III	3
DNAP 738	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV	2
DNAP 739	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V	2
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	6
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	6
Total Hours		93

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 93.

For students entering with a master's degree

Course	Title	Hours
DNAP/NRSA 701	Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 702	Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar	3
DNAP 703	Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist	3
DNAP 708	Ethics and Health Care	3
DNAP 711	Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 712	Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education	3
DNAP 734	Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	6
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	6
Total Hours		33

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 33.

Planned courses of study

For students entering with a baccalaureate degree

Year one

Spring semester		Hours
DNAP 703	Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist	3
DNAP 731	Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 733	Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia	3
Term Hours:		9

Summer semester

DNAP 716	Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists	1
DNAP 717	Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists	2
DNAP 718	Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists	3
Term Hours:		6

Fall semester

DNAP 704	Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3
DNAP 706	Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3
DNAP 735	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I	4
Term Hours:		10

Year two

Spring semester

DNAP 705	Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3
DNAP 707	Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3
DNAP 721	Clinical Practicum I	3
DNAP 736	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II	3
Term Hours:		12

Summer semester

DNAP 722	Clinical Practicum II	4
DNAP 734	Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 737	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III	3
Term Hours:		10

Fall semester

DNAP 708	Ethics and Health Care	3
DNAP 712	Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education	3
DNAP 723	Clinical Practicum III	5
DNAP 738	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV	2
Term Hours:		13

Year three

Spring semester

DNAP 702	Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar	3
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DNAP 711	Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 724	Clinical Practicum IV	5
DNAP 739	Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V	2
Term Hours:		13
Summer semester		
DNAP 725	Clinical Practicum V	5
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	6
Term Hours:		11
Fall semester		
DNAP 701	Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	6
Term Hours:		9
Total Hours:		93

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 93.

Full-time curriculum for students entering with a master's degree – one-year program

Fall semester		Hours
DNAP 701	Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists	3
NRSA 701	or	
DNAP 708	Ethics and Health Care	3
DNAP 712	Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education	3
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	3
Term Hours:		12
Spring semester		
DNAP 702	Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar	3
DNAP 703	Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist	3
DNAP 711	Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	2
Term Hours:		11
Summer semester		
DNAP 734	Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	3
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	4
Term Hours:		10
Total Hours:		33

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 33.

Part-time curriculum for students entering with a master's degree – two-year program

Year one		Hours
Fall semester		Hours
DNAP 701	Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists	3
NRSA 701	or	

DNAP 708	Ethics and Health Care	3
Term Hours:		6

Spring semester

DNAP 702	Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar	3
DNAP 703	Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist	3
Term Hours:		6

Summer semester

DNAP 734	Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	3
Term Hours:		6

Year two

Fall semester

DNAP 712	Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education	3
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	2
Term Hours:		5

Spring semester

DNAP 711	Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists	3
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	2
Term Hours:		5

Summer semester

DNAP 789	Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice	3
DNAP 799	Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project	2
Term Hours:		5
Total Hours:		33

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 33.

Contact

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Program website: chp.vcu.edu/departments/nrsa (<https://chp.vcu.edu/departments/nrsa/>)