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

Program accreditation
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
10275 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 906, Rosemont, IL 60018-5603
Phone: (224) 275-9130
accreditation@coacnma.org

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:

a. Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety; enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice
b. Analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner
c. Communicate effectively with patients, families, the public and other health professionals
d. Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health care and educational environments impacting nurse anesthetists
e. Develop effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in anesthesia patient care and the workplace
f. Employ teaching and learning principles for the nurse anesthetist in educating and counseling individuals, families, students-in-training and groups
g. Demonstrate nurse anesthesia scholarship through presentations, publications, leadership activities and collaboration with other disciplines
h. 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-regfs/)

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-regfs/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-regfs/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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.N.A.P:</td>
<td>Fall only (entering with master's)</td>
<td>Aug 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring only (entering with baccalaureate)</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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:

a. Baccalaureate degree in nursing or related science  
b. 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)  
c. Minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (preferred)  
d. 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)  
e. Three professional references (one of which must be from the immediate supervisor responsible for performance evaluations, including his or her contact number)  
f. Personal interview with members of the admissions committee (by invitation)  
g. 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)

**Master's applicants** must present the following minimum qualifications:

a. A graduate degree from an accredited university  
b. Graduation from a nurse anesthesia educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
c. Certification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists  
d. Recertification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (if applicable)  
e. Current licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice nurse (as applicable)  
f. A minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale  
g. Personal statement including:

   i. Reasons for seeking this educational opportunity  
   ii. Career goals and how this degree will aid in that process  
   iii. Prior lifework experience that will contribute to your success in the program  
   iv. Potential areas of interest for the doctoral project  
   h. Three professional references  
   i. Personal interview (by invitation)

**Degree requirements**

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

a. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum  
b. Complete a doctoral project  
c. Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all courses  
d. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all work presented for graduation  
e. 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**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP/NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
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<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 734</td>
<td>Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNAP 731</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 733</td>
<td>Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Term Hours:  9

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 716</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNAP 717</td>
<td>Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 718</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Term Hours:  6

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 704</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 706</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 735</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Term Hours:  10

Year two

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 705</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 707</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 721</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 736</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II</td>
<td>3</td>
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Term Hours:  12

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 722</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 734</td>
<td>Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 737</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Term Hours:  10

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNAP 723</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum III</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 738</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV</td>
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</table>

Term Hours:  13

Year three

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**
- DNAP 701 Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists or NRSA 701 3
- 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

**Term Hours:** 6

**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**

**Fall semester**
- DNAP 701 Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists or NRSA 701 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
Brenda A. Wands, Ph.D., CRNA
Assistant professor and graduate program director
bawands@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9808

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