

MSN Nurse Anesthesia Frequently Asked Questions

MSN NURSE ANESTHESIA FAQ

Michigan State University College of Nursing

The MSU College of Nursing MSN programs are accredited by the Center for Credentialing Nursing Education. The Nurse Anesthesia Program has received accreditation through the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, (222 South Prospect Avenue, Suite 304, Park Ridge, Illinois 60060-4041: Telephone 847-692-7050), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. Classes will be based in East Lansing with clinicals in our affiliating agencies across the state.

What is a general description of the program?

The nurse anesthesia program at MSU is 28 months long and students are required to attend on a full-time basis. Generally speaking, the program integrates didactic classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences with the majority of classroom experiences during the first two semesters. One cohort of students is accepted each year. Each new cohort begins in January.

What are Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)?

Nurse anesthesia is an advanced clinical nursing specialty. As anesthesia specialists, CRNAs administer approximately 27 million anesthetics to patients in the United States each year.

How do CRNAs impact healthcare?

CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals in the United States, affording some 70 million rural Americans access to anesthesia. CRNAs provide a significant amount of the anesthesia in inner cities as well. CRNAs are qualified and permitted by state law or regulations to practice in every state of the nation.

Do I need to be an RN in order to apply to the NA program?

Yes.

How does a nurse become a CRNA?

A nurse attends an accredited nurse anesthesia education program to receive an extensive education in anesthesia. Upon graduation, the nurse must pass a national certification exam to become a CRNA.

What employment opportunities exist for CRNAs?

CRNAs are in demand and therefore have many opportunities for general or specialty practice throughout the United States. Reflecting the level of responsibility, CRNAs are one of the best paid nursing specialties. The shortage of CRNAs in the marketplace spells job opportunities. With hospitals and other healthcare facilities scrutinizing their bottom lines, CRNAs offer an attractive option for providing anesthesia care.

What does the MSU Nurse Anesthesia Education Program Include?

It consists of graduate course work including both classroom and clinical experience with:

- The classroom curriculum emphasizing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics and pharmacology as related to anesthesia.
- The major clinical component providing experience with a variety of anesthesia techniques and procedures for all types of surgery and obstetrics.

The requirements for admission to the MSU NA program are:

- A bachelors degree in nursing
- Unrestricted current Registered Nurse License
- ACLS and PALS certification
- One year of full-time clinical experience or equivalent as a Registered Nurse in an intensive care unit within the last five years is required for the Nurse Anesthesia concentration
- Submit three letters of recommendation from sources who have direct knowledge of the applicant's work and education experience specifying the applicant's ability to do graduate work

Are there any other specific requirements for admission?

Yes; while programs do vary in the prerequisite courses, admission to the MSU program will require that you hold a Bachelor degree in nursing from a CCNE or NLN accredited nursing program; GRE scores sent directly to the program from the testing agency; and a 3-credit statistics course which includes inferential statistics within the past 5 years.

How competitive is the application selection process?

Nationally, acceptance to a nurse anesthesia program is very competitive. It is not unusual for programs to have at least 5-10 applicants for every one applicant that is selected. For this reason, programs tend to evaluate the applicant's undergraduate GPA, GRE and clinical critical care experience very closely.

What if my grades and GRE scores aren't good?

While this is a good question, it is a very difficult one to answer. Because of the competitive nature of the admissions process and the demands of the program, good scores are essential in order to receive an invitation for an interview.

What does the "typical" anesthesia student look like?

Overall, the incoming student to an anesthesia program has on average a GPA of 3.3 – 3.8 with 3 – 5 years of ICU experience.

Listed below is the January 2009 cohort profile for the MSN-Nurse Anesthesia concentration:

Average GPA: 3.64

Average years of critical care experience: 5 years, 4 months

Average GRE scores: Verbal—514 Quantitative—631 Analytical—4.5

What is the role of an individual CRNA?

Nurse anesthetists, pioneers in anesthesia, have been administering anesthesia for more than 100 years. A CRNA takes care of a patient's anesthesia needs before, during and after surgery or the delivery of a baby by:

- Performing a physical assessment
- Participating in preoperative teaching
- Preparing for anesthetic management
- Administering anesthesia to keep the patient pain free
- Maintaining anesthesia intraoperatively
- Overseeing recovery from anesthesia
- Following the patient's postoperative course from recovery room to patient care unit.

Nurse anesthetists stay with their patients for the entire procedure, constantly monitoring every important body function and individually modifying the anesthetic to ensure maximum safety and comfort. CRNAs provide services in conjunction with other healthcare professionals such as surgeons, dentists,

podiatrists, and anesthesiologists.

Where do CRNAs practice?

CRNAs practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sectors and in the U.S. military, including traditional hospital operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics, and physicians' offices. They practice on a solo basis, in groups and collaboratively. Some CRNAs have independent contracting arrangements with physicians or hospitals.

Why should I earn a CRNA?

Abundant job opportunities in a variety of settings throughout the United States.

Why should I attend the MSU program?

Michigan State University CON is a national and international leader in technology-assisted learning for nurses from entry into practice through professional development. The College rapidly incorporates nursing research and health care system needs into education programs and, through partnerships with health care systems and faculty in practice, influences health care outcomes and evidence-based practice. The College's graduates are leaders in healthcare who anticipate and respond to the ever-changing needs of a global community.

Is there a minimum grade point requirement in order to apply to the NA program?

3.0

Is the GRE required?

Yes.

What if I took Statistics more than 5 years ago?

A successful applicant will have completed a qualifying three (3) credit undergraduate or graduate statistics course with a grade of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or better within the last five years.

What if I am currently taking a qualifying Statistics course at the time of enrollment, but won't be done with the course until after the application deadline?

You must be able to provide documentation showing that you have completed a qualifying statistics course with a 3.0 or better or show evidence of a course in progress. Deadline for completion of the statistics course is the end of summer semester prior to the start of the program.

What level program is the NA program?

Masters in Nursing.

How many students are accepted to the program at each enrollment?

10.

How is the curriculum designed?

Content is delivered via face-to-face instruction, interactive television and the World Wide Web. The COA has a minimal academic curriculum for nurse anesthesia programs to include:

- A minimum of 135 hours in Advanced Anatomy, Physiology and Pathophysiology.
- A minimum of 90 hours in Advanced Pharmacology.
- A minimum of 45 hours in Chemistry and Physics Related to Anesthesia.
- The minimum requirement of 90 hours of courses in anesthesia practice provides content such as induction, maintenance, and emergence of anesthesia; airway management; anesthesia pharmacology; and anesthesia for special patient populations such as obstetrics, geriatrics, and

pediatrics.

Are any of the courses in the program of study available to students using distance education technologies?

All core courses are currently online. The two Pharmacology courses are offered via interactive television.

Do I need my own computer?

Students are required to have a computer. Computer requirements for the program coursework include: IBM-compatible PC, multimedia-enabled, Pentium with CD-ROM drive, modem, Windows and Microsoft Office software. High speed internet access.

Do I have to live in Michigan to participate in the program?

You must be able to attend the classroom courses in person and participate in clinical in assigned hospitals.

Can I work full-time and participate in the program?

The MSN Nurse Anesthesia concentration is a rigorous, 28-month, full-time program. The nurse anesthesia student must be able to devote full-time to this demanding specialty. Clinical assignments will require up to an average of 40 hours per week with classes scheduled up to 10 hours per week during the same period. Additionally, time is required for study, pre/post operative visits and formulating anesthesia management plans. Nurse anesthesia students who engage in outside employment are encouraged to keep these factors in mind when scheduling work as an R.N., and to notify the Program Director advising him of the number of hours worked per month. Nurse anesthesia students are to have at least eight (8) hours off between work and each school day. The nurse anesthesia students' commitment to the program averages 60-70 hours per week.

Can I attend the program part-time?

No, this program is a full-time program.

Is there insurance available through MSU for me while I am enrolled in the NA Program?

Yes, more information is available at the following site:

<http://www.hr.msu.edu/HRsite/Benefits/Students/HealthCov/stuinsfaq.htm>

How many clinical sites could I typically rotate to and where are they located?

Affiliate clinical rotations will be assigned in the fairest and most equitable manner as is mathematically possible. The Program has clinical affiliation sites at the following locations:

- St. John's Hospital and Medical Center
22101 Moross Rd.
Detroit, MI 48236

- Ingham Regional Medical Center
401 W. Greenlawn Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

- St. John Macomb Hospital
11800 E. 12 Mile Rd.

Warren, MI 48093

- Sparrow Medical Center
1215 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48909-7980

- Other clinical sites may be added and some of these sites may be deleted to meet the needs of the program. Students may not rotate to every clinical site. If a clinical site becomes a primary site, currently enrolled students will be given an option to complete their clinical requirements at the site when possible.

Is financial aid available and if yes, how/where can I apply?

Need-based scholarships and loans are administered by the Office of Financial Aid in the same manner as other need-based financial aid programs available to MSU students. Applications for scholarships or loans may be obtained from the University Office of Financial Aid (Student Services Building), College of Nursing Office of Student Support Services, and the Graduate Office.

Graduate assistantships, private scholarships, Professional Nurse Traineeships and MSU Fellowships are available through the College of Nursing. Students should complete the College of Nursing Financial Assistance Form, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and/or the College of Nursing Scholarship application by February 1 for support during the following academic year.

Financial award is contingent upon the availability of monies and criteria specified by the funding source.

Where can I find an admission application?

On the CON website, www.nursing.msu.edu, under Academic Programs. In addition to applying to the CON, you also need to apply for admission to Michigan State University using a separate application (if not previously accepted to MSU). You can find the application for MSU at www.admissions.msu.edu

Is there a fee associated with applying to Michigan State University?

Yes, there is an application fee of \$50 to apply to Michigan State University. The application fee can be paid online by credit/debit card when you submit the on-line application. This fee is *not* applied towards your tuition and is not refundable.

Is there a fee associated with applying to the College of Nursing?

There is no fee to apply to the College of Nursing. Since there is no fee to apply to the CON, no money should be sent with this application. However, if one is admitted/accepted to the Nurse Anesthesia program and accepts a seat, other fees may apply.

Can I complete/submit the application(s) online?

This University application can be completed and submitted on-line. The CON application and other applicable enrollment documents must be downloaded for completion.

www.nursing.msu.edu is the website for the CON application and www.admissions.msu.edu is the website for the University application.

How will I be notified if I am accepted to the NA program?

Those accepted to the NA program will be notified in writing.

Can I apply to the NA program if I am an international student?

Yes.

What is the general admissions process for the NA program?

Applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program will be reviewed by the CON faculty and the Program Director to determine program eligibility.

What transcripts do I need to submit?

All post-secondary transcripts whether a degree was granted or not.

Is there an admission deadline?

See College of Nursing website for most up to date deadline information.

What happens if I am not admitted when I apply?

Applicants not selected in the review process will receive written notification from the College of Nursing. Any candidate not admitted would need to reapply for the program during the next application window in order to be considered for admission the next year.

Is my application fee refunded if I do not get accepted into the NA program?

No. Application fees are not refundable.

What are the tuition fees associated with the NA program?

Tuition costs are always changing. For the most current information, go to www.msu.edu and type in “tuition costs” and select the fees calculator. You may also want to go to www.ctrlr.msu.edu/

Are there information packets available or is all necessary information available online?

All necessary information can be found online at www.nursing.msu.edu

What is the best site to visit for information?

www.nursing.msu.edu

Where can I find out about other NA programs being offered at other institutions?

www.allnursingschools.com or
www.aana.com

When did the first MSU NA cohort begin?

January 2008 (Spring semester).