



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine

Program Manual

Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP)



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance and pertinent information to students and faculty of the University of South Carolina (USC) Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia. It is used as a component of the basic orientation to the educational program and made available to serve as a reference during time spent in the clinical setting. The program reserves the right to revise statements, policies, curriculum, fees and calendar as necessary. This manual is not a contract.

University of South Carolina registration assumes the student's acceptance of all published regulations, including both those which appear in this manual and those in the official university publications: Bulletin for Graduate Studies and the Carolina Community. When two or more regulations contained in university publications appear to be inconsistent, the regulations appearing in the Graduate Studies Bulletin ([University of South Carolina Bulletin < University of South Carolina](#)) shall pertain.

Throughout this manual the University of South Carolina Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia will be referred to as USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia (GPNA), or the Program.

PROGRAM

The USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia is operated by the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia Campus, in conjunction with its clinical partner Prisma Health. Housed in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience, the thirty-six month program prepares Registered Nurses for the degree of Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP), and for certification as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

HISTORY

The School of Nurse Anesthesia was established in 1969 as a hospital based Diploma Program at Columbia Hospital (renamed Richland Memorial Hospital). In compliance with the Council on Accreditation mandate, a cooperative agreement was signed in 1993 between Richland Memorial Hospital and The University of South Carolina Graduate School. The University of South Carolina School of Medicine established a 28 month Master's Degree Program in Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis in Nurse Anesthesia. The degree was changed to Master of Nurse Anesthesia (MNA) in 1998.

In October 2009, the Program established an accredited Primary Clinical Training Site at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center in Greenville, South Carolina. Distance Education Technology enabled the Program to create a satellite campus, offering students the opportunity to reside in the Upstate of South Carolina and receive both didactic and clinical instruction.



In 2020, the program changed its name to USC/PH Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia with the merger of our primary training sites: Palmetto Health in Columbia and Greenville Hospital System in Greenville to form the current Prisma Health System. In 2021, the Program began its first Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice class in compliance with the Council on Accreditation requirement. In 2025, the program changed its name to USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia in response to the federal Title IV changes.

PHILOSOPHY

The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia strives to maintain high standards in educating registered nurses in the field of nurse anesthesia by providing the student with a solid foundation of knowledge and clinical skills. The program's purpose is to ensure that graduates emerge prepared to certify as nurse anesthetists, to provide high quality, safe anesthesia care in multiple practice settings, and to take on leadership positions in the changing healthcare system.

GOALS

The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia directs its efforts toward accomplishing the following goals:

- To provide education and training in nurse anesthesia that prepares students for professional competency.
- To provide a service to the public by educating competent nurse anesthetists to sustain the nurse anesthesia workforce.
- To integrate basic and clinical sciences to enhance the development of sound judgment and reasoning required for nurse anesthesia practice.
- To instill a desire to pursue an evidence basis for current and future practice.
- To cultivate a commitment to continuing education and professional advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the DNAP, the graduate will be able to:

1. Generate practice improvement initiatives, supported by evidence-based practices, which impact patient/population outcomes, safety, quality or innovation in anesthesia care delivery.
2. Integrate physiological concepts, anesthesia delivery principles, and cultural awareness to create and administer anesthesia plans of care to patients across the life span.
3. Design, implement, and evaluate therapeutic interventions based on scientific knowledge and emerging approaches to nurse anesthesia practice and healthcare delivery to promote optimal outcomes.
4. Develop and sustain collaborative relationships with patients, their families, and other professionals to support excellence in practice, facilitate patient safety, and improve patient outcomes.



ACCREDITATION

The School of Nurse Anesthesia has been accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) and/or its predecessors since 1972. The last review was Spring 2019 in which the Program received a full 10-year reaccreditation. The next review will be scheduled for Spring 2029. The COA is a specialized accrediting body recognized by both the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). For questions or complaints about the accreditation of the USC/PH Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, contact the Council on Accreditation:

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)
222 S. Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, Ill. 60068-4001
Main Number: 847-655-1160
Email: Accreditation@coacrna.org

ORGANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA Floyd SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The mission of the University of South Carolina Floyd School of Medicine is to serve the people of South Carolina and beyond through exemplary medical and health education, transformative research, and compassionate patient care. Floyd School of Medicine programs will be developed in collaboration with affiliated institutions, and allocation of resources will be based upon the physician manpower and health care needs of South Carolina, the effectiveness and efficiency of specific programs, and the accreditation requirements of all appropriate organizations.

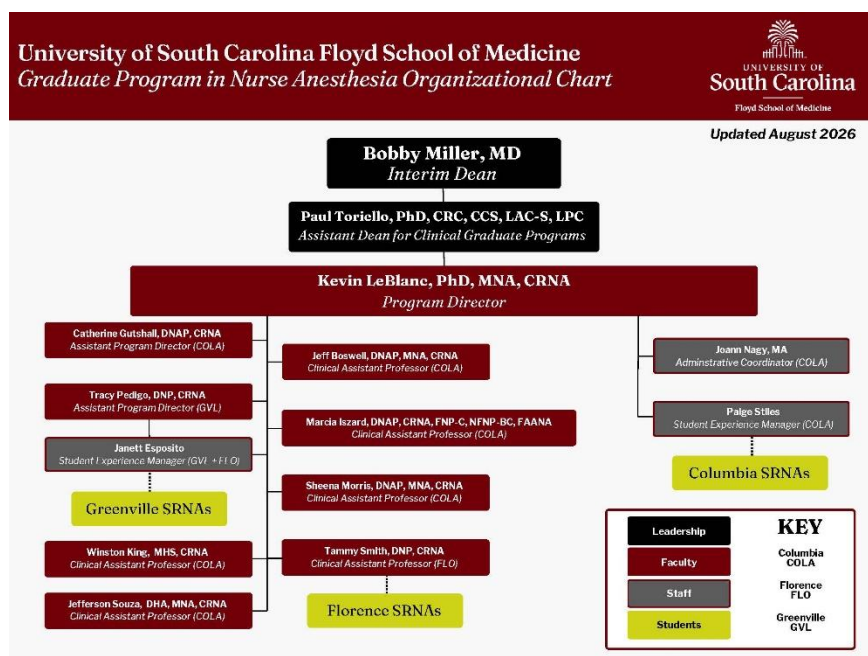
Education - Medical education and graduate education at all levels are conducted in a highly personal atmosphere, which emphasizes a balance among scientific disciplines, humanistic concerns, and societal needs.

Research - Research in the basic biomedical sciences, in the clinical sciences, and in the delivery of health care is pursued for excellence in medical education, for development and application of new knowledge, and for nurturance of intellectual curiosity among faculty and trainees.

Service - Faculty service is developed in order to maintain superior clinical skills, to enhance educational programs, to make comprehensive outpatient and inpatient care available to patients, to secure resources necessary to support education and research, and to provide consultation to physicians, other health care professionals, and affiliated health care agencies and institutions.



PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CLINICAL PARTNERS

PRISMA HEALTH

PRISMA HEALTH RICHLAND

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine partnered with Prisma Health Richland to serve as the primary clinical training site for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia - Columbia Campus. It is a public, not-for-profit regional community teaching hospital with 649 inpatient beds devoted to medical, surgical, pediatric, cardiac, psychiatric, and obstetric/gynecologic care. The hospital carries Level One Trauma and Level Two Pediatric Trauma Center designations. It is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO).

PRISMA HEALTH UPSTATE

Greenville Memorial Hospital, the main hospital in Prisma Health Upstate, serves as the primary clinical training site for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia - Greenville



Campus. It is a not-for-profit academic health organization located in Greenville. It holds the Level One Trauma Center designation and its seven campuses provide integrated healthcare to communities across Greenville County and beyond through a tertiary referral and education center, community hospitals, a long term acute care hospital, nursing home, outpatient facilities and wellness centers. Prisma Health Upstate has residency training programs in family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, medicine-pediatrics, general surgery as well as four fellowship programs. Prisma Health Upstate is committed to medical excellence through research and education and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO).

McLEOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

McLeod Regional Medical Center, the main hospital in the McLeod Health System. and serves as the primary clinical training site for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia – Florence, SC Campus

The McLeod Health Florence location is a 453-bed facility that provides level 2 trauma center care (provide 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons and specialists in neurosurgery, orthopedics, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology, and critical care). McLeod Health Regional Medical Center in Florence also has a Women's and Children's services, a dedicated Cancer Center. It features the region's only Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). They care for high-risk pregnancies and house the region's only Neonatal Intensive Care and Pediatric Intensive Care units. pediatric and neonatal departments, as well as complete cardiovascular services. The system has several residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine and pharmacy. and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO).

ENRICHMENT SITE PARTNERS

Facilities within and outside of Prisma Health partner with the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia to provide additional training opportunities for the Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Interns. Approved by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, these facilities provide enrichment of the clinical experience for students and exposure to health care delivery systems across the state of South Carolina. Enrichment sites each have a clinical site coordinator to oversee student participation and evaluation and provide housing when commuting is not feasible. Program Faculty use accreditation standards and guidelines to monitor and report enrichment site activities.

ADMISSIONS

STANDARDS

The Program does not accept transfer credits or issue advanced standing to any candidate for admission. Admission is on a competitive basis. Students are chosen on the basis of





their academic record, employment history and performance, character, and general fitness for the study of nurse anesthesia. To be accepted, the applicant must possess sufficient intellectual and communication skills, physical health, and emotional stability for successful performance as a nurse anesthetist.

Students admitted to the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are selected by an Interview and Admission Committee composed of faculty members of the USC School of Medicine, staff of Prisma Health, clinical coordinators of affiliated hospitals, and the Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Interns.



To successfully progress through the USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, applicants must be able to perform the essential functions/tasks of a nurse anesthetist using the following abilities:

Sensory

- Discriminate variations in human responses to disease using visual, auditory, tactile and other sensory clues.
- Discriminate changes in monitoring devices and alarms using visual and auditory senses.
- Communicate clearly and effectively in English through oral and written methods in order to interact with other health care providers and patients of all ages.

Motor

- Coordinate gross and fine motor movements and the senses of touch and vision required of the anesthetist to safely provide all aspects of general, regional and Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) in addition to the endurance to handle multiple patient needs.
- Demonstrate sufficient physical strength to perform airway management, move and position patients and equipment.
- Sufficient stamina to stand or sit for prolonged periods of time.
- Safely maneuver the operating room and other anesthetizing locations.
- Respond appropriately to alarms and changes in patient conditions that require physical interventions.

Cognitive

- Use reason, analysis, calculations, problem solving, critical thinking, self-evaluation and other learning skills to acquire knowledge, comprehend and synthesize complex concepts.
- Interpret information derived from auditory, written and other visual data to determine appropriate anesthetic management plans.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practice to provide safe anesthetic care.

Behavioral

- Demonstrate personal and professional ethical behavior, self-control as well as tactfulness, sensitivity, compassion, honesty, integrity, empathy and respect.
- Work flexibly and effectively in stressful and rapidly changing situations.
- Cooperate with other members of the health care team to provide a therapeutic environment and safe patient care.



REQUIREMENTS

1. Education: A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree or an Associate in Nursing degree with a Baccalaureate degree in a related science are required for consideration for admission. Either curriculum must include the prerequisite courses in Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, and Chemistry. A threshold Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 is advised along with a GPA of 3.0 in basic sciences). Three semester hours of Chemistry are required. Transcripts of ALL academic work since high school are required to be submitted to the USC Graduate School prior to the application deadline.
2. A threshold score of 305 (Verbal and Quantitative combined score) on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is recommended. Scores must be official (i.e. reported to the USC Graduate School directly from the Educational Testing Service.)
3. The program reserves the right to waive the GRE requirement according to guidelines listed on the Nurse Anesthesia Program website.
4. Current licensure as a Registered Nurse in one of the fifty states. S.C. licensure is required for matriculation and practice in the state. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) website (<https://www.ncsbn.org>) lists the NLC states.
5. A minimum of one (1) year full-time critical care nursing experience (not including nurse internships) by October of the application year. Current experience is required. Preference is given to applicants who have high acuity critical care experience where hemodynamic monitoring, mechanical ventilation, and vasoactive drug administration is routinely managed.
6. Current Curriculum Vitae or resume which reflects academic history and all previous work history.
7. Current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Life Support (PALS) is required prior to beginning in the clinical area.
8. Letters of recommendations from two (2) health care professionals who have supervised clinical experiences within the past year. Nurse manager references are preferred.



PROCEDURE

Upon completion of all requisite admission requirements, applications should be submitted online via the USC Graduate School application portal (<http://gradschool.sc.edu/gap/>). The application deadline is **July 31**. Candidates selected for consideration will be scheduled for a personal interview with the Interview and Admissions Committee. Upon completion of interviews, candidates selected for admission will be offered positions for placement at one of the two campuses for the program: Columbia or Greenville. A \$1250.00 non-refundable fee must accompany a completed Acceptance Agreement. This fee will satisfy the Program Student Activity fee when the student matriculates. **Final acceptance into the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia is contingent upon acceptance by the Graduate School of the University of South Carolina, and approval by Prisma Health or McLeod Health for clinical training.**

Candidates interviewed will be under consideration for admission until all positions are filled and deposits are received. Certain candidates will be identified as “Alternates” and may be offered a position in the program as positions become available prior to program matriculation.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The University of South Carolina admits students without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, marital status, religion or ethnic origin, to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University of South Carolina. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, disability, marital status, religion, national or ethnic origin, in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, grant and loan programs, or any other school-administered programs. The University will make reasonable accommodation wherever necessary for all applicants with disabilities, provided that the individual is otherwise qualified to safely perform the duties and assignments connected with the academic and clinical requirements of the curriculum.



CURRICULUM

Year 1	Summer One		Fall One		Spring One	
	NURS 717 Statistics NURS 790 Rsrch Methods NURS 707 Adv Patho ASNR 700 Intro NA Practice <i>Totally Online</i>	3 3 3 2 (11)	ASNR 720 Health Assessment ASNR 724 Leadership ASNR 702 DNAP Foundations ASNR 795 Phys/Chem Concepts <i>Totally Online</i>	3 3 3 3 3 (12)	PHPH 701 Physiology ASNR 761 Basic Principles I ASNR 752 Health Systems ASNR 704 NA Student Devp (ASNR 752 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	6 4 3 3 (16)
Year 2	Summer Two		Fall Two		Spring Two	
	ASNR 824 EBP ASNR 754 Applied Tech ASNR 762 Basic Principles II ASNR 771 Practicum Intro (ASNR 824 and 754 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	3 3 4 1 (11)	PHPH 705 Pharmacology ASNR 763 Advanced Principles ASNR 773 Practicum I ASNR 750 Policy/Ethics/Legal (ASNR 750 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	6 4 2 3 (15)	ASNR 760 Clinical Topics I ASNR 797 Professional Role I ASNR 775 Practicum II ASNR 772 Seminar I ASNR 801 Specialty Focus Simulation I (ASNR 797,798 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	2 3 6 2 1 (14)
Year 3	Summer Three		Fall Three		Spring Three	
	ASNR 896 Professional Role II ASNR 777 Practicum III ASNR 897 DNAP Project I (ASNR 897 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	3 6 2 (11)	ASNR 860 Clinical Topics ASNR 898 DNAP Project II ASNR 779 Practicum IV ASNR 798 Biomedical Concepts ASNR 802 Specialty Focus Simulation II (ASNR 798, 860 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	2 1 6 3 1 (13)	ASNR 800 Integration of Concepts ASNR 872 Seminar II ASNR 781 Practicum V ASNR 898 DNAP Project II (ASNR 800 Online) <i>On Campus</i>	2 2 6 1 (11)

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree is a 36-month program of study. Course sequencing is as shown above.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Online (OL) Face to face (FTF: Physical Class)

ASNR 700 Introduction to Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (OL) Introduction to foundational concepts in nurse anesthesia and the role of the nurse anesthetist. (2)

ASNR 702 Professional Roles and Scholarship for the DNAP: (OL) This course is designed to further explore the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree to include the roles of the CRNA in relation to the patient, the profession, and the health care system. (3)

ASNR 704 Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Student Development: (FTF) Guided development for the SRNA in the scholarly project, on-campus program requirements, and clinical preparation. (3)

ASNR 720 Advanced Comprehensive Health Assessment: (OL) This course provides instruction and practice in the techniques necessary to assess health and to evaluate symptoms to identify disease. (3)

ASNR 724 Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (OL) Leadership in nurse anesthesia practice and complex health organizations. (3)

ASNR 750 Health Policy, Ethics, and Legal Concepts for the DNAP Nurse Anesthetist: (OL) Historical and current concepts in health policy, ethics, and legal concepts for the DNAP Nurse Anesthetist. (3)

ASNR 752 Health Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist: (OL) An overview of varied health system theories, emphasizing the role of the nurse anesthetist in contributing to patient care within these systems. (3)

ASNR 754 Health Care Informatics for the Nurse Anesthetist: (OL) Student will explore health informatics and health information management principles – particularly as applicable to the nurse anesthetist's role in the healthcare system and to data management for research and practice improvement. (3)

ASNR 760 Clinical Topics in Nurse Anesthesia Practice I: (OL) Introduction to pain management concepts and the use of ultrasound guided techniques in treatment. (2)

ASNR 761 Basic Anesthesia Principles I: Face-to face (FTF) Application of basic anesthesia principles to the practice of nurse anesthesia. (4)

ASNR 762 Basic Anesthesia Principles II: (FTF) This course is a continuation of Basic Principles in Anesthesia I, covering beginning concepts in nurse anesthesia practice.(4)

ASNR 763 Advanced Principles in Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (FTF) This course covers advanced concepts in nurse anesthesia practice. (4)



ASNR 771 Introduction to Nurse Anesthesia Practicum: (FTF) This course provides a thorough orientation to the clinical area and application of beginning anesthesia concepts to patients through simulation and precepted in-hospital assignments. (1)

ASNR 772 Seminar in Nurse Anesthesia I: (FTF) Students will present a critique of anesthetic management of selected cases or topics related to their doctoral project in anesthesia for peer review. A review of the literature and application of the current research is to be included in the presentations. (2)

ASNR 773 Clinical Practicum I: (FTF) The first of five clinical field experiences including general and specialty anesthesia rotations. (2)

ASNR 775 Clinical Practicum II: (FTF) The second of five clinical field experiences including general and specialty anesthesia rotations. (6)

ASNR 777 Clinical Practicum III: (FTF) The third of five clinical field experiences including general and specialty anesthesia rotations.(6)

ASNR 779 Clinical Practicum IV: (FTF) The fourth of five clinical field experiences including general and specialty anesthesia rotations. (6)

ASNR 781 Clinical Practicum V: (FTF) The fifth of five clinical field experiences including general and specialty anesthesia rotations. (5)

ASNR 795 Application of Physical and Chemical Concepts in Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (OL) Application of physical and chemical concepts to the practice of nurse anesthesia. (3)

ASNR 797 The Professional Role of the DNAP Nurse Anesthetist I: (OL) This course addresses the professional role responsibilities, challenges and issues for nurse anesthetists. (3)

ASNR 798 Application of Biomedical Concepts in Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (OL/FTF) Application of physiology and pathophysiology to nurse anesthesia practice.(3)

ASNR 800 Integration of Concepts Across Nurse Anesthesia Practice: (OL) Review of concepts with the purpose of creating broad view connections of anesthesia principles.(2)

ASNR 801 Specialty Focus Simulation I: (FTF) Use of simulation to learn and practice various peripheral nerve blocks and airway block placement with ultrasound and nerve stimulator techniques. Preparatory work outside of simulation time is required. (1)

ASNR 802 Specialty Focus Simulation II: (FTF) High fidelity simulation activities to practice response to critical events in nurse anesthesia practice. Preparatory work outside of simulation is required. (1)



ASNR 824 Evidence-Based Decisions and Nurse Anesthesia: (OL/FTF) Analysis of evidence-based practice needed to formulate recommendations for nurse anesthesia practice and implementation of these recommendations into practice settings. (3)

ASNR 860 Clinical Topics in Nurse Anesthesia Practice II: (OL) Exploring the contributors to patient safety – including systems and human factors – and how to safely manage critical events in the perioperative period.(2)

ASNR 872 Seminar in Nurse Anesthesia II: (FTF) Students will present for peer review and critique their completed doctoral project. Presentation of project will meet the requirement for dissemination of their terminal project.(2)

ASNR 896 Professional Role of the DNAP Nurse Anesthetist II: (OL) Education, management and business principles, as they relate to the DNAP Nurse Anesthetist, will be explored and practiced. (3)

ASNR 897 DNAP Project I: (OL) DNAP Project Preparation for Nurse Anesthesia Students (2)

ASNR 898 DNAP Project II: (OL) DNAP Project Preparation for Nurse Anesthesia Students (1 or 2)

NURS 707 Advanced Pathophysiology for Nurses: (OL) Advanced concepts of pathophysiological functioning with application to advanced nursing practice in selected specialty areas (3)

NURS 717 Application of Basic Statistics: (OL) Application of basic statistical principles and procedures to address common nursing practice issues and guide nursing practice and management (3)

NURS 790 Research Methods for Nursing: (OL) Development of nursing research and methodological approaches to the study of nursing problems (3)

PHPH 701 Physiology for Health Sciences: (FTF) Lectures covering major organ systems: muscle, cardiovascular, GI, pulmonary, renal, endocrine, nervous, reproductive. Emphasis is on basic physiological processes and control systems. This course is offered by distant education.(6)

PHPH 705 Biomedical Pharmacology: (FTF) Lectures and discussions covering principles of drug action; autonomic (adrenergic/cholinergic), cardiovascular, renal, central nervous system, endocrine and antimicrobial pharmacology, cancer chemotherapy and anesthetic agents. This course is offered by distant education. (6)



CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

To meet the requirement of the National Certification Exam (NCE) that is required by the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) for entry into practice, students will participate in a minimum of 650 anesthetic cases representing the required clinical case categories outlined in the [NCE Handbook](#).

DOCTORAL SCHOLARLY PORTFOLIO

The DNAP degree reflects achievement of a high level of mastery of complex concepts and skills. Completion of the Doctoral Scholarly Portfolio, which includes the Doctoral Scholarly Project, demonstrates integration and synthesis of these mastered concepts and skills. Students will work in groups of at least three (3), but no more than four (4), students on a topic of interest that is relevant to nurse anesthesia. These students will develop a project with the guidance of an advisory committee. The final project along with other requirements to demonstrate scholarship (a case study, clinical case log, self-evaluations, etc) will be maintained in an e-portfolio – a copy of which the student will receive on a flash drive upon graduation. Detailed instructions for this portfolio and project are contained in the Scholarly Portfolio Handbook that each student receives in the first semester of the program.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

All graduate students are subject to the academic regulations of both The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina and the USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia at the USC School of Medicine. General regulations affecting all graduate students are outlined in the [Graduate Studies Bulletin](#) of the University of South Carolina and in the Current Students section of The Graduate School website (<http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>). The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia has established specific academic and clinical performance metrics for matriculating students.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESSION

The curriculum of the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia is sequential in nature, with each academic semester a pre-requisite for each subsequent semester. Successful completion of each academic semester enables a student to progress through the curriculum. Graduate courses may be passed for degree credit with a grade as low as **C**, but a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be at least **B** (3.00 on a 4.00 scale). A student who makes below a **C** in any course does not receive credit for the course toward the degree and will be dismissed from the Program. A student may not receive a total of three (3) “C” letter grades (C or C+: example 3 Cs; 2 Cs and 1 C+; 2C+s and 1C; 3C+s), during the program. If this condition is met, the student will be dismissed from the program. Nurse Anesthesia Graduate students whose cumulative GPA drops below 3.00 at the end of a semester are **immediately** placed on academic probation. Academic probation period is defined as the next three consecutive semesters



for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia. Students who do not reach a cumulative 3.00 grade point average by the end of the probationary period (three semesters) are not permitted to enroll for further graduate course work in the Nurse Anesthesia Program and are therefore dismissed from the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

Students may petition the Dean of The Graduate School for an extension of probation in the event of extenuating circumstances. This petition must be supported by both the Course Directors and the Academic Director in order to be considered by the Dean. Students should expect qualification for extension due to extenuating circumstances to be rigorous ([Graduate Academic Regulations](#)). It is the responsibility of the student to make extenuating circumstances known to the Course Directors before coursework is completed and grades are finalized. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the Course Directors, in conjunction with the Academic Director of the Program may permit an exception, providing an alternative pathway to progression through the curriculum. All decisions of the Course Directors in conjunction with the Academic Director with respect to extenuating circumstances as they apply to a student's status in the Program shall be binding. All decisions will be based on a majority vote of the Course Directors and the Academic Director. Appeals regarding academic policy decisions begin with Course Directors and progress to the Academic Director of the Program, Chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, and finally to the Dean of the Graduate School. The Office of Student Advocacy serves as a resource for students with issues related to status and due process. ([Office of Student Advocacy](#))

CLINICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

All graduate students are subject to the academic regulations of both The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina and the USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia at the USC School of Medicine. General regulations affecting all graduate students are outlined in the [Graduate Studies Bulletin](#) of the University of South Carolina and in the Current Students section of The Graduate School website (<http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>). The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia has established specific academic and clinical performance metrics for matriculating students.

CLINICAL PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESSION

The curriculum of the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia is sequential in nature, with each academic semester a pre-requisite for each subsequent semester. Successful completion of each academic semester enables a student to progress through the curriculum. A grade of Satisfactory (S) must be achieved for successful completion of the clinical courses during the second and third years. If at any time a final clinical course grade is unsatisfactory (U) the student will be dismissed from the program.

During the second and third years, a student must receive a **Satisfactory (S)** grade in the clinical courses to progress through the curriculum (see specific course syllabi for details on requirements for successful course completion). At any time throughout the program, a student may be placed on a remediation plan (Improvement Plan) to address clinical



performance or lack of professionalism. Every Improvement Plan will have a defined time for completion and evaluation of success for the goals that have been defined in the Improvement Plan. Any student actively involved in remediation at the time of course grades being due, will receive an 'Unsatisfactory' grade in the present course unless specifically addressed in the Improvement Plan. In the event an allowance is made to progress with an active Improvement Plan, the student must meet these requirements to achieve a 'Satisfactory' grade for the next clinical course: 1) successful completion of the Improvement Plan AND 2) successful completion of the present clinical course objectives. Unsuccessful completion of the Improvement Plan will result in an 'Unsatisfactory' (U) for the present clinical course and the student will not be allowed to progress through the program. If substandard performance recurs after two Improvement Plans, the student will be unable to successfully complete the clinical requirement of the program.

A **Satisfactory (S)** grade must be obtained before the student will be permitted to progress or graduate and may result in a delay in completion of the program, as well as potential further expense to the student resulting from re-registering for the incomplete clinical course. Failure to successfully complete the Improvement Plan will result in the convening of the Program Evaluation Committee to determine the future status of the student within the Program. If at any time safety concerns, negligence, deceit, dishonesty or substance abuse is determined to be an issue by the course director, the student will be immediately suspended from the Program pending a review of the issue by the program faculty and Evaluation Committee. The student at this time may be dismissed from the program by the Program Director on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee.

It is the responsibility of the student to make extenuating circumstances known to the Course Directors **before** coursework is completed and grades are finalized. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the Course Directors in conjunction with the Program/Academic Director of the Program may permit an exception, providing an alternative pathway to progression through the curriculum. All decisions of the Course Directors in conjunction with the Program/Academic Director with respect to extenuating circumstances as they apply to a student's status in the Program shall be binding. Students should expect qualification for exception due to extenuating circumstances to be rigorous. Appeals regarding academic policy decisions begin with Course Directors and progress to the Program/Academic Director of the Program, Chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, and finally to the Dean of the Graduate School. The Office of Student Advocacy serves as a resource for students with issues related to status and due process. ([Office of Student Advocacy](#))



GRADE POINT AVERAGE METRICS

The grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total grade points earned by the hours attempted for credit.

A	4.0
B+	3.5
B	3.0
C+	2.5
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

Practicum courses (ASNR 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781) are graded on a Pass/Fail grading system. A grade of either pass (P or S) or Fail (F or U) will be awarded. Those courses completed with a satisfactory grade may be counted toward total credit hours earned. If at any time a final clinical course grade is unsatisfactory the student will be dismissed from the program.

GRADUATION

Graduates of the USC SOM Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia shall demonstrate that they have acquired knowledge, skills and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical thinking, communication, and the competencies needed to fulfill their professional responsibilities.

Patient safety is demonstrated by the ability of the graduate to:

1. Be vigilant in the delivery of patient care.
2. Protect patients from iatrogenic complications.
3. Participate in the positioning of patients to prevent injury.
4. Conduct a comprehensive and appropriate equipment check.
5. Utilize standard precautions and appropriate infection control measures.

Individualized peri-anesthetic management is demonstrated by the ability of the graduate to:

1. Provide care throughout the peri-anesthetic continuum.
2. Use a variety of current anesthesia techniques, agents, adjunctive drugs, and equipment while providing anesthesia.
3. Administer general anesthesia to patients of all ages and physical conditions for a variety of surgical and medically related procedures.
4. Provide anesthesia services to all patients, including trauma and emergency cases.
5. Administer and manage a variety of regional anesthetics.
6. Function as a resource person for airway and ventilator management of patients.



7. Possess current advance cardiac life support (ALCS) recognition.
8. Possess current pediatric advanced life support (PALS) recognition.
9. Deliver culturally competent perianesthetic care throughout the anesthesia experience.

Critical thinking is demonstrated by the graduate's ability to:

1. Apply knowledge to practice in decision –making and problem solving.
2. Provide nurse anesthesia care based on sound principles and research evidence.
3. Perform a pre-anesthetic assessment and formulate an anesthesia care plan for patients to whom they are assigned to administer anesthesia.
4. Identify and take appropriate action when confronted with anesthetic equipment-related malfunctions.
5. Interpret and utilize data obtained from noninvasive and invasive monitoring modalities.
6. Calculate, initiate, and manage fluid and blood component therapy.
7. Recognize and appropriately respond to anesthetic complications that occur during the peri-anesthetic period.
8. Pass the National Certification Examination administered by the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).

Communication skills are demonstrated by the graduate's ability to:

1. Effectively communicate with individuals influencing patient care.
2. Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication in the delivery of peri-anesthetic care.

Professional responsibility is demonstrated by the graduate's ability to:

1. Participate in activities that improve anesthesia care.
2. Function within appropriate legal requirements as a registered professional nurse, accepting responsibility and accountability for his or her practice.
3. Interact on a professional level with integrity.
4. Teach others.
5. Participate in continuing education activities to acquire new knowledge and improve his or her practice.

CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION/NCE ELIGIBILITY

1. Satisfactory completion of all courses with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above.
2. Satisfactory completion of all categories of clinical procedures required by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).
3. Satisfactory Completion of Doctoral Scholarly Portfolio including the Doctoral Scholarly Project.



4. Satisfactory completion of all time commitments in the didactic and clinical areas.
5. Satisfactory completion of all case requirements and anesthesia time commitments as required for writing the National Certification Exam (NCE).
6. Satisfaction of all financial obligations to the University of South Carolina.
7. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination required by the Graduate School of the University of South Carolina. (See Comprehensive Exam Policy, p.22)
8. Current certification and/or recertification in ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) and PALS (Pediatric Advance Life Support).

EXPENSES

COST OF ATTENDANCE PER SEMESTER (Subject to Change)*		
	Resident	Non-resident
USC tuition	\$7,540	\$12,885
Health Professions – Graduate Program fee	\$800	\$1,100
University Enrichment and Student Activity fee	\$610	\$610
Technology and Infrastructure fee	\$300	\$300
TOTAL	\$9,210	\$14,895

Other Anticipated Program Expenses

Estimated expenditures for examinations:

Self-Evaluation Examination (see section on SEE) (Taken in the third year of the program - \$285.00/exam)	\$258.00*
National Certification Exam (upon program completion)	\$1285.00*
AANA Associate Membership	\$300.00*
AANA Liability Insurance	\$275.00*
ACLS/PALS/BLS	\$350.00*

* Subject to change

Students participate in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Associate Membership Program. Associate membership provides subscriptions to the *AANA*



JOURNAL, AANA NEWS BULLETIN, privileges to attend meetings at minimal cost, and eligibility to serve on one of the AANA councils or committees. This is a one-time cost due upon matriculation into the Program.

Equipment: An earpiece for precordial/esophageal monitoring of heart and breath sounds is required for all students. Students will be fitted for precordial stethoscopes upon coming to campus (Spring 1/Summer 2). Students are required to have a calculator, protective eyewear and stethoscope. Students are required to have personal computers and Internet access during the 36-month program.

Students must keep in mind indirect expenses including housing, meals, transportation, and the loss of income due to clinical and academic requirements.

SELF-EVALUATION EXAMINATION

The National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) administers the Self-Evaluation Examination to any student beyond the 12th month of the educational program. Students of the USC SOM Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are required to write this examination in the third year of the program. The Self-Evaluation Examination has three primary functions: (1) to provide information to students about their progress in the nurse anesthesia program; (2) to prepare students for the certification examination; and (3) to serve as the comprehensive examination, which is a required component of the USC graduate school. Students are granted one day of professional leave in order to write the Self-Evaluation Exam from the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists.

Students must write the SEE prior to September 15th of the third year. Students are provided one (1) day of leave to take the test. The Curriculum Committee establishes annually a minimum score that each student must meet in order to comply with the comprehensive exam requirement from the Graduate School of the University of South Carolina, currently 400. Failure to achieve the minimally established score on the SEE exam will result in the student having to retake the exam. The student is responsible for the fees to retake the exam. Students, upon individual request, are provided the opportunity to retake the SEE at any time during the final months of their program and may need to use PTO time.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

A final transcript of academic performance and clinical cases will be prepared by the Program Director prior to graduation from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. The Program Director will create an NCE application on the NBCRNA website



(<http://www.nbcrna.com>). Students then access the application through the student portal on the website and submit the NCE fee. Clinical transcripts are then electronically uploaded to the Application file upon completion of all requirements for graduation from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. The NBCRNA will notify individual students of their eligibility to write the NCE. Certification examinations must be written within three months of program completion. **Graduates must take and pass the National Certification Exam offered by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists within 2 years of graduation or re-enroll and complete an unabridged, accredited nurse anesthesia program.**

FINANCIAL AID AND BENEFITS

Students are responsible for tuition, fees, educational and living expenses. Financial assistance is available to students in the form of loans, scholarships, and grants. Eligibility for aid depends on the applicant's financial circumstances. Information for the various financial aid programs may be obtained from Takilya Brown, the Financial Aid liaison in Student Services at the School of Medicine (takilya.brown@uscmed.sc.edu).

PROGRAM FACILITIES

Classes are held at the USC Floyd School of Medicine campus (Columbia), Greenville campus and McLeod campus. Students may be required to attend classes in alternate locations.

COLUMBIA CAMPUS

The University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine is located at 6311 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Spaces commonly utilized by the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia include:

- Building 101 (Library Building) Suite 301 Offices of the Nurse Anesthesia Program
- Building 1: B-1 Classroom and B-67 Classroom
- Student Lounge
- Humphries Fitness Center
- School of Medicine Library
- Simulation and Interactive Learning Center



GREENVILLE CAMPUS

The Greenville Campus is located at 607 Grove Road, Greenville, SC. Classroom space and administrative offices for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are found in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Building on the main campus of Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Campus.

McLEOD CAMPUS

The McLeod Campus is located on the McLeod Regional Medical Center campus at 555 East Cheves Street, Florence, SC 29506. Classroom space and administrative offices for the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are located McLeod Regional Medical Center campus in the Pavilion 7th Floor.

Students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia have access to the Charles S. and Donna H. Bryan School of Medicine Library. Students on all campuses have 24 hour access to School of Medicine Library electronically and are provided access to designated classrooms or student designated study areas.

The School of Medicine Library serves as the information gateway to over 10,000 biomedical electronic journals, over 1,300 electronic textbooks, over 80 biomedical databases, a diagnostic decision support system (DxPLAIN), consumer health information, an online catalog, and PASCAL, South Carolina's state-wide academic electronic library. The Library's print collection consists of more than 68,000 volumes. Library users are able to access electronic resources onsite or remotely. The Medline database can be accessed via Pubmed or Ovid. Other databases available include AccessMedicine, ClinicalKey, and Cochrane Evidence-Based Medicine. More than 55,000 e-journals are available through collaboration with the University Libraries via TDNet, the e-journal management system.

Within the Library is an information commons area with public workstations and a seating area with HDTV (closed captioned). There is study space for individuals and group use on a first come first served basis. Reference services with librarians are available during regular operating hours.

Educational/Instructional services are available, along with interlibrary loan services. For additional information visit <http://uscm.med.sc.edu>. School of Medicine students and employees also have access to the Thomas Cooper Library of the University of South Carolina. USCAN, the online catalog for the Thomas Cooper Library, can be searched from terminals in the public services area of the School of Medicine Library.

SIMULATION CENTERS

The Simulation and Interactive Learning Center is located on the School of Medicine Campus on the first floor of Building 28. The mission of the center is to provide a multidisciplinary learning environment whereby the incorporation of medical simulation



teaching and interactive medical skills laboratory experiences are made available to all health care learners at the SOM and the VA. The goal of the center is to improve faculty, staff, and student performance and promote a positive culture of learning. Students are assigned to participate in various simulation scenarios during the program. For further information go to [Simulation and Interactive Learning Center](#)

The Florence campus will have access to the Florence Medical School campus simulation center. The Prisma Health Greenville Simulation Center is located in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Building on the Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Campus at 607 Grove Road. The center provides clinical training and continuing education for medical, nursing and allied health students, medical residents, practicing physicians, nurses and allied health professionals. The Center's mission is to improve patient care, patient safety and healthcare education through the use of Advanced Instructional Technology. For further information, go to [Prisma Health Greenville Simulation Center](#).

STUDENT SERVICES

Students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia have access to student services offered through The Graduate School and the School of Medicine. Graduate student services are outlined at the following link:

<http://gradschool.sc.edu/students/resources.asp?page=cr>.

HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE

All Graduate Students at the University of South Carolina are required to maintain basic health insurance coverage during their enrollment in the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia. A comprehensive health insurance policy is made available through the University of South Carolina for students and their spouses and/or children. If students elect coverage from other sources, they must complete the Waiver of Insurance form provided on the [student insurance website](#) to avoid the student insurance fee in their semester tuition bill.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Student Health Services provides accessible, convenient, high quality, low cost health care. The health services team is sincerely interested in your health and wants to be your partner in wellness. Student Health Services provide on-campus medical, mental health, ancillary, and health and wellness services for students. Services include (1) ambulatory primary care at clinics and ancillary services located at the nationally accredited Thomson Student Health Center; (2) a comprehensive array of counseling, testing, and psychological and psychiatric services available at the nationally accredited Counseling and Human Development Center; and (3) a wide variety of wellness-oriented programs and educational services offered by the Office for Campus Wellness and the Office for



Sexual Health and Violence Prevention. Students are encouraged to visit [Student Health Services](#) for additional information on clinics, services, and programs.

Immunization and occupational health concerns are handled by the School of Medicine Employee/Student Health Services.

Center for Health and Well-Being
1401 Devine St.
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone: 803-777-3175
Fax: 803-777-0126

Students based at the Greenville and Florence campuses have access to emergency medical services through Prisma Health Greenville Employee Services or the McLeod Health Employee Services, located in the main hospitals. Immunization and occupational health concerns are managed by the Floyd School of Medicine Student Services.

COUNSELING / CONSULTATION SERVICES

Students in the USC Floyd School of Medicine have available to them various counseling, consultation, and psychotherapeutic resources. These may be sought from the Office of Student Services and psychologists and psychiatrists with appointments in the School of Medicine, as well as from the various services and counseling centers on the University campus. Emergency psychiatric services and confidential assessment, referral, and treatment services are available on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Please see the Student services website for additional information (<https://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cp/>).

LIABILITY INSURANCE

All students will have individual liability insurance policies issued by AANA Insurance Services with premiums covered by the students for the duration of the Program.

VETERAN'S BENEFITS

Veterans and children of deceased or disabled veterans who meet regular admission requirements may be eligible to receive educational assistance benefits through the Veterans Administration. Application for benefits may be made through the University Office of Veterans Affairs located on the Columbia campus. Students are urged to apply for benefits at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the semester.

OTHER BENEFITS

As full-time USC students, there is also access to athletic events, the USC Physical Education Center, Russell House Student Union, Student Health Center, student activities, etc. These benefits are mentioned during program orientation and information is available via the website. Please note that access for most of these benefits is on the Columbia campus – there may be no equivalent offered on the satellite campuses.



TRANSPORTATION / HOUSING

Transportation to and from all clinical and/or educational sites is the responsibility of the individual student. Students are responsible for their own housing as long as they are assigned to one of the primary clinical training sites. Students may be required to rotate to affiliated clinical training sites. Housing is currently provided for students scheduled for rotational sites that are located beyond a reasonable (less than 60 miles) commute.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS / COMMITTEES

Students may be selected to serve on various Program, USC student organizations and/or committees. These include, but are not limited to the following:

Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia Interview and Admissions Committee
Curriculum Advisory Committee
Honor Committee

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

DIDACTIC EDUCATION

The Program is affiliated with the Floyd School of Medicine and The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina. Upon successful completion of the Program, the University confers the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP), Nurse Anesthesia degree. The Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience (PPN) is the academic unit, providing academic oversight and basic science instruction. The Department also provides an Academic Director, who is responsible for Program compliance with University policies and procedures with respect to academic matters. Clinical anesthesia instruction is coordinated by Program Faculty who hold academic appointments within the PPN Department.

The program maintains its accreditation status as determined by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). The Program offers its curriculum in accordance with the Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and the requirements of the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA). The Program is committed to meeting and exceeding the standards for performance on the National Certification Exam (NCE). Performance metrics are published on the Program's website (<http://anesthesia.med.sc.edu>).

CLINICAL EDUCATION

To establish eligibility to write the National Certification Exam (NCE) from the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), students must participate in a minimum of 700 (750 preferred) anesthetic cases (2014 Standards



and Guidelines from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, Revised 1/2026). The Program will provide opportunities for clinical experiences that will meet the clinical case requirements outlined by the NBCRNA. The Program will monitor student progress through periodic review of student clinical case records and ensure clinical assignments to facilitate meeting the NBCRNA requirements. The Program provides two primary clinical training sites: Prisma Health Richland and Prisma Health Greenville Memorial. The Program also has affiliated clinical sites to enrich the clinical experience through a variety of practice settings. The Program will have a Clinical Site Director/Coordinator at each site who works with the Program to provide clinical opportunities for students and complete performance evaluations for the Program in accordance with Council on Accreditation standards.

CLINICAL SUPERVISION

The Program is responsible for insuring clinical supervision in accordance with the Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs outlined by the Council on Accreditation. Clinical oversight of graduate students in the clinical area is limited to CRNAs and anesthesiologists credentialed to practice anesthesia in that institution. At no time should the ratio exceed 2:1 (two graduate students to one CRNA or two graduate students to one anesthesiologist with no CRNA involved.) At no time should a student be supervised by a graduate nurse anesthetist, resident, or anesthesiologist assistant.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The Objectives for each Clinical Practicum Course are located in the corresponding course syllabus. This list is provided as a guide to the progression of skills that the student will acquire as he/she progresses through the Practicums. The overall goal is that the student will continue to improve and grow in clinical knowledge and skill from the novice to the proficient/expert level in Benner's Stages of Clinical Competencies. Progression to the next clinical course is dependent on the student meeting all previous objectives.

Summer 2 to Fall 2

By the end of Fall 2, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of preoperative patient assessment and interviewing techniques.
- Show sensitivity to human needs and the psychosocial problems of the patient.
- Demonstrate knowledge of preoperative medications.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legal implications concerning informed consent, identification of patient preoperatively, signed operative permit, and nurse anesthetist's liability and responsibility.
- Identify and locate all types of anesthesia equipment, drugs, monitors, and related anesthetics within the physical unit.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a basic anesthetic machine and table set-up.
- Comprehend basic principles of the anesthesia machine and proper anesthesia machine checkout according to FDA guidelines.
- Demonstrate knowledge of laws on electricity as they apply to effective safe anesthesia practice; apply measures for patient and health team member safety.



- Demonstrate knowledge of National Fire Protection Association's requirements for compressed gases and volatile liquids.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of basic and advanced monitoring equipment.
- Demonstrate the ability to assemble equipment and administer blood safely through a blood warmer, including meticulous blood identification policies.
- Apply principles and current methods that are used to prevent cross infection through anesthetic equipment.
- Utilize aseptic techniques and principles in the care and cleaning of anesthetic equipment.
- Formulate anesthetic plans that are based on sound physiological and scientific principles.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge in choosing anesthetic agents and adjunctive drugs that are compatible with the patient's current drug and physiological status.
- Understand principles of recording accurate physiological data.
- Record accurate anesthetic and physiologic data on anesthetic and operative records.
- Recognize and demonstrate proper management of abnormal laboratory reports.
- Recognize and demonstrate proper management of minor cardiac arrhythmias.
- Recognize and demonstrate proper procedures for managing an obstructed airway.
- Perform venipuncture with different types of catheters and needles within medically established guidelines.
- Understand principles of IV therapy and associated physiology.
- Demonstrate skill in the proper positioning of a patient on the operating table that is physiologically safe.
- Demonstrate knowledge of fluid and electrolyte balance during the anesthetic process.
- Demonstrate ability to administer uncomplicated inhalation and IV anesthetics and monitor regional anesthetics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of physiological changes associated with spinal/epidural and regional block anesthetics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of signs and symptoms involved in levels of anesthesia.
- Utilize acceptable physiological principles involved in the management of fluid and electrolyte balance during the anesthetic process.

Spring 2 to Summer 3

By the end of Summer 3, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the anatomical, physiological, and emotional differences between infants, children, adults, and geriatric patients.
- Interpret laboratory data. Make appropriate judgment for anesthetic and adjunctive drugs.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the physiologic variances and tolerances to all classifications of drugs in relation to patient's age, size, pathophysiology, etc.
- Identify drug interactions that may occur between various anesthetic drugs, and/or drugs patient is taking therapeutically, and/or drug abuse.



- Demonstrate the ability to make knowledgeable choices of anesthetic agents and adjunctive drugs that are compatible with the patient's current drug therapy and physical status.
- Demonstrate ability to make accurate mathematical computations of anesthetic and adjunctive drugs.
- Apply measures that can be taken to correct an obstructed airway and insure its continued patency.
- Evaluate blood loss and make clinical judgments for accurate replacement.
- Identify abnormal chest x-rays.
- Demonstrate knowledge of CPR and ACLS protocol.
- Calculate accurate mathematical computations, as required for the proper use of ventilators.
- Demonstrate skill in oral and nasal intubations.
- Understand and utilize correct principles and techniques when anesthetizing children and infants.
- Identify and correct uncomplicated cardiac arrhythmias.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the integration of all body systems and how one system malfunction affects the performance of other systems.
- Utilize all current anesthetics and techniques.
- Perform radial arterial punctures within medically established guidelines.
- Perform arterial blood gas analysis within medically established guidelines.
- Comprehend anatomy and physiology of pregnancy.
- Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology involved in all types of regional anesthesia.
- Understand dosage and toxicity of various classes of regional anesthetic drugs and their respective cellular and organ system effects.
- Recognize and effectively manage complications of regional blocks.
- Demonstrate skill in the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative management of pediatric patients.
- Understand and utilize pulmonary function tests and blood gas analysis in the care of patients for surgical cases.
- Insert arterial catheter for arterial monitoring, perform puncture for blood gases using prescribed precautions.
- Recognize the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative complications associated with open-heart surgery.
- Understand the principles relating to extracorporeal circulation.
- Comprehend and apply the concepts of hemodynamic monitoring.
- Recognize the advantages, disadvantages and application during anesthesia and the techniques of induced hypotension.

Fall 3 to Spring 3

By the end of Spring 3, students enrolled will:

- Understand specific conditions and principles, which may be surgically acquired.
- Demonstrate skill in utilizing mechanical ventilators during the anesthetic process.
- Understand complications that are related to contaminated or malfunctioning anesthetic equipment.



- Demonstrate growth in knowledge and skills involved in the anesthetic process.
- Utilize critical thinking and assessment when administering an anesthetic.
- Administer physiologically sound anesthesia, utilizing general and regional techniques that are compatible with the pathological condition of the patient.
- Demonstrate good clinical judgment based upon sound scientific principles when correcting problems during the anesthetic process.
- Perform safely and accurately when administering anesthetics outside the operating suite.
- Apply biological and physical laws to the practical application of anesthesia.
- Understand principles and concepts in the usage of complex monitoring systems.
- Perform skillfully during emergency and stressful encounters.
- Accept constructive criticism from instructors, peers, and other staff members of the operating and anesthesia teams and benefit from such evaluation.
- Formulate and initiate a plan to maintain surgical planes of anesthesia, as indicated for each type of surgical procedure, and to terminate anesthesia and return the patient to unassisted vital functions or prepare patients to be ventilated postoperatively.
- Apply knowledge of the physiology of pregnancy when selecting anesthetic requirements and techniques for vaginal delivery and cesarean section.
- Analyze complications of labor and delivery in relationship to the anesthetic process.
- Evaluate and formulate a plan for prevention and treatment of complications of anesthesia for the obstetric patient.
- Understand and apply concepts and principles in resuscitation of the newborn.
- Perform skillfully when managing the special anesthetic problems and considerations of emergency surgery.
- Formulate and implement a plan for choice of anesthetic drugs and techniques during emergency surgery.
- Demonstrate knowledge in the physiology of chronic pain, evaluation of pain syndromes, various treatment modalities, and regional anatomy for administration of plexus and other pain blocks.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT CLINICAL PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESSION

Students receive evaluations of their clinical performance on a regular basis (daily/monthly) during their Practicum courses. Monthly evaluations are received after specialty rotations and affiliated site rotations. Evaluations are reviewed by Program Faculty in charge of clinical education, and discussed with the students at intervals, as necessary, and upon request during each clinical practicum. Students have access to their evaluations through the online, confidential Medatrax platform. It is the student's responsibility to solicit and monitor clinical evaluations along with direct feedback from clinical faculty regarding clinical performance.

Students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward meeting the clinical objectives consistently by the end of each Practicum Course. The Program Faculty, in



conjunction with the Program Evaluation Committee, make recommendations to the Program Director regarding clinical progression. The Program Director in consultation with other program faculty, represents the final authority and may elect to in no particular order:

1. Create time sensitive improvement plans designed to facilitate meeting clinical objectives.
2. Convene a case specific Evaluation Sub-Committee to review and make recommendations regarding student performance and status in the Program.

A clinical practicum that extends beyond the academic calendar may affect Program completion time or graduation. Final determination of a student's successful completion of academic and clinical requirements for graduation from the Program is the responsibility of the Program Director in cooperation with Program Faculty, and the Evaluation Committee.

The Program Director, at their discretion, may elect to place students on probation or suspension for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Actions/inactions that jeopardize patient safety
2. Conduct deemed unethical or inappropriate by a clinical site or the University
3. Insubordination
4. Unspecified acts or omissions deemed detrimental to the Program

If immediate and sustained improvement is not seen or additional issues arise as described above, the Program Director, in cooperation with Program Faculty, and the Evaluation Committee, may take action to dismiss the student from the Program based upon the student's Improvement Plan.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia will provide opportunity for students to engage in a grievance process for adverse decisions regarding performance and status in the Program. For academic issues, students are subject to all policies and procedures for appeal and grievance through the Graduate School of the University of South Carolina. Students are encouraged to contact the Academic Director of the Program or The Office of Student Advocacy ([The Office of Student Advocacy](#)). Issues involving clinical performance and status to continue clinical training involve a Program Evaluation Committee review as described above. It is not possible to list all acts or omissions, which might result in disciplinary action or termination of the student. In instances that involve disciplinary suspension or termination from the USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, the student may request a formal review of any final action. The following guidelines and steps are to be followed in filing a formal Grievance:

1. Disputed actions which can invoke the grievance process:
 - A. Most disciplinary actions resulting in termination.
 - B. Termination for refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen cannot be grieved.



2. The student who has a dispute should submit the dispute in writing to the Program Director within ten (10) calendar days after the facts on which the dispute is based become available to the student.
 - A. Delay in submittal of the requested information will result in a forfeiture of the grievance rights.
 - B. Decision to extend the deadline will be made by the Program Director and made based on extenuating circumstances.
 - C. The student's document should recap the facts of the situation or event.
3. The Program Director will convene a Grievance Review Body within two weeks (14 calendar days) to hear the dispute.
 - A. The Grievance Review Body will be composed of the following:
 1. Program Director
 2. Assistant Program Directors
 3. Academic Director
 4. 3 CRNA faculty members from the primary clinical training site where the student is assigned.
 5. SRNA clinical coordinator
 - B. A copy of the student's document recapping the facts of the situation or events will be shared with members of the Grievance Review Body. The decision of the Grievance Review Body will be sent in writing to the student in question.
 - C. The Student may then submit a further appeal to the Chair of the Department and to the Dean of the Graduate School (see Graduate School Appeals on the Graduate School Website).

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Program Committees exist to assist the Program in fulfilling its responsibilities to its communities of interest. Student representation is included where appropriate.

1. Curriculum Advisory Committee *
2. Interview and Admissions Committee*
3. Evaluation Committee

* Includes student representation

CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Curriculum Advisory Committee is composed of the Academic and Program Directors, Program Faculty, Basic Science Course Directors, a Community at-large member, and student representation from each class. The Committee exists to evaluate, discuss, and make recommendations regarding the didactic and clinical curriculum. It is a major component of the Continuous Self-Assessment Plan to determine purposeful change and needed improvement.



INTERVIEW AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Interview and Admissions Committee is composed of the Academic and Program Directors, the Assistant Program Directors, and Program Faculty. They are assisted by University Faculty, Clinical Faculty, and students. The Committee exists to evaluate applications, interview potential candidates, and make recommendations for admission to the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia in accordance with University policy.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Evaluation Committee is composed of the Program/Academic Directors, the Assistant Program Directors, the Program Clinical Coordinators, and other designated clinical faculty members from the primary and affiliated clinical training sites. The Committee exists to discuss, evaluate, and to make recommendations regarding student progress in the program. The committee will meet as necessary to review an individual student's clinical progress.

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT FOR NECESSARY CHANGE AND NEEDED IMPROVEMENT

To comply with the Council on Accreditation Standard IV on Program Effectiveness, the Program utilizes a systematic, comprehensive evaluation process to implement purposeful change and needed improvement. The Program will engage in the following activities to assess information gathered from its communities of interest regarding program effectiveness:

- Faculty Meetings
 - University Department Faculty Meetings
 - Program Faculty Meetings
- Curriculum Advisory Committee Meetings – with student representatives from each cohort and Community At-Large representation
- Clinical Department Meetings

The Program will evaluate information obtained from the following assessment tools and performance metrics:

Students

- Student Course and Faculty Evaluations
- Student Clinical Progress Conferences
- Student self-evaluations of clinical performance
- Student participation in Curriculum Advisory Committee activities
- Student Course Performance Metrics
 - Grades, Grade Point Average
 - Student performance on the Self Evaluation Exam
 - Student performance on the National Certification Exam
 - Cohort first time pass rate on the National Certification Exam



- Comparison of Program performance to SEE/NCE national performance metrics
- Student Evaluations of the Primary Clinical Training Site and Clinical Faculty
- Student Evaluations of the Affiliated Clinical Training Sites and Clinical Faculty
- Student Evaluations of the Program

Faculty

- Participation in Curriculum Advisory Committee meetings
- Clinical Faculty Evaluations of Student Clinical Performance
- Program and Clinical Faculty Evaluations of Program Effectiveness
- Program Faculty Evaluation of Affiliate Clinical Sites

Communities of Interest

- Employer Evaluations of recent graduates
- Alumni Evaluations of the Program

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

LICENSURE

Students must present a copy of a **current non-disciplined nursing license prior to matriculation into the program**. Students must present a copy of a **current non-disciplined nursing license from the South Carolina Board of Nursing prior to participation in clinical activities (February of Spring 1)**. A current license must be maintained throughout the program and certification exam. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in suspension from the program until this requirement is satisfied. Suspension time will be charged as PTO time or must be made up prior to graduation or prior to being approved by the Program Director to take the NCE.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications must be kept up to date and copies of those certifications provided to the Program offices. The student is responsible for scheduling their own renewal classes and the fees for such. The student may NOT be provided time from clinical and/or classes to obtain certification or recertification. **All students must have current certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) upon graduation**. Students are responsible for the cost of these certifications and/or recertification. Affiliated clinical training sites may require proof of certification and licensure. The student is expected to provide this documentation upon request.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

All students will have a criminal background check performed at their expense prior to matriculation into the Program. Primary clinical site approval of background checks is a prerequisite to final acceptance in the Program. Affiliated clinical sites may require documentation of background checks as a requirement for participation. Issues uncovered



from background checks are subject to any clinical facility's discretion with regard to participation in clinical activities at that facility. After matriculation, any issue that causes Prisma Health to prohibit student participation in clinical activities will result in termination from the Program.

IMMUNIZATIONS

In order to ensure the health and safety of students and patients in both the classroom and clinical settings, students are required to provide, prior to matriculation, immunization data on forms provided by the School of Medicine.

Affiliated training sites may require current documentation prior to participation in clinical activities. All immunizations required for an affiliated site clinical rotation are the responsibility of the student. Maintaining and submitting current documentation of these required immunizations are the responsibility of the student.

AANA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Associate Membership is required by the Program at the student's expense. Information can be found at the [AANA Website](#). The cost of Associate Membership is approximately \$300.00 for the duration of the Program.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The curriculum is rigorous and time consuming. As such, the program is considered a full time endeavor. In order to provide an opportunity to decrease cost and time off from employment, the first six months of the program are designed to allow the student to maintain their current residency and employment while enrolled in the program. Once the student begins the on-campus portion of the program (Spring 1), however, time commitment to the program runs Sunday – Saturday. The hours of practicum vary according to the clinical site and enable the student to correlate didactic course work and clinical practice. It is not reasonable to expect there to be time available for outside employment while in these last 28 months of the program. Part-time work is also strongly discouraged. **Outside employment should be discussed with the Program Director.**

During the entire thirty-six month Nurse Anesthesia educational program, the student may not be employed as a nurse anesthetist by title or function. Any student not in full compliance with this policy is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

CHANGE OF STATUS

Students are required to notify the Program Offices when changes are made in addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. In the case of marriage or divorce, whenever a name change occurs, an official copy of the marriage certificate or divorce decree indicating the name change should be submitted to the Graduate School and the University Registrar.



Students are responsible for notifying the State Board of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the National Board for Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists of changes in status.

PREGNANCY

All reasonable accommodations will be made for expecting (pregnant) students. Because of the basic physical demands and requirements of the program, it is imperative that a student report their pregnancy to the Program immediately. The student will be required to confirm their desire to complete course work. Students may be allowed leave of absence up to six (6) months for delivery and/or medical concerns with the pregnancy if the student is in good standing in both clinical and didactic course work. All clinical time missed during the absence must be made up completely upon return to the program and may require an extension of the time allocated for completion of the educational program. Students with pregnant partners may be allowed time off not to exceed seven days for the birth of their child, unless extenuating circumstances arise. This time is considered personal time off and will be deducted from the 160 hours. Time off during the first clinical year (Spring 1 through Fall 2) will be made up at the discretion of the Program and may include designated USC School of Medicine/program breaks.

TIME AWAY FROM THE PROGRAM

Once students begin their face-to-face courses on campus, Spring 1 semester, students will follow the academic calendar in conjunction with USC School of Medicine Columbia. With the start of Spring 2 (ASNR 775 Practicum), students will attend clinical every week, regardless of the academic calendar. Program Time Off (PTO) thereafter will be granted in accordance with policies set forth for second and third clinical year students (see below.) Sick leave during the first year may result in academic ineligibility depending on the duration of the sick leave and the corresponding classroom commitment. All classroom and clinical/simulation activities missed due to illness, must be made up at a time designated by the Course Directors. Sick leave or absences in excess of 160 hours during the final 15 months of the program (second and third clinical years) must be made up prior to program completion in accordance with a method defined by the Program Director, Assistant Program Director or Clinical Coordinator. Students will not be allowed to take any more than seven (7) consecutive days without extenuating circumstances. Emergency LOA of more than seven (7) days may be granted but all time must be made up at the discretion of the Program Director.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Students are expected to wear protective eyewear and use universal precautions whenever they are in the clinical area. Eyewear must include splash protection above the brow and on the sides. The standards are set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In case of an incidental exposure, students should report the incident immediately to the School of Medicine Student/Employee Health Nurse clinical coordinator or clinical site employee health. Students are expected to review and demonstrate competency with respect to blood borne pathogens annually at the direction of the Student/Employee Health Nurse at the School of Medicine.



PROGRAM TIME OFF

Second and third clinical year students

Students receive a total of one hundred-sixty (160) hours of Program Time Off (PTO) to cover absences from clinical days. Beginning January 1st of the Spring 2 semester, PTO may be taken during the last 16 months of the educational program. Absences due to illness will be deducted from PTO allotment based on the number of scheduled hours missed from the clinical setting. PTO requests must be received prior to approval from the Program Director, Assistant Director, or Clinical Coordinator. PTO requests that interfere with scheduled classes must be submitted to the Course Director(s) and may not necessarily be approved. Requests for PTO will be in accordance with the PTO request policy and procedure. Every attempt will be made to post schedules twenty (20) calendar days prior to the start of the new schedule. Requests submitted after the schedule is posted may or may not be granted. Time missed in excess of one hundred- sixty (160) hours must be made up in full before submission of completion of program requirements to take the National Certification Examination unless extenuating circumstances are approved by the Program Director. Prisma Health designated holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. All students may be required to work at least one (1) of the major holidays listed above.

REQUESTS FOR TIME OFF

All requested time off must be received in the office by the 15th of the month which falls two months ahead of the request. For example, requests for December must be submitted by October 15th. Requests for time off that interfere with scheduled classes must also have approval of the didactic course director. If requests are received from students on the same rotation, these requests may be granted on a first come, first served basis and at the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator or Assistant Director.

Request for time off is highly discouraged and may not be approved during certain specialty rotations (eg. Cardiac, Neuro, Peds, OB).

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Professional leave for students to attend educational meetings may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director, Assistant Directors and Clinical Coordinators. Leave that interferes with classes at the School of Medicine may not necessarily be granted.

Students are granted one (1) day of professional leave in order to write the Self-Evaluation Exam from the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (during the third year.) This day should be scheduled with the Program Clinical Coordinators and the course directors of the courses currently enrolled in, and in accordance with the process for requesting vacation time. Time off for repeat testing is deducted from the Program Time Off allotment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence from the program may be granted by the Program Director for extenuating circumstances and in accordance with the policies of the University of South Carolina and the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia. A leave of absence has the



potential of delaying Program completion if clinical time, case criteria, or graduation requirements are not met. A leave of absence may not exceed one academic year.

EMERGENCY LEAVE DUE TO DEATH IN FAMILY

Emergency leave may be granted up to three (3) consecutive days in the death of a member of the student's immediate family. Immediate family is defined as the partner, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of either the student or their partner. Students may elect to take a leave of absence from the Program in extenuating circumstances. Time away from didactic courses will be handled by the Course Directors of the courses affected or, in the case of the clinical anesthesia courses, by the Program Coordinator. Any clinical time missed for a death in the immediate family will be considered personal leave time or may be made up at the discretion of the Program Director or Clinical Course Director.

WITHDRAWAL

Students may elect to withdraw from the Program. All withdrawals are subject to University policies and procedures with respect to grades posted on transcripts or tuition refunds. Any student, who withdraws and is terminated from the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia and subsequently wishes to return to the program, must submit an application to the Graduate School as a new applicant.

ATTENDANCE IN DIDACTIC COURSES

Students are expected to attend and be on time for ALL classes and participate in ALL assigned simulation clinical experiences. Attendances at classes reflect reliability and accountability to the profession. In case of illnesses or other extenuating circumstances the student is expected to notify the course director prior to the class hour. The student will be responsible for all materials given to all students. Absence or tardiness on the day of exams is strongly discouraged. In the event of an absence or tardiness, make-up exams may be arranged at the discretion of the course director and may consist of a format other than that of the original exam. Each course director has the right to set additional criteria to attendance and tardiness.

ATTENDANCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICUM

Students are expected to follow the “call in” procedures outlined during clinical orientation for unscheduled absences from the clinical area. Failure to properly notify absences from the clinical area may result in forfeiture of up to 24 hours of Program Time Off for each occurrence. Any absence deemed unexcused may also result in forfeiture of up to 24 hours of Program Time Off. Clinical Course Directors will determine whether an absence is considered excused.

ENRICHMENT SITES

Students are responsible for travel to and from the assigned clinical sites. Currently, housing arrangements have been made for assigned rotations that are located beyond 45 miles daily driving distance. Students are expected to comply with the specific requirements for each individual clinical site. Communication with clinical coordinators in advance of a clinical rotation is required.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Inclement weather is defined as snow, ice, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes or other unusual occurrence that makes it difficult to travel to your assigned clinical facility. Course Directors will communicate changes in course schedules when classes are missed due to inclement weather. Students should always heed the advice of local authorities (University, government, and law enforcement officials) with respect to travel to and from classes or the clinical areas. Should weather conditions worsen to the point that student feels they cannot safely make it to a clinical rotation, they are to use their best judgement and inform their faculty and site clinical coordinator of their absence. Student safety is the highest priority; however, since clinical students are considered part of the care team, if they can make it in for their clinical duties they are expected to do so. When students have difficulty getting to the clinical area due to inclement weather, the Program Faculty in charge of students at each respective campus should be notified, and the call-in procedures followed as communicated during each site orientation.

If you are assigned to a site other than one of the required sites (Prisma Health Richland, Prisma Greenville Memorial or McLeod Regional Medical Center) and the site closes or cancels cases for weather related issues (as described above) then you are to notify the respective faculty/program clinical coordinator. At that point you may be reassigned to the primary site of clinical training for clinical experiences based upon the instructions of the faculty/program clinical coordinators.

Failure to follow call in procedure, as outlined by Clinical Course Director, may result in a forfeiture of 24 hours of Program Time Off. If the call in is due to a weather related event, and it is deemed reasonable by the Program Director or their designee, then the missed clinical time may not be required to be made up.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

All students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are members of the student body of the University of South Carolina and therefore subject to the rules and regulations found in the *Carolina Community and the Graduate Bulletin for the University of South Carolina*. Students accepted for clinical experience at Prisma Health Richland are subject to the rules, regulations and the *Policy and Procedure Manual for Prisma Health*. Students are referred to the Prisma Health intranet for the Standards of Behavior. Students accepted for any required clinical training site (Richland, Greenville Memorial or McLeod Regional Medical CTR) are subject to the rules regulations for employees at that institution. Prisma Health Greenville Memorial. While on rotation at any affiliated clinical site, each student is subject to the rules and regulations of the affiliating hospitals and their anesthesia departments. Each facility is responsible for communicating its expectations at the beginning of a rotation. Students assigned to affiliated sites where housing is provided are expected to maintain the housing in a clean and orderly fashion. At NO time should the student house a pet where housing is provided. The student may be responsible for any damage caused to the site.



Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate, professional manner. Conduct should be in conformity with the high moral and ethical standards of the profession as well as within the legal constraints of any law-abiding community. The Program Faculty retain the right to determine appropriate personal and professional conduct when not specifically addressed by policy of the University, the primary clinical training sites, or the affiliated clinical training sites.

Students will be continuously evaluated on their personal and professional conduct. In the event that a student receives an unsatisfactory evaluation in personal and/or professional conduct, the student will be referred to the Program Director or Assistant Program Directors for action.

Each student must certify on the application for the National Certification Exam that they have not been placed on probation or dismissed from a program for ethical or integrity issues.

Use of devices that may distract from patient care/vigilance is strictly prohibited in patient care areas. A student should NEVER chat on the phone, text, or surf anything while in the patient care area. If a phone call or text must be made, permission to leave the patient care area should be requested from the preceptor. If use of an anesthesia app is necessary, the CRNA preceptor should be informed to avoid confusion. Most, if not all, clinical sites have restrictions on the use of mobile devices. In the absence of a clinical site policy, this program policy is in effect.

DRESS CODE

At all times, students are expected to be groomed and dressed as appropriate to present a professional image. On the FSOM Campus, students are expected to dress in a manner that meets accepted standards of professionals in the field of health care. Students are expected to abide by the dress code for the hospital(s) and operating room(s) to which they are assigned.

USC student identification cards are provided to all SOM students and must be worn at all times while on campus. Identification cards are also provided by the primary clinical training sites and may be provided by affiliated clinical sites. Appropriate ID must be worn while in the clinical areas and must be clearly visible at all times.

With the understanding that dress codes are subject to change per each individual institution's policy, the following guidelines are in effect at this time: Surgical scrub uniforms (furnished by the hospital) are to be worn only in the operating rooms or anesthetizing locations. White lab coats or other appropriate surgical cover coats must be worn over clean surgical attire when leaving the operating room suite. No scrub clothing is to be worn outside the hospital, even if covered, unless mandated by clinical responsibilities at remote anesthetizing locations. Disposable hair covers and shoe covers are to be removed before leaving the operating room suites. Masks are to be removed and disposed of after leaving the operating room and a new mask used each time an operating room is entered. Students must refrain from wearing perfumes or strong smelling deodorants and colognes in both academic and clinical areas. Jewelry should be limited



to non-dangling watches, earrings, and a simple wedding band. Students will be required to remove any dangling bracelets, earrings, pins or watches. Nails should be cut short and kept clean and neat at all times. No synthetic nails are allowed. Polish should be limited to clear or neutral tones. Hair must be kept clean and neat. In the operating room, a surgical hair cover must cover all hair. Beards must be kept trimmed, clean and neat at all times. They must be covered completely with a mask or face shield in the operating room.

Students are expected to conform to the dress codes of affiliating hospitals. Failure to conform to those standards may be grounds for removal from the affiliated site and disciplinary action.

CONSENSUAL RELATIONS

Students should not enter into a consensual relationship with a faculty member, including clinical faculty at any site who exerts control or authority over any student. Situations of authority include, but are not limited to teaching, formal mentoring, clinical supervision, and exercising substantial responsibility for grades, honors, or degrees, and consideration of disciplinary action involving the student.

Faculty members (including clinical faculty) should not accept authority over a student with whom they have or have had a consensual relationship. No faculty should participate in decisions pertaining to a student's grades, evaluation of clinical performance or consider disciplinary action involving the student with whom they have had a consensual relationship.

If a consensual relationship exists or develops between a student and Program or Clinical Faculty the student must inform the Program Director or Assistant Program Director of the relationship.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The USC FSOM Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia acknowledges that social networking sites are a popular means of communication. Students who choose to use these websites must be aware that posting certain information is illegal. Violations of administrative policies and regulations may expose the student to criminal and civil liability. Offenders may be subject to adverse academic actions including possible dismissal from the program. The following actions are deemed forbidden by the institutions and considered a violation of the Professional Policy of the USC FSOM Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia.

- You may not present the personal health information of other individuals. Removal of an individual's name does not alone constitute proper de-identification of protected health information. Inclusion of data such as age, gender, race, diagnosis, date of evaluation, or type of treatment or the use of a highly specific medical photograph (such as a before/after photograph of a patient having surgery or a photograph of a patient from a medical outreach trip) may still allow the reader to recognize the identity of a specific individual.
- You may not report private (protected) academic information of another student or trainee.



- You may not present yourself as an official representative or spokesperson for the institution.
- You may not represent yourself as another person, real or fictitious, or otherwise attempt to obscure your identity as a means to circumvent any prohibitions listed in the Student Professionalism Policy.

Other violations of the Student Professionalism Policy pertaining to the use of social media would include but are not limited to:

- Knowingly distributing false evidence, statements, or charges against another student, preceptor, or faculty/staff member.
- Using electronic channels of communication to disseminate inappropriate or uncivil comments regarding peers, preceptors, faculty or staff.
- Verbal, written or electronic insults to, or verbal attacks on, administration, faculty, preceptors, staff, or students.
- Threats or acts of physical violence to administration, faculty, preceptors, staff, or students.
- Harassment, in any form, of administration, faculty, staff, preceptor or students.
- Violating the confidentiality of a faculty committee by an elected student representative serving on that committee.

The USC Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia offers the following social media (Facebook™, Instagram™, X™, blogs, etc.) use guidelines for students:

Avoid any activity on social media sites that could portray you, the Program, the faculty and/or preceptors, the University or the nurse anesthesia profession negatively. Some of the strongly discouraged actions include, but are not limited to:

- display of vulgarity through written comments, photos, and/or affiliations;
- display of language or photos that imply disrespect for any individual or group because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation;
- display of photos or language that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, substance abuse, or sexual promiscuity;
- posting of potentially inflammatory or unflattering material on another individual's website; and
- display of any language that degrades patients.

The actions mentioned above may be interpreted as a violation of the Student Professionalism per the FSOM or University and therefore punishable accordingly. This policy is not constructed to violate any constitutionally protected activity including speech, protest or assembly.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

All students will be required to comply with all policies and procedures related to chemical dependency from the USC Floyd School of Medicine, all clinical sites. Copies of the USC policy



appear in the USC Graduate Bulletin. Copies of other enforceable chemical dependency policies will be found in the anesthesia departments of the primary and affiliated clinical sites in which the student participates in learning activities. Students may be required to participate in random drug screening at the direction of the Program Director, Assistant Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator(s). Students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia are expected to maintain a drug free status at all times. Failure to prove a negative drug free status will result in immediate dismissal from the program.