

Nurse Anesthesia - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Information

Prerequisites

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The following list is the application criteria to apply for an interview and criteria for those applicants who have been accepted into the program. Click on the tab above to start your interview application and its requirements.

1. Successful admission to the Arkansas State University Graduate School
 1. A combined verbal and quantitative score of 300 preferred.
 2. An analytical writing section score.
 1. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from an ACEN or CCNE accredited program of nursing from a regionally accredited college or university.
 2. Current unrestricted/unencumbered (clear/active) license as a registered nurse in one of the states/compact states or one of the protectorates of the United States, with eligibility for Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri R. N. license.
 3. Proof of Liability Insurance and Health Insurance
 4. An application demonstrating a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 on undergraduate course work or 3.25 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work on a 4.0 scale will be reviewed, but not guaranteed for an interview. No transfer credits will be accepted.
 5. All official transcripts
 6. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) on application within 5 years of application demonstrating:
 7. A minimum of one (1) year full-time work experience, or its part-time equivalent, as a registered nurse in a critical care setting at the time of admission. Critical care experience must be within two (2) years of application. Critical care setting examples include but are not limited to: *Surgical Intensive Care, Medical Intensive Care, Neuro Intensive Care, Cardiothoracic or Cardiovascular Intensive Care, Burn/Trauma Intensive Care, Neonatal or Pediatric Intensive Care.* A-State Nurse Anesthesia Option does not accept *Emergency Room, Post-Anesthesia*

Care Unit, Operating Room or Obstetrical – Labor & Delivery Unit experience.

8. Completion of an **approved** 3-credit hour **graduate** level descriptive and inferential statistics course with a grade of “B” or higher. ELFN 6773 is an A-State online course that is accepted but students may call for a list of other approved courses.
9. Three references should be written by a current supervisor/manager (not a charge nurse) and **related** healthcare professionals.
10. Current BLS, ACLS and PALS certifications on application.
11. Current TB Test, Flu Vaccine, Tetanus, MMR, and Hepatitis B Vaccine
12. A satisfactory Physical Exam report (See: **Important Files** on website for form)
13. CCRN or Cardiac Surgery Certification on application
14. Successful completion of a Background Check, Drug Test, and Interview Process.
15. Interview is by invitation only and is not guaranteed on application.

Admission decisions are not grievable.

English Proficiency Requirements

English proficiency requirements may apply. See [School of Nursing English Proficiency Requirements](#) for more details.

Required Abilities and Skills

Abilities and Skills for the Graduate Nurse Anesthetist Student

The School of Nursing affirms that all students enrolled in the graduate, Nurse Anesthesia program must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

The Advanced Practice Nurse Anesthetist must possess the knowledge and ability to effectively assess his or her client's biophysical, psychological, social, cultural, and intellectual domains. Further, the advanced practice nurse must competently analyze the assessment data through intellectual processing to arrive at a definition of the client's status or problem, plan independently or collaboratively for full range of therapeutic anesthesia interventions, execute all or part of the anesthesia care plan through advanced practice nursing acts, and evaluate the care delivered and the client's responses to it.

Candidates for advanced practice nursing must have the abilities and skills necessary for use of the nursing process. These skills and abilities include observations; communication; motor ability; conceptualization; integration and quantification; and behavioral/social acceptability. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain of these areas, but candidates must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not possible.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

Observations

The candidate must be able to observe patients and monitors accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of vision and tactile sensation. It is enhanced by the functional sense of smell.

Communication

The candidate must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, posture, mentation, and consciousness; and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor

Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers. A candidate must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to the treatment of patients receiving anesthesia care. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Examples of required fine motor skills would include, but are not limited to, preparation and administration of medications, assessment of vital signs, administration of general, regional, and monitored anesthesia care anesthetics, and insertion invasive monitoring lines. Examples of required gross motor skills would include, but are not limited to, positioning clients, transferring clients and maneuvering in confined spaces. In addition, the candidate should be able to lift and carry a minimum of 35% of his or her own body weight. Also, the candidate should be able to sit, bend, reach and/or walk and stand for most of the day.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of nurse anesthetists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and all members of the healthcare team. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, and appropriate

interpersonal skills, interests, and motivations are all personal qualities necessary for professional nursing.

The citations for these guidelines are as follows:

- Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Bower, D., Line, L., & Denega, D. (1988). Evaluation instruments in nursing (pp. 71). New York: National League for Nursing

Admission Process

How to Apply

1. Apply to the Graduate School

Complete and/or gather the following documents:

- Application to Graduate School Accompanied by Application Fee
- Official Transcript of all Undergraduate and Graduate Work
- Graduate Record Examination Score (must be within 5 years)
- Proof of MMR

2. Apply to the Nurse Anesthesia Program

Complete and/or gather the following documents:

1. Provide Graduate Admissions with Official Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work along with official GRE scores to:
NursingCAS.
2. Complete the following:
 - DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program application
 - Personal Resume
 - Professional Goal Statement consisting of 500-1,000 words with attention given to the applicant's professional goals, past experiences and contributions the applicant expects to make in the field Nurse Anesthesia practice.
 - Official GRE Test Results taken within 5 years of application.
 - Three references, one of which **must** be a current supervisor/manager (a reference from a charge nurse will not suffice).
 - DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program Reference Forms.
 - Recommendation form - Nursing Supervisor
 - Recommendation form - Healthcare Professional

Estimated Tuition and Expenses

Nurse Anesthesia

	Costs
Total Tuition & Fees Payment of \$10,000 due Summer and Fall semester of Year 1 and Year 2. \$5,000 will be due the Summer of Year 3.	\$45,000.00
Acceptance Deposit (applied towards tuition)	\$1,500.00

Additional Estimated Costs	
Application Fee	\$30.00
AANA Associate Membership	\$200.00
Professional Liability Insurance	\$275.00 per year
Drug Testing	\$180.00 - \$500.00
Background Check	\$75.00
Books	\$3,500.00-\$4,500.00
Copying Fees	\$400.00
Uniforms & Equipment	\$770.00
NBCRNA Self Examination Evaluation	\$500.00
Board Review Course VALLEY and APEX Required	\$5000.00
ACLS, BCLS, PALS & RN licensure fees	\$640.00
Certification Examination	\$995.00
Travel Expenses	\$8400.00
Additional Housing	\$9800.00
Professional Anesthesia Meetings	\$4000.00
Arkansas State University Parking Fee	\$450.00
Computer with Printer/Scanner	\$3000.00

This list is not exhaustive or all-inclusive for all fees and additional costs and may be subject to changes in items and/or costs.

Clinical Education

Clinical Sites

The DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program offers a full scope of practice and educational experiences with clinical sites in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

• Arkansas Children's Hospital Little Rock, AR • Baptist Health Little Rock Little Rock, AR • Baptist Health North Little Rock North Little Rock, AR • Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto Southaven, MS • Baptist Memorial Hospital-Collierville Memphis, TN • Baptist Memorial Hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women Memphis, TN • Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union County New Albany, MS • CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs, AR • Conway Regional Health System Conway, AR	• National Park Medical Center Hot Springs, AR • NEA Baptist Medical Center Jonesboro, AR • Regional One Trauma Center Memphis, TN • Outpatient Surgery Center Jonesboro, AR • Ortho AR Surgery (Combined) • St. Bernard Medical Center Jonesboro, AR • St. Francis Hospital-Memphis Memphis, TN • St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Memphis, TN • St. Vincent North Little RockNorth Little Rock, AR • Saline Memorial Hospital Benton, AR • White County Medical Center Searcy, AR
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Questions?

If you have questions regarding the A-State DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program, you may email Mary Bouchard, Administrative Specialist II, at mbouchard@astate.edu. You may also contact the School of Nursing at 870-972-3074 or the Nurse Anesthesia Department directly at 870-680-8187.