

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) with an Emphasis in Health Administration

This program is offered by the College of Science and Health and is only available at the St. Louis main campus.

Entry into Practice

Program Description

The doctor of nurse anesthesia practice (DNAP) degree prepares students for expertise in the art and science of anesthesia. Nurse anesthesia is an evolving profession, sensitive to the needs of society and the profession. Individuals develop this expertise through a holistic and complex integration of affective, cognitive and psychomotor skills. The philosophy of Webster University's nurse anesthesia program is that graduate education is fundamental in preparation for practicing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Webster University also believes that the profession of anesthesia requires a scientific and dynamic approach to assist in the return to health. The professional nurse anesthetist provides a variety of health services to individual patients and underserved communities using a variety of theories. The practice of anesthesia involves assessment, planning, implementation, directing and evaluating the care process. The practice of nurse anesthesia is founded in a long tradition with numerous activities of the nurse anesthesia profession directed toward disease prevention, health maintenance, restoration, and rehabilitation. Strong moral, ethical, and legal codes are fundamental to the practice of nurse anesthesia. These codes are reflected in internal, external, independent, and interdependent behaviors.

Education at the graduate level is an expansion of the knowledge attained from undergraduate studies. Graduate education at Webster University encourages the development of advanced skills, theoretical knowledge and critical thinking skills to practice the art and science of anesthesia. The art and science of anesthesia are dynamic and require continued educational endeavors to stay abreast of current theory. Therefore, the nurse anesthetist must recognize the need to enhance one's knowledge and improve one's skills as a lifelong endeavor in the discipline of nurse anesthesia.

The curriculum spans three years of continuous enrollment.

Quality Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students should be able to:

- Professional:
 - Discuss and define the Scope of Practice of the CRNA.
 - Discuss current issues pertaining to the practice of nurse anesthesia.
 - Demonstrate professional attributes through attendance and participation in local, state and national professional organizational meetings and events.
 - Demonstrate strong ethics and personal integrity in all professional pursuits to include the delivery of quality and safe anesthesia to the community we serve.
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- Bachelor's degree in nursing or related field from a fully accredited institution.
- Prerequisite courses in organic chemistry (3 credit hrs.) OR biochemistry (3 credit hrs.) and physics (algebra-based, 3 credit hrs.), taken within the last 5 years. Labs are not required with these courses. All prerequisite courses should be completed, with grades received, prior to the application deadline.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate studies or evidence of outstanding post-graduation academic achievement.
- A minimum of one year of experience in a critical care setting as a professional registered nurse (two years preferred in an adult intensive care unit (ICU) setting)
- Current ACLS, BLS, and CCRN certification. (PALS certification is not required for admission, but is required by the end of the calendar year upon starting the program).
- A personal interview.

Application Process

Submit all the following documents to the Office of Admissions; address is below.

1. A completed Nurse Anesthesia Program application submitted online
2. A non-refundable application fee
3. Official transcripts from all universities, colleges, and professional schools
4. A one-page cover letter explaining why you have chosen to pursue the nurse anesthesia field, including any relevant information you would like the Admissions Committee to consider regarding your qualifications as an applicant
5. A current resume
6. Current copies of certification - BLS, ACLS, and CCRN (PALS if you have one)
7. Three letters of reference that provide an assessment of professional performance, continuing education, character traits, and knowledge of nurse anesthesia practice
8. One verification of shadowing from a CRNA
9. One assessment from an immediate supervisor
10. One assessment from a professional
11. Any additional supporting information you wish to include, such as copies of certification, awards, honors, and/or publications within the past 2 years
12. A copy of your green card if you are a U.S. permanent resident
13. Submission of a Federal Criminal Background check

Send all admission materials to:
Office of Admissions
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Completed application files will be reviewed by the Department of Advanced Clinical Sciences.

*Selected students will be invited on campus for a personal interview.

*Offers of Admission will be extended to 20 students for entry into the degree program for the fall term.

*Students are required to submit a deposit to secure their position in the class.

CRNA Completion Degree

Program Description

The doctor of nurse anesthesia practice (DNAP) CRNA completion degree provides the master's prepared practicing CRNA with the opportunity to bridge their degree to the practice doctorate. The degree is offered in a 100% online, primarily asynchronous, platform to accommodate the complicated work schedules of practicing CRNAs. Two of the courses, HLTH 5000 and HLTH 5050, do have a required synchronous activity one evening per week. Consistent with the AACN guidelines and approval by the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, the DNAP focuses on equipping the CRNA with content areas that emphasize the clinical practice-oriented leadership through evidence-based research, health administration, quality improvement, intradepartmental collaboration, and systems leadership.

Quality Outcomes

Upon completion of the program the graduates should be able to:

- Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety, enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice.
- Critically appraise scientific literature and apply results to improve culturally sensitive nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes.
- Effectively collaborate with other health professionals to provide the most appropriate, effective treatment.
- Effectively communicate with patients and family members.
- Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the growing challenges of complex healthcare systems.
- Understand that quality healthcare is steeped in ethics.
- Contribute to ongoing education and training to all members of the healthcare team, families, students in training, etc.
- Demonstrate nurse anesthesia scholarship through a commitment to lifelong learning, leadership activities and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Program Curriculum

- AHP 7500 Translational Research (2 hours)
- DNAP 8240 Health Care Policy Analysis and Advocacy (3 hours)
- HLTH 5000 Organization & Management in Health Administration (3 hours)
- HLTH 5050 Financial Management in Health Administration (3 hours)
- DNAP 6400 Population Health and Epidemiology (2 hours)
- DNAP 8430 Health Administration Law and Ethics (3 hours)
- DNAP 8440 Advanced Practice Nurse Role in Leadership and Health Care (3 hours)
- DNAP 8230 Politics and Economics of Health Care (3 hours)
- DNAP 8500 Current Topics in Anesthesia I (1 hour)
- DNAP 8510 Current Topics in Anesthesia II (1 hour)
- DNAP 8520 Current Topics in Anesthesia III (1 hour)
- DNAP 8530 Current Topics in Anesthesia IV (1 hour)

Required Translational Independent Study Courses

- DNAP 7501, DNAP 7502, DNAP 7503, DNAP 7504, DNAP 7505, DNAP 7506 Translational Research Project I-VI (6 hours)

Total required: 32 credit hours

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