MS(N) and DNP Nurse Anesthesia Programs
Application Packet - 2018

The last MS(N) Nurse Anesthesia cohort will begin in January 2018. The DNP Nurse Anesthesia cohort will begin in May 2018, pending accreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

The MS(N) Program is a 28-month, full-time program and requires a minimum of 66 course credits. New classes will be admitted in January of each year for the Spring Semester. The application deadline for the January 2018 class is May 15, 2017. Accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia, Western Carolina University MS(N) Nurse Anesthesia Program will provide students with academic and field-based experiences that lead to a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

The DNP Program is a 36-month, full-time program and requires 86 credits. The application deadline for the May 2018 class is September 15, 2017.

Highly qualified applicants may be reviewed and offered early acceptance prior to the application deadline. Classes are typically filled following the application deadline. Pending seat availability, highly qualified applicants may be reviewed and offered admission beyond the application deadline.

Both programs will require travel to assigned clinical facilities in Western North Carolina, upstate South Carolina, and Louisville, KY as well as weekend and call rotations. Current clinical rotation sites include:

- Frye Regional Medical Center, Hickory, NC
  - Unifour Pain Treatment Center
- Kosair Children's Hospital, Louisville, KY
- Harris Regional Hospital, Sylva, NC
- Haywood Regional Medical Center, Waynesville, NC
- Mary Black Memorial Hospital, Spartanburg, SC
- Mission Health, Asheville, NC
- Pardee Hospital, Hendersonville, NC
- Park Ridge Health, Fletcher, NC
- St. Luke's Hospital, Columbus, NC

For more information on the Nurse Anesthesia Program, contact Dr. Jessica Shirley, Director of Student Services, jshirley@wcu.edu or 828-654-6499.

Nurse Anesthesia Program Admission Requirements:

- BSN degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and nationally accredited (National League for Nursing (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing education (CCNE)) nursing program.

- Complete application for admission to the Graduate School, including official copies of transcripts from all colleges/universities attended.

- Completion of undergraduate or graduate courses in basic statistics, general chemistry and research with a C or better.

- Basic, Pediatric, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification (BCLS - PALS - ACLS).

- Personal interview

- Critical care experience should include a minimum of one year of full-time clinical experience (2,080 hours). These hours exclude time spent in orientation or work performed in a supervisory role. Critical care experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories or a US military hospital outside of the United States. During this experience, the registered professional nurse has developed critical decision making and psychomotor skills, competency in patient assessment, and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring techniques. A critical care area is defined as one where, on a routine basis, the registered professional nurse manages one or more of the following: invasive hemodynamic monitors (e.g., pulmonary artery, central venous pressure, and arterial catheters), cardiac assist devices, mechanical ventilation, and vasoactive infusions. Examples of critical care units may include but are not limited to: surgical intensive care, cardiothoracic intensive care, coronary intensive care, medical intensive care, pediatric intensive care, and neonatal intensive care. Those who have experiences in other areas may be considered provided they can demonstrate competence with managing unstable patients, invasive monitoring, ventilators, and critical care pharmacology.
  - Surgical Intensive Care
  - Medical Intensive Care
  - Cardiac Intensive Care
  - Pediatric or Neonatal Intensive Care
  - Experience that does not apply includes:
    - Emergency Room
    - Flight Nursing
    - Operating Room
    - Post-Anesthesia Care Unit
    - ICU Step-down or transition areas
    - Radiology/Cath. Lab
    - Most medical Coronary Care Units

- Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). A combined score of 300 or higher is recommended for the Revised GRE exam.*

- Grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale based on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.

- Science GPA will also be weighted. The four courses calculated in the science GPA include general chemistry, microbiology and two semesters of anatomy & physiology.

- Three professional references: one reference must be from a current or recent immediate nursing supervisor.

- Current unrestricted license or eligibility for licensure, to practice as a registered nurse in North Carolina

- Selection will be based on the applicant's qualifications, intellectual curiosity, communication skills, and potential for professional growth. Exception to any of the admission requirements will be considered on an individual basis. Meeting minimum requirements for admission does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Estimated Cost of Attendance

MS(N) NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM	NC RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES	OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES
Each Fall, Spring semester (9 or more hours)	$7,107.00*	$12,310.50*
Summer semester per credit charge	$594.53/credit hour	$662.53/credit hour
Total Program (tuition and fees)	$47,425.60	$58,512.60*
DNP NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM	NC RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES	OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES
Each Fall, Spring semester (9 or more hours)	$7,107.00*	$12,310.50*
Summer semester per credit charge	$594.53/credit hour	$662.53/credit hour
Total Program (tuition and fees)	$61,640.00	$83,134.00*

A tuition surcharge for anesthesia students is included in Total Program cost above. Tuition rates are subject to increase during the course of the program. The tuition and fees include $1,163.50 for health insurance which may be waived by verifying coverage. The out-of-state total program tuition and fees estimate assumes students will apply and be eligible for in-state residency status after 3 consecutive semesters in the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

Other Fees
Application Fee: $65.00
Graduation Fee: $60.00
Late Registration Fee: $10.00

<u>In addition to the standard university tuition and fees, Nurse Anesthesia students will be responsible for the following fees/expenses:</u>

1. **Self-Evaluation Examination Fee:**
   a. All nurse anesthesia students must take the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists Self-Evaluation Examination in Year 2. The student fee is currently $160.00.
2. **Associate Membership in the AANA**
   a. Payable to the AANA. Current fee is $100.00.
3. **Required textbooks and supplies (approximate costs):**
   a. Textbooks: $1800.00
   b. Stethoscope: $100.00
   c. Earpiece: $75.00
   d. Lab Coat: $40.00
   e. Precordial stethoscope: $20.00
   f. Smartphone: optional
   g. OR scrubs (green): approximately $40 per scrub suit
4. **Transportation costs and meals:**
   a. While on clinical rotation and to one state anesthesia meetings and one national AANA meeting during the course of the program. Funds may be available to reduce costs for travel to state and national meetings.
5. **Certification Examination:**
   a. All students must take the Council on Certification Examination, payable to the Council prior to graduation. The current fee is $725.00.
6. **ACLS, PALS and BCLS recertification fees.**
7. **Professional Liability Insurance**:
   a. Through AANA Insurance Services: Current standard annual premium is approximately $300.00 (coverage limits $1 million per incident/$3 million aggregate).
8. **Health insurance:** Provided through student health services. The student must apply for a waiver of this fee if the student has their own coverage.
9. Background check: $20.00 minimum.
10. **Medatrax:** Currently $7.50 per month.

11. **Drug screen:** All students must complete a drug screening upon admission. The current cost at the local drug screening facility is $32.00. Students may be required to complete an additional screening per request by a clinical site later in the program.
12. Students accepted into the program are required to be computer literate and have access to a PC or MAC computer with high-speed Internet transmission.

Student Health and Immunization Requirements

A complete medical examination record is required of all students entering the University. All students are required to have the following current immunizations: diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccination, and measles, mumps, rubella ("MMR") vaccination. Evidence of the immunizations must be in the student's records at the time of registration. In addition to the immunizations required by WCU, the Nurse Anesthesia Program will require current tuberculin skin testing ("PPD"), annual influenza vaccination and a hepatitis B series (or statement refusing the series). Some clinical sites may require proof of immunization for positive titer of varicella.

In addition to the above expenses, the student should also consider housing, meals, transportation and loss of income during the educational period. All expenses quoted above are subject to change without notice.

Application Process

1. **Application** to the Nurse Anesthesia Program requires applying to the WCU Graduate School.
   a. Application deadline for the January 2018 MS(N) cohort class is May 15, 2017. Application deadline for the May 2018 DNP cohort is September 15, 2017.

      Highly qualified applicants may be reviewed and offered early acceptance prior to the application deadline. Classes are typically filled following the application deadline. Pending seat availability, highly qualified applicants may be reviewed and offered admission beyond the application deadline.

   b. The online Graduate School application can be accessed by visiting the Graduate School website.

2. **GRE:** Take all three parts of the GRE general exam, and request that the scores be sent to the Graduate School.
   a. The GRE bulletin is available from the WCU Programs at Biltmore Park Office (828-654-6531), Prometric Testing Center in Asheville (828-253-4224), or the ETS website at www.gre.org.

3. **REFERENCES:** Have three recommendations forms submitted to the Graduate School by three professional references. One reference must be submitted by a current or recent immediate nursing supervisor. Applicants will list the recommender names and contact information in the Apply Yourself online graduate school application. Recommenders will receive a link via email from the Graduate School containing instructions on how to complete the online recommendation form. Complete instructions for submitting recommendations are outlined in the Apply Yourself online application.

4. **RESUME & PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT:** Upload your resume and professional statement in the Apply Yourself online application. Professional statement guidelines are included in the CRNA Application Packet and in the Apply Yourself online application.

5. **LICENSE/CERTIFICATIONS:** Upload copies of your North Carolina RN license, ACLS, BCLS, and PALS certification in the Apply Yourself online application.

6. **TRANSCRIPTS:** Request that official college transcripts from all colleges/universities attended be forwarded to:

7.

Western Carolina University
GRADUATE SCHOOL
110 Cordelia Camp Building
Cullowhee, NC 28723

8. **Financial Aid:** Financial aid in the form of loans, grants, federal traineeships, graduate assistantships and scholarships are available to qualified students in the program. More detailed information may be obtained from the University's Office of Financial Aid:

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
Western Carolina University
218 Killian Annex Building
Cullowhee, NC 28723 (828) 222-7290

Application Checklist

This checklist is provided for your convenience as you prepare your application.

☐ Completed the online Graduate School application.

☐ GRE completed with score results requested to be sent to WCU Graduate School

☐ Recommendations submitted to the WCU Graduate School via the Apply Yourself online application

☐ Uploaded resume and professional statement to the Apply Yourself online application

☐ Uploaded copies of BLS, PALS and ACLS certifications to the Apply Yourself online application

☐ Completed undergraduate or graduate Statistics course

☐ Completed undergraduate or graduate General Chemistry course

☐ Completed undergraduate or graduate Research course

☐ Official college transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended forwarded to: Western Carolina University; Graduate School; 110 Cordelia Camp Building; Cullowhee, NC 28723

☐ Additional directions for submitting letters of recommendation, uploading documents and guidelines for the professional statement are outlined in the online Graduate Application.

☐ If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the WCU Nurse Anesthesia office at 828-654-6499.

WCU GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM
28 Schenck Parkway, Suite 309
Biltmore Park
Asheville, NC 28803
Office: 828-654-6499 Fax: 828-654-6507

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MS(N) Program of Study

FIRST YEAR 2018	CREDITS	HOURS
Spring Semester (January-April)		
NSG 661 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology I	3	45
NSG 630 Advanced Physiology for Nurse Anesthetists	3	45
NSG 640 Basic Principles of Anesthesia	3	45
NSG 629 Foundational Science for Nurse Anesthesia	2	30
NSG 688 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum I (1 day/week)	1	120
Semester Total	12	
Summer Semester (May-August) Early May Start		
NSG 641 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia I	2	30
NSG 662 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology II	3	45
NSG 688 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum II (2 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	2	240 10
NSG 631 Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3	45
Semester Total	10	
Fall Semester (September-December)		
NSG 642 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia II	2	30
NSG 632 Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3	45
NSG 511 Research (on-line)	3	45
NSG 688 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum III (3 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	3	360 15
Semester Total	11	
SECOND YEAR 2019		
Spring Semester (January-April)		
NSG 618 Survey of Pharmacotherapeutics (on-line)	3	45
NSG 643 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia III	2	30
NSG 688 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum IV (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
Semester Total	9	
Summer Semester (May-August)		
NSG 689 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum V (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
NSG 679 Research Project	1	15
NSG 602 Advanced Physical Assessment and Diagnosis	1	15
Semester Total	6	
Fall Semester (September-December)		
NSG 679 Research Project (or NSG 699 Thesis, 3 cr)	1	15
NSG 689 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum VI (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
NSG 516 Econ and Org Health Care (on-line)	2	30
NSG 510 Theory for the APN (on-line)	2	30
Semester Total	9	
THIRD YEAR 2020		
Spring Semester (January-April)		
NSG 672 NA Review	3	30
NSG 501 Roles and Issues	2	30
NSG 689 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum VII (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
Semester Total	9	
Program Total	66	

FIRST YEAR 2018	CREDITS	HOURS
Summer Semester (May – August)		
NSG 823 Economic and Financial Aspects of Healthcare Systems	3	45
NSG 826 Leadership and Healthcare Systems	3	45
NSG 814 Foundations and Applications of Evidence Based Healthcare	3	45
Semester Total	9	
NSG 808 Foundational Science for Nurse Anesthesia	2	30
NSG 801 Essentials of Academic Writing	1	15
NSG 817 Applied Biostatistics	3	45
NSG 810 Advanced Physical Assessment and Diagnosis	3	45
Semester Total	9	
NSG 830 Advanced Physiology for Nurse Anesthetists	3	45
NSG 861 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology I	4	60
NSG 840 Basic Principles of Anesthesia	3	45
NSG 901 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum I	2	240
Semester Total	12	
SECOND YEAR 2019		
Summer Semester (May – August)		
NSG 841 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia I	3	45
NSG 862 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology II	3	45
NSG 831 Advanced Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I	3	45
NSG 902 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar II	2	240
Semester Total	11	
Fall Semester (August-December)		
NSG 842 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia II	3	45
NSG 832 Advanced Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II	3	45
NSG 903 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar III	3	360
NSG 991 DNP Project Development I	1	
Semester Total	10	
Spring Semester (January – May)		
NSG 843 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia III	3	45
NSG 802 Community Epidemiology	3	45
NSG 904 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar IV	4	480
NSG 992 DNP Project Development II	1	
Semester Total	11	
THIRD YEAR 2020		
Summer Semester (May – August)		
NSG 905 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar V	4	480
NSG 993 DBP Project Development III	1	
Semester Total	11	
Fall Semester (August – December)		
NSG 822 Healthcare Policy and Ethics	3	45
NSG 906 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar VI	4	480
NSG 994 DNP Project Development IV	2	
Semester Total	9	
Spring Semester (January – May)		
NSG 888 Nurse Anesthesia Review	2	30
NSG 800 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3	45
NSG 995 DNP Project Development V	1	
Semester Total	10	
Program Total	86	

Professional Statement and Resume Requirements

Applicants must submit a Professional Statement and a Resume as part of the application for admission.

Professional Statement:

- This narrative is a very important part of your portfolio. The quality of the Professional Statement is often crucial in admissions decisions, since it may provide the Admissions Committee the only first-hand example of your writing skills and your ability to express your ideas in a clear, logical, and coherent manner.

- Please address EACH of the following in your professional statement:

- Explain why you have chosen your particular nursing Master's program (e.g. Nurse Educator, Nurse Administrator, etc.) and discuss how your work experiences (paid and voluntary) will fit with this program.

- Define your professional goals and how this program will contribute to your achieving them.

- Discuss your academic and leadership strengths.

- Discuss your academic and leadership areas in need of improvement.

- Identify a contemporary problem in your chosen program of study and discuss, specifically but briefly, a potential solution to the problem.

- Consider this your opportunity to communicate with the Admissions Committee members about your professional background and reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in nursing at this point in your career.

- The professional statement should be three to four typed, double-spaced pages and should focus in detail on all the elements noted above. The document should be submitted with your application as an uploaded MS Word "doc." File.

Resume:

- Along with standard resume information (work experience, education, professional accomplishments, etc.) include the following:
    - RN License Certificate Number (including state of licensure)
    - Have you ever had disciplinary action taken regarding your nursing license? If so, please indicate in your application.