



**College of Health and Human Sciences  
School of Nursing**

**MS(N) Nurse Anesthesia Program**

Enclosed you will find informational materials for the Western Carolina University Nurse Anesthesia Program

Accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia, Western Carolina University Nurse Anesthesia Program will provide students with academic and field-based experiences that lead to a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

The twenty-eight month program is full-time and requires a minimum of 66 course credits. New classes will be admitted in January of each year for the Spring Semester. **Application deadline for the January, 2013 class is June 15, 2012.** 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.

The program will require travel to assigned clinical facilities in Western North Carolina, as well as weekend and call rotations. Current clinical rotation sites include:

Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, Spruce Pine, NC  
Frye Regional Medical Center, Hickory, NC  
Harris Regional Hospital, Sylva, NC  
Haywood Regional Medical Center, Clyde, NC  
Mission Hospitals, Asheville, NC  
Park Ridge Hospital, Fletcher, NC  
St. Luke's Hospital, Columbus, NC

Other clinical sites will be added as the program grows.

For more information on the Nurse Anesthesia Program contact Dr. Jessica Shirley, Director of Student Services, [jshirley@wcu.edu](mailto:jshirley@wcu.edu) or Mary Hipps, Nurse Anesthesia Program Administrative Assistant at [mhipps@wcu.edu](mailto:mhipps@wcu.edu) or 828-670-8810 ext 239.

## **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. Patient care must be direct and involve the application of critical thinking skills, independent decision-making, working with vasoactive drugs, ventilators, invasive monitors (e.g., pulmonary artery catheters), interpretation of electrocardiographic data, hemodynamic waveforms, and laboratory values (e.g., arterial blood gases, serum electrolytes). Other valuable experience could include active participation in codes, acute airway management, administration of sedatives and nondepolarizing muscle relaxants.

Appropriate experiences include (in order of preference):

- 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 1000 or higher (Quantitative and Analytical) is recommended for the previous GRE exam version. 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

*Revision: 2/2006, 4/2006, 12/2006, 1/2008 CAJ, 8/2008 SBC, 7/2009, 9/2011 JVS, 3/2012 JVS*

**Approximate tuition and fees for full-time enrollment (subject to annual increases):**

FULL-TIME NURSE ANESTHESIA GRADUATE STUDENT	NC RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES	OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES
<b>Each Fall, Spring semester (9 or more hours)</b>	<b>\$5,048.00*</b>	<b>\$10,056.00*</b>
<b>Summer semester per credit charge</b>	<b>\$245.00/credit hour</b>	<b>\$275.00/credit hour</b>
<b>Total Program (tuition and fees)</b>	<b>\$26,509.00*</b>	<b>\$50,921.50*</b>

\*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 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:	\$45.00
Graduation Fee:	\$60.00
Late Registration Fee:	\$10.00

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

- Self Evaluation Examination Fee:** All nurse anesthesia students must take the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists Self-Evaluation Examination in Year 2. The student fee is currently \$125.00.
- Associate Membership in the AANA:** Payable to the AANA. Current fee is \$100.00.
- Required textbooks and supplies.** Approximate costs:
  - Textbooks: \$1800.00
  - Stethoscope: \$100.00
  - Earpiece: \$95.00
  - Lab Coat: \$40.00
  - Precordial stethoscope: \$20.00
  - PDA: optional
  - OR scrubs (green): approximately \$40 per scrub suit
- Transportation costs and meals:** 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.
- Certification Examination:** All students must take the Council on Certification Examination, payable to the Council prior to graduation. The current fee is \$725.00.
- ACLS, PALS and BCLS** recertification fees.
- Professional Liability Insurance through AANA Insurance Services:** Current standard annual premium is approximately \$274.00 (coverage limits \$1 million per incident/\$3 million aggregate).
- Health insurance:** Provided through student health services. The student must apply for a waiver of this fee if the student has their own coverage.
- Background check:** \$20.00 minimum.
- Medatrax:** currently \$7.50 per month.
- Review Course:** The student will be required to pay for the NARC4U review course in their senior year. The current cost is \$500.00.

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.

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, measles, mumps, rubella ("MMR") vaccination, and polio 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 on this page are subject to change without notice.

Revision: 2/2006, 4/2006, 12/2006, 1/2008 CAJ, 8/2008 SBC, 7/2009, 9/2011 JVS, 3/2012 JVS

**Western Carolina University  
College of Health and Human Sciences  
School of Nursing  
MS(N) Nurse Anesthesia Program**

**Application Process**

1. Application to the Nurse Anesthesia Program requires applying to the WCU Graduate School. **Application deadline for the January, 2013 class is June 15, 2012.** 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.

The online Graduate School application can be accessed at <http://www.wcu.edu/5642.asp>.

2. Take all three parts of the GRE general exam, and request that the scores be sent to the Graduate School. The GRE bulletin is available from the WCU Asheville Office (120 Karpen Hall) on the UNC-A campus (828-251-6642), Prometric Testing Center in Asheville (828-253-4224), or the ETS website at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org).
3. Have three recommendation 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 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. 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. Upload copies of your North Carolina RN license, ACLS, BCLS, and PALS certification in the Apply Yourself online application.
6. Request that official college transcripts from all colleges/universities attended be forwarded to:

**Western Carolina University  
Graduate School  
110 Cordeilia Camp Building  
Cullowhee, NC 28723**

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**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: <http://www.wcu.edu/5642.asp>
- 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 828-670-8810 ext 239.

**WCU GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM  
AB Tech Enka Campus, Ste. G-33  
1459 Sand Hill Road  
Candler, NC 28715  
828-670-8810 ext 239 FAX: 828-670-8816**

*Western Carolina University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or any factor protected by law.*

**WCU Nurse Anesthesia Program MS(N) Course of Study  
Spring & Fall 15 weeks; Summer 12 weeks**

<b>FIRST YEAR 2013</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>Spring Semester (January-April)</b>		
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
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Summer Semester (May-August) Early May Start</b>		
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
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Fall Semester (September-December)</b>		
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
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>SECOND YEAR 2014</b>		
<b>Spring Semester (January-April)</b>		
NSG 618 Survey of Pharmacotherapeutics (on-line)	3	45
NSG 643 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia III	2	30
NSG 679 Research Project (or NSG 699 Thesis, 3 cr)	1	15
NSG 688 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum IV (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Summer Semester (May-August)</b>		
NSG 689 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum V (4 days/week) Clinical and Literature Review	4	480 15
NSG 679 Research Project	1	15
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall Semester (September-December)</b>		
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
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>THIRD YEAR 2015</b>		
<b>Spring Semester (January-April)</b>		
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
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>9</b>	

## Professional Statement and Resume Requirements

You must submit a Professional Statement and a Resume as part of your application to the graduate Nursing program.

Please prepare both of these documents as a single PDF, MSWord, or RTF file.

Filename: Use your lastname-firstname as a file name for this document.  
e.g. Smith-Chris.pdf

### 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:

- a. 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.
- b. Define your professional goals and how this program will contribute to your achieving them.
- c. Discuss your academic and leadership strengths.
- d. Discuss your academic and leadership areas in need of improvement.
- e. 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 explain.