CRNA Education and Training

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as anesthesiologists.

CRNAs have a minimum of 7 to 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.

- Baccalaureate prepared RN
- Critical care nursing experience prior to entering nurse anesthesia program\(^1\)
- Classroom and clinical education and training
- Master’s or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program\(^2\)

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees.

Nurse anesthetists obtain an average of 9,369 Clinical Hours of training prior to becoming a CRNA.

CRNAs are qualified to administer every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting, including pain management for acute or chronic pain.

- Manage difficult cases
- Use advanced monitoring equipment
- Interpret diagnostic information
- Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Constant Learners

CRNAs must pass a National Certification Examination for entry into practice and be recertified every 4 years so they are current on anesthesia techniques and technologies. They must also pass a Continued Professional Certification exam every 8 years. Anesthesiologists are recertified every 10 years.

- Minimum 60 hours of approved continuing education and 40 hours professional development activities every 4 years
- Documentation of substantial anesthesia practice
- Maintenance of current state licensure

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees.

Research shows that CRNAs are less costly to educate and train than anesthesiologists.\(^3\)

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of CRNAs will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

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1 CRNAs are the only anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.
2 Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
3 Update of Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers, Lewin Group Publications, May 2016
For more information, visit www.anesthesiafacts.com
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