Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Anesthesia
Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia

School of Nursing
3027 Human Health Building
2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401
(248) 370-4253 / www.oakland.edu/nursing / nrsinfo@oakland.edu

Accreditation
The Master of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In addition, the Nurse Anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

Program description
The plan of study for the Nurse Anesthesia (NA) program prepares nurses as specialists in anesthesia care. As advanced practice registered nurses, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. Nursing courses and clinical internships provide the opportunity for students to gain experience in nurse anesthesia practice in all specialty areas. Students study physiology, pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology and gross anatomical dissection in cognate courses. The graduate applies nursing theory, principles of nurse anesthesia practice and research in the delivery of anesthesia care. After 28 months of full-time study, nurse anesthesia graduates are prepared to take the certification examination offered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists, leading to the designation CRNA.

Master’s program objectives
Building on the foundation of the undergraduate program, the master’s program will prepare the graduate student for advancement in nursing practice. The Master’s graduate will:

1. Integrate theories and research findings from nursing and the related sciences to translate evidence into practice.
2. Integrate professional practice standards and guidelines in the provision of nursing practice in the student’s specialty area.
3. Demonstrate the foundational competencies necessary for successful completion of the certification examination in the student’s specialty area.
4. Demonstrate the foundational competencies necessary for continued study at the doctoral level.

Admission terms and application deadlines
Before an applicant’s file can be reviewed for full program admission, all application documents must be received in Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning by the semester deadlines listed below. Incomplete applications will not be sent to departments for admission review.

- September 15 for the following fall semester

Application requirements
To be considered for graduate admission, applicants must submit all of the following university and program application documents by the published application deadlines.
University graduate application requirements

- **Application for Admission to Graduate Study**
- Official transcripts providing evidence of an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. institution, OR a degree equivalent to a four-year U.S. baccalaureate degree from a college or university of government-recognized standing.
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned a degree (beginning with the first baccalaureate) and for all enrollment in graduate-level coursework beyond the bachelor’s degree. International university transcripts must be evaluated by a professional credential evaluation service.
  - As part of the admission requirements, graduate programs may require official transcripts from post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned an associate’s degree and all enrollment in coursework both pre- and post-bachelor’s degree.
- Two official and original **Recommendation for Graduate Admission** forms.
- Proof of English language proficiency
- **International supplemental application and supporting documentation** must be submitted before international applicants can be issued the Certification of Eligibility (I-20). This certificate is required to apply for a student visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

Program application requirements

- Two **School of Nursing Supplemental Application** forms: one for the School of Nursing and one for the Nurse Anesthesia program
- The two recommendations (above) must be from healthcare professionals (prefer letters from nurses in leadership/education) who are able to attest to the applicant’s nursing skills and/or abilities. Program applicants must have one recommendation from their current nurse manager.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) results for those applicants whose undergraduate GPA’s are less than 3.2. The institution code for Oakland University is 1497. Satisfactory achievement on the GRE is V>146, Q>140, A>3.0. The GRE scores must be five years or less at the time of the applicant’s intended enrollment at Oakland University.
- For applicants with undergraduate GPAs of 3.5 or greater, the GRE is not required.
- Professional Goal statement of 500 to 1,000 words. The goal statement should focus on career goals after completion of the program, how recent clinical experiences have prepared them for advanced practice role, and plans for professional development. The goal statement will be evaluated on content and appropriate use of grammar, style, spelling and rhetoric.
- Proof of BLS and ACLS certification.
- Applicants for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program must have completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with a total undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.
- Applicants must be eligible for a current Registered Nurse license in their state of practice.
- Applicants must have completed an undergraduate physical assessment course.
- Undergraduate physiology and pathophysiology courses must be within seven years of applying to the program. Undergraduate anatomy, pharmacology and either organic chemistry or biochemistry must be within 10 years of applying to the program. Grades in each of these courses must be at or above a 3.0.
- A minimum of one year of experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories, or a U.S military hospital outside the United States. During this experience, the registered professional nurse is to have 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 (such as pulmonary artery catheter, CVP, arterial); cardiac assist devices, mechanical ventilation; and vasoactive drips. The critical care area includes intensive care units. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) experience must have occurred within two years of the application.
deadline. Emergency room, recovery room and step-down units typically do not satisfy the ICU requirement. This experience must be completed at the time of application.

• Qualified applicants will be selected to attend an interview and complete a brief evaluation of their critical care nursing knowledge and skills.

Admission review and assessment
Admission to graduate study at Oakland University is selective. In making admission recommendations to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning, each department assesses the potential of applicants for success in the program by examining their undergraduate records, goal statement, letters of recommendation, prerequisite courses and any other admission requirements established by the academic department.

Degree requirements
The program of study for Nurse Anesthesia is 56 credits and requires 28 months of full-time study, commencing in September. Extensive time is required in the clinical setting, beginning gradually in the first term and concluding with 40 or more hours a week during the final internship. Clinical requirements by the accrediting body require a minimum of 550 cases, in all specialty areas, with at least 800 hours of anesthesia time.

Course requirements
a. Foundation courses (16 credits)
Foundation courses address critical content needed by all graduate nursing students. These courses include content on nursing theory, diversity, research, ethics, health policy and roles of advanced practice nursing. A total of 16 credits are required in the foundation courses.

• NRS 500 - Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
• NRS 521 - Diversity and Social Issues (2 credits)
• NRS 531 - Research Topics in Advanced Nursing Practice (4 credits)
• NRS 610 - Health Policy and Finance (3 credits)
• NRS 643 - Interprofessional Role Development Leadership and Ethics in Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
• NRS 687 - Graduate Research: Project (1 credit)

b. Clinical core courses (18 credits)
The clinical core courses provide graduate students with advanced clinical knowledge and skills in pharmacology, assessment, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, and advanced nursing interventions.

• NRS 605 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice I (3 credits)
• NRS 651 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (3 credits)
• NRS 652 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice III (3 credits)
• BIO 501 - Physiology and Pathophysiology I (3 credits)
• BIO 502 - Physiology and Pathophysiology II (3 credits)
• BIO 503 - Gross Anatomical Dissection (3 credits)

c. Specialty courses (22 credits)
The specialty courses are comprised of didactic and clinical courses that prepare students for the advanced practice. The specialty courses build upon nursing knowledge and skills learned at the undergraduate level and during foundation and clinical core courses.

• NRS 607 - Introduction to Nurse Anesthesia Practice and Clinical Internship I (3 credits)
• NRS 615 - Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (4 credits)
• NRS 617 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship II (1 credit)
• NRS 618 - Biophysics for Nurse Anesthesia (2 credits)
• NRS 625 - Nurse Anesthesia Practice III (4 credits)
• NRS 627 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship III (1 credit)
• NRS 635 - Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management (3 credits)
• NRS 637 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship IV (1 credit)
• NRS 647 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship V (1 credit)
• NRS 657 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship VI (1 credit)
• NRS 667 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship VII (1 credit)
Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia

Program description
The Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate: Nurse Anesthesia is a program of full-time study that prepares nurses as specialists in anesthesia care. As advanced practice registered nurses, CRNAs practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. Clinical core and specialty courses, including clinical internships, are the same as the MSN nurse anesthesia program. These courses, along with the clinical internships, provide the opportunity for students to gain experience in nurse anesthesia practice in all specialty areas. Students study physiology, pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology and gross anatomical dissection in cognate courses. Upon completion of the 40-credit, 28-month post-master’s graduate certificate program, the nurse is prepared to take the certification exam offered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists, leading to the designation CRNA.

Admission terms and application deadlines
Before an applicant’s file can be reviewed for full program admission, all application documents must be received in Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning by the semester deadlines listed below. Incomplete applications will not be sent to departments for admission review.

- September 15 for the following fall semester

Application requirements
To be considered for graduate admission, applicants must submit all of the following university and program application documents by the published application deadlines.

University graduate application requirements
- Application for Admission to Graduate Study
- Official transcripts providing evidence of an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. institution, OR a degree equivalent to a four-year U.S. baccalaureate degree from a college or university of government-recognized standing.
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  - As part of the admission requirements, graduate programs may require official transcripts from post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned an associate’s degree and all enrollment in coursework both pre- and post-bachelor’s degree.
- Two official and original Recommendation for Graduate Admission forms.
- Proof of English language proficiency
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- Professional Goal statement of 500 to 1,000 words. The goal statement should focus on career goals after completion of the program, how recent clinical experiences have prepared them for advanced practice role, and plans for professional development. The goal statement will be evaluated on content and appropriate use of grammar, style, spelling and rhetoric.
- Proof of BLS and ACLS certification.
Applicants for admission to the Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate: Nurse Anesthesia program must have completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a total cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or above from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Applicants must be eligible for a current Registered Nurse license in their state of practice.

Applicants must have completed an undergraduate physical assessment course.

Undergraduate physiology and pathophysiology courses must be within seven years of applying to the program. Undergraduate anatomy, pharmacology and either organic chemistry or biochemistry must be within 10 years of applying to the program. Grades in each of these courses must be at or above a 3.0.

A minimum of one year of experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories, or a U.S military hospital outside the United States. During this experience, the registered professional nurse is to have 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 (such as pulmonary artery catheter, CVP, arterial); cardiac assist devices, mechanical ventilation; and vasoactive drips. The critical care area includes intensive care units. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) experience must have occurred within two years of the application deadline. Emergency room, recovery room and step-down units typically do not satisfy the ICU requirement. This experience must be completed at the time of application.

Qualified applicants will be selected to attend an interview and complete a brief evaluation of their critical care nursing knowledge and skills.

**Admission review and assessment**

Admission to graduate study at Oakland University is selective. In making admission recommendations to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning, each department assesses the potential of applicants for success in the program by examining their undergraduate records, goal statement, letters of recommendation, prerequisite courses and any other admission requirements established by the academic department.

**Certificate requirements**

The program of study for Nurse Anesthesia is 40 credits and requires 28 months of full-time study, commencing in September. Extensive time is required in the clinical setting, beginning gradually the first term and concluding with 40 or more hours a week during the final internship. Clinical requirements by the accrediting body require a minimum of 550 cases, in all specialty areas, with at least 800 hours of anesthesia time.

**Course requirements**

a. **Clinical core requirements (18 credits)**
   - NRS 605 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice I (3 credits)
   - NRS 651 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (3 credits)
   - NRS 652 - Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice III (3 credits)
   - BIO 501 - Physiology and Pathophysiology I (3 credits)
   - BIO 502 - Physiology and Pathophysiology II (3 credits)
   - BIO 503 - Gross Anatomical Dissection (3 credits)

b. **Specialty courses (22 credits)**
   - NRS 607 - Introduction to Nurse Anesthesia Practice and Clinical Internship I (3 credits)
   - NRS 615 - Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (4 credits)
   - NRS 617 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship II (1 credit)
   - NRS 618 - Biophysics for Nurse Anesthesia (2 credits)
   - NRS 625 - Nurse Anesthesia Practice III (4 credits)
   - NRS 627 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship III (1 credit)
   - NRS 635 - Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management (3 credits)
   - NRS 637 - Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship IV (1 credit)
Teaching Strategies:

Oakland University School of Nursing uses a variety of teaching formats for its graduate programs. All required MSN Foundation courses are offered via distance learning technology. The MSN Clinical Core and Specialty courses and DNP courses may be taught entirely using distance learning technology, use a combination of distance learning technology and classroom formats, or be entirely classroom-based. Distance learning courses at Oakland University may require up to three face-to-face sessions during a semester. For students unable to attend any course’s required face-to-face sessions, every effort will be made to arrange alternate assignments.

All data in this document reflects information, as it was available on the publication date. School of Nursing and Oakland University reserve the right to revise all information contained in this publication at its discretion and to make reasonable changes in requirements to improve or upgrade academic and non-academic programs. Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.

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