NURSE ANESTHESIA

What is certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)?
A Nurse Anesthetist, or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), is a licensed advanced practice nurse. After completing extensive didactic and clinical education and training, CRNAs become nationally certified. CRNAs safely administer over 40 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States. They practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sectors and in the U.S. military, including traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics, and physicians' and dentist offices.
The UAB Nurse Anesthesia program has received a ten year accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education programs (COA).
Is the program transitioning to a DNP?
The UAB Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track is currently requesting to transition from a MSN to a DNP outcome degree. This request is currently under review by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). The MSN degree will continue to be offered until such approval is gained.
Who employs CRNAs?
CRNAs administer anesthesia in all settings where surgical procedures are being performed. This includes hospitals of all sizes, as well as outpatient clinics and physicians' offices.
What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?
Applicants to the program must be graduates from a regionally accredited registered nursing program with a baccalaureate degree in nursing. All coursework towards a BSN must be completed by the interview date prior to the start of the Nurse Anesthesia program the following year. Applicants are required to provide proof of a valid professional RN license in the U.S. Only candidates with at least one year experience as an RN in a critical care setting are considered for admission; two years are preferred. Critical care nurses are those caring for critically ill patients who require invasive monitoring, administration of vasoactive drugs, and mechanical ventilation.
Preferred Critical care units include: CCU, CVICU, MICU, Neuro ICU, SICU, /Trauma/Burn ICU and Pediatric ICU. We do not consider PACU, Neonatal ICU, Cardiac Step Down, Bone Marrow Transplant, Telemetry, or Emergency Room as critical care experiences for our application requirements.
If you have any questions about whether or not your critical care area is acceptable, please contact jlavier@uab.edu.
What are the admission criteria?
- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the School of Nursing at UAB
- Active, unencumbered Registered Nurse License in the state where you will be completing your clinical education
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on the science prerequisite courses, and a grade of ‘C’ or higher in all science pre-requisite courses
- (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant’s potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). There is no minimum score, however all sections of the GRE must be completed prior to application (verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing). Submit to UAB (code 1856)
- A personal interview with the selection committee
- If accepted, you must complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of required immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service, complete a background check, and urine drug screening.
  * There is no Waiver Process for this program, A GRE exam is required.
What is the application deadline/timeline? (**Pending approval from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs to convert to a DNP degree)**
- September 1st: for regular admissions cycle (for the following year)
  - October – December: Notification of interview
  - November – December interviews
  - Decision notification two weeks after interview
- May/August: Students begin the program spring semester if DNP is approved, fall semester for MSN
For International Students:

- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at isss@uab.edu, (205), 934-3328, FAX 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any academic program.
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org), sent from the evaluators directly to the School of Nursing
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

Where will I conduct my clinical rotations?

The Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track has five components: a central component in Birmingham and four regional components located in Alabama (Dothan, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa). Regardless of component, all students must attend daily classes at UAB for the first year of the program before beginning clinical rotations at their respective site. Additionally, students are expected to travel back to campus for monthly meetings. In order to obtain clinical case numbers students are also expected to travel to clinical sites.

### Prerequisite Courses (May be taken at UAB or another institution):

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<th>Courses</th>
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<td>3 to 4</td>
<td>BY 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>BY 261</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>MA 180</td>
<td>Descriptive Statistics</td>
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Note: * Chemistry must be completed with lab course

Will I be able to apply to take a nurse anesthetist certification examination when I complete the program?

Graduates can apply to take the certification examination administered by the NBCRNA. Satisfactory performance on this examination is necessary in order to practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

What is a typical Program of Study like?

(**Pending approval from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs to convert to a DNP degree)

Where can I get more information?

Internet website: [http://www.uab.edu/na](http://www.uab.edu/na)

General information about the application process:
Jacqueline Lavier, M.Ed
Program Manager
(205) 975-3115 | [jlavier@uab.edu](mailto:jlavier@uab.edu)

Information about Nurse Anesthesia:
Susan McMullan, PhD, CRNA
Program Director
[susanpmcm@uab.edu](mailto:susanpmcm@uab.edu)

Transcript review:
Laura Wright, PhD, CRNA
Assistant Program Director
[wrightel@uab.edu](mailto:wrightel@uab.edu)

UAB is an equal education opportunity institution.