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
The Future of Anesthesia Care *Today*

CRNAs have a minimum of **7 to 8½ years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology** before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.

Baccalaureate prepared RN

Average 2.9 Years
Critical care nursing experience prior to entering nurse anesthesia program[1]

24 – 42 Months
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

8,636
Clinical Hours

of training prior to becoming a CRNA.

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

CRNAs

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

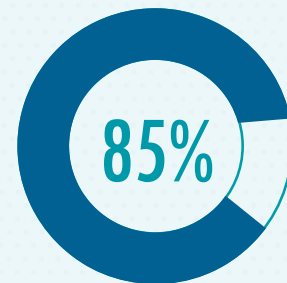Manage difficult cases

Use advanced monitoring equipment

Interpret diagnostic information

Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Research shows that CRNAs are

85%

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.

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

AANA
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS