



Master of Science In Nurse Anesthesia Program

THE PROFESSION

Nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 125 years. CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in rural America and in some states, CRNAs are sole providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals. CRNAs provide anesthesia in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists, and other qualified healthcare professionals. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; the U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities. Nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military men and women on the front lines since WWI. Nurses first provided anesthesia to wounded soldiers during the Civil War. As advanced practice nurses, CRNAs practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect.

THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia Program is to prepare competent, entry-level nurse anesthetists to provide holistic care to individuals and families. The program is grounded in Christian principles, organized in a progressive manner, and built on a solid foundation of arts and sciences. The curriculum for the Master of Science Degree Program requires 28 months of continuous full-time study. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for the Certification Examination for Nurse Anesthetists.

FACILITIES

The Learning Center provides a state-of-the-art learning environment with patient care units to enhance each student's learning experience. These units are prepared with the equipment and supplies that nurse anesthetists would use in providing patient care in an actual clinical setting. Human patient simulators complete the simulated clinical environment. The Center provides the atmosphere in which to incorporate the theory and psychomotor skills necessary to provide excellent patient care.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The successful applicant will:

1. Meet Graduate General College admission requirements.
2. Provide evidence of satisfactory health and immunization requirements.
3. Possess the ability to meet mental and physical requirements.
4. Present evidence of a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing or another appropriate major.
5. Present current official transcripts from all undergraduate and/or graduate institutions attended. Transcripts will be considered official only when received directly from the institution and not hand-delivered by the applicant or faxed by the institution attended. Official transcripts are also needed for each College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Advanced Placement (AP), and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) examination taken.
6. Present an unrestricted Florida license to practice as a registered nurse, or be eligible for Florida Registered Nurse licensure. (This requirement may be deferred.)
7. Present a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
8. Present an official copy of a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last 5 years. GRE or MAT scores on college transcripts are also acceptable.
9. Complete a minimum of one year intensive critical care nursing experience. Two or more years of critical care nursing experience is preferred.
10. Present Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification. (This requirement may be deferred.)
11. Provide an essay or goal statement outlining reasons for choosing to become a nurse anesthetist, reasons for choosing to attend a faith-based institution, and why you have specifically choosing FHCHS.
12. Provide three recommendations using FHCHS forms¹. One recommendation must be from a licensed CRNA that the applicant has shadowed. Recommendations from friends or family members are not accepted.
13. Pass satisfactory criminal background checks for each state where the applicant has resided in the 24-month period preceding the date of admission to FHCHS.
14. Pay an application fee of \$100.00.
15. Successfully complete the interview process (interviews are by invitation only).
16. Pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500.00, *once admitted*, to reserve a place in the program.²

Note: Due to the competitive nature of the admission process applicants should understand that meeting the minimum standards does not guarantee admission into the program. Also, applicants will be screened and the most qualified individuals will be invited for an interview.

1Recommendation forms expire two years from the date of submission.

2The FHCHS Academic Bulletin states that each applicant accepted to a professional program must pay a non-refundable \$500.00 deposit to reserve his or her place in the program. Once the student is enrolled in the program, the deposit will be applied toward the student's account. If an individual does not enroll, he or she will forfeit the deposit.

ACCREDITATION

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences is accredited to award Master's, Bachelor's, and Associate of Science degrees and certificates by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, 404-679-4500. The College is also accredited by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities.

The Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), 222 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-4001; phone 847-655-1160.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Students must first meet graduate admission requirements and be accepted to the College before they are eligible to be accepted into the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Acceptance to the College does not guarantee acceptance to the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Completed application files are reviewed by the Nursing Anesthesia Admission Committee. An applicant's file should be complete and contain the official required documents by the deadline - April 1st for January enrollment of the following year.

TRANSFER POLICY

Graduate students may petition to transfer credits from other regionally accredited institutions of higher education. No more than twelve graduate semester hours (12) may be transferred in to the graduate program of study. Only courses which fulfill FHCHS course requirements and have been completed with a minimum grade of "B" may be transferred. Transfer requests must be approved by the respective Department Chair. Transfer credit is not allowed for courses specific to the professional discipline (e.g. Nurse Anesthesia).

HEALTH ASSESSMENT, IMMUNIZATIONS, AND CPR REQUIREMENTS

The health assessment, immunizations, BLS and ACLS must be current. Refer to the current *Academic Bulletin* for a listing of the requirements.

LAPTOP COMPUTER and SOFTWARE BUNDLE REQUIREMENT

All incoming students will be required to have a laptop that meets the FHCHS specifications (see to the Software and Hardware Requirements section in the *Academic Bulletin*). Students may purchase a laptop from the College or bring their own if the computer meets the standards. Financial aid may be available to cover the cost of purchasing a new computer.

Each student will be charged for a software bundle, which **must** be purchased from FHCHS. The software bundle includes Virtual Anesthesia Machine (UF), Procedures Consult (Elsevier), and Core Concepts Anesthesia Review. The content and cost of the software bundle is subject to change and is the responsibility of the student.

BACKGROUND CHECK

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences requires all new students to complete a background check before registering for the first time. This information is needed for participation in Service Learning projects and in clinical settings. Only one background check is required for students unless they are not admitted to a professional program within two years of completing the first background check. If it has been more than two years, students will be required to complete a second background check. Visit www.fhchs.edu/enrollment/admission/backgroundchecks for a link to the background check site and to download the waiver form. Any student convicted of a felony may not be allowed to practice at Florida Hospital.

GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF LICENSURE

Following successful completion of the program, there are grounds on which a license to practice may be denied by the Florida Board of Nursing and other state boards of nursing. If you have questions regarding denial of licensure, please contact the Florida Board of Nursing at (850) 245-4158 or via the web site http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqu/nursing/nur_home.html.

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NOTE: This information sheet is meant for general information purposes only and in no way replaces or supersedes the *FHCHS Academic Bulletin*.