

About the Nurse Anesthesia Program

For over 72 years, the nurse anesthesia program has been highly regarded for an exceptional quality of graduates, as well as for housing faculty of outstanding achievement and recognition, nationally and internationally. We invite you to explore our web site to learn about the nurse anesthesia program, ranked #7 in the nation. You can view a video below from our CEO, recognizing the achievement of the program and our other educational programs at the medical center.



Students practice advanced anesthetic techniques in our anesthesia skills lab.

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Please click here to continue.

The program offers high quality education and experience to a select group of professional nurses to prepare graduates for a life-long study and practice of anesthesia. The program strives to maintain a top-ranked position through the provision of a rigorous education and program evolution to capitalize upon emerging trends in health care and education. Our guiding vision is "**Creating Excellence in Nurse Anesthesia**".

This vision embodies more than just saying, "we are going to teach students well". As an analogy, a church or a club are more than just buildings; they encompass the faith, commitment, goodwill, and evangelism of their members. This is the essence of the **Excellence** we strive to create. We want graduates who embody passion for the art of anesthesia nursing, commitment to professionalism, and stewardship of the profession. We seek to measure output not in numbers of graduates, but in this **Excellence**. The nurse anesthesia faculty live this vision in their professional lives. Here, students are educated by professional advocates who have held positions of prominence in state, national, and international organizations related to nurse anesthesia.

Wake Forest University School of Medicine confers the Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia degree upon program graduates. The school of medicine has been housed at the medical center since 1941. Dr. Roscoe Wall, one of the initial faculty members of the school of medicine, recognized the need for competent nurse anesthetists and started the nurse anesthesia program with the first graduates emerging in 1942. Therefore, following its move from Wake Forest, NC to Winston-Salem, the school of medicine had produced nurse anesthesia graduates even before its first medical physician graduates. Since 1942, the nurse anesthesia program has collaborated with the department of anesthesiology to offer a world class education in nurse anesthesia. The mission of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is to improve the health of our region, state and nation by: generating and translating knowledge to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, training **leaders** in health care and biomedical science, and serving as the premier health system in our region. The nurse anesthesia program takes this charge to heart, having

produced numerous state, national, and international leaders in nurse anesthesia.

The Department of Anesthesiology subscribes to the *anesthesia care team* approach. Students are instructed by both certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) and faculty anesthesiologists. Graduates of the program are prepared to plan, administer, and manage anesthetic delivery to a wide range of patients and in diverse settings. Students receive rich clinical experiences in separate inpatient, outpatient, and pediatric surgical departments at NCBH. In addition, a host of outside clinical sites provide experience in various settings, including community hospital, office surgery, and obstetrics. Students will use our state of the art patient simulation resources to experience critical situations in a controlled environment. Classroom instruction is augmented by numerous opportunities for experiential learning, through involvement of our Center for Applied Learning (CAL). The CAL is a conglomerate of simulation and skills laboratories which afford hands-on skills and scenario training for trainees of various disciplines at the medical center.

The program is currently on a 10-year accreditation by the [Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs](#), (222 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, 847-655-1160) with "no progress required" in 2005. This is the maximum accreditation period possible, which is granted to few programs. We have also been granted full accreditation by the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists. We were the first program in the country, and only the second in the world to receive this level of international accreditation. Wake Forest University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Graduates of the program are awarded the Master of Science degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Wake Forest University. Our accreditation standing attests to the success of our program organization. Students receive ample opportunities for clinical experience and consistently exceed the requirements for certification eligibility. Clinical training includes approximately 700 cases and 1800 hours of anesthesia delivery. Program graduates perform well on the [national certification examination](#). For the graduating class of 2013, the certification examination pass rate for first time takers was 100%, employment of graduates within the first six months of graduation was 100% and the class attrition rate was 12 % (i.e., 3 students did not complete the program).

Wake Forest Baptist Health is one of the nation's preeminent academic medical centers and ranked as one of America's "most wired health care providers". NCBH incorporates over 1,000 beds, including the main hospital and the integrated Brenner's Children's Hospital. Over 34,000 surgical procedures are performed annually. Because of specialized facilities, highly skilled staff, and sophisticated medical technology, the institution regularly serves patients from across the United States and abroad. Both the hospital and the anesthesia program have been rated among the best in the country by U.S. News & World Report. The hospital's commitment to attracting the best nurses is evidenced by its longstanding *Magnet Recognition* by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Members of the hospital's medical staff serve as the clinical faculty, with each staff member performing both teaching and clinical service on a regular basis. In addition, CRNAs at NCBH are hired as clinical instructors so students have the opportunity to benefit from the clinical expertise of many highly trained professional nurse anesthetists.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us. We would be glad to hear from you.

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