

# School of Nursing

*5<sup>th</sup> in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research dollars awarded  
7<sup>th</sup> in U.S. News & World Reports "America's Best Graduate Schools"  
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

## OVERVIEW

Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among Anesthesia Programs in the 2011 U.S. News & World Reports "America's Best Graduate Schools," the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program prepares registered nurses to administer anesthesia and render perioperative anesthesia nursing services to patients of all ages in a variety of health care settings. The Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program meets all national accreditation standards of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and has received two consecutive 10 year accreditations with no citations or recommendations for change. Graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program are eligible to take the National Certification Examination administered by the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).

The curriculum is based on a continuum of perioperative anesthesia nursing care: preoperative assessment, formulating an anesthesia management plan, administration of anesthetic agents, administration of adjunctive medications and provision of postoperative care. Research methods and theory, physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, basic and advanced principles of anesthesia, chemistry and physics, patient safety, team training and professional role issues are included in the curriculum. Courses are taught by faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Guest lecturers are invited to present areas of specialty content in which they are working.

Students work directly with nationally and internationally renowned leaders in research, practice, and education. The School's Human Simulation Lab has partnered with the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER) to offer a simulation program recognized nationally as a leader within the Nurse Anesthesia community. This program is designed to bridge the gap between the classroom and clinical settings. Using a variety of human simulators and models the goal is to maximize hands-on learning. The program has adopted the Structured and supported debriefing model in order to provide opportunity for reflection. Students rotate through a broad spectrum of clinical sites offering experience in the anesthetic management of specialized patient populations across the lifespan. Specialty case experiences include but are not limited to cardiac, thoracic, neurosurgical, pediatric, obstetric, dental, orthopedic, ENT, transplantation, trauma, bariatrics, electroconvulsive therapy, special needs, and regional anesthesia. Additional settings include community practice, rural practice and a pain management clinic. The average student administers more than 850 anesthetics and provides more than 1,700 hours of direct anesthetic care. Clinical practice begins as two days/week in the first term and increases in intensity/frequency throughout the curriculum. Clinical practice in the final two terms is 4-5 days/week and is interspersed with conferences and preparation sessions for the National Certification Examination (NCE).

## CURRICULUM FORMAT

- Admit annually Fall Term and Spring Term
- Onsite / Full-time (28 months)
- Curriculum
  - ✓ 52 credits (includes > 1,700 hours of direct anesthetic care)
  - ✓ Full-time curriculum: available at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu)
  - ✓ Part-time: core 'NUR' curriculum courses only (for students admitted to the full-time curriculum, these courses may be taken before beginning the full-time specialty curriculum)



## **OUTCOME OBJECTIVES**

Graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program are prepared to:

- Develop an advanced knowledge base in nurse anesthesia theory and practice
- Demonstrate competence in nurse anesthesia practice by safely caring for patients of all acuity levels across the lifespan
- Formulate physiologically sound anesthesia plans of care tailored to patient physical status and age
- Identify researchable problems relevant to nurse anesthesia practice
- Conduct systematic evaluation of evidence from the scientific literature as a basis for informed nurse anesthesia practice
- Contribute to new knowledge generation through participation in anesthesia research
- Participate in the development of clinical, administrative, and educational roles for CRNAs and other advanced practice nurses through didactic and clinical coursework
- Develop collaborative working relationships with members of the healthcare community including surgical and anesthesia team members to enhance patient safety

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

- Valid registered nurse license (all students must obtain a Pennsylvania license)
- Minimum of one year full-time nursing experience in ICU/Critical Care within the last 5 years by the start of the program
- 3.0 or higher GPA in BSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN or DNP: available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs
- Official GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course
- Pre-admission interview
- Complete online application: [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) (may apply if currently employed in critical care and will have the required one year of full-time experience prior to admission term)
- *International applicants: see [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) and [www.ois.pitt.edu](http://www.ois.pitt.edu)*
- Deadline: January 5 (for the following Fall and Spring Terms)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

John M. O'Donnell, RN, CRNA, MSN, DrPH  
Associate Professor and Director  
Nurse Anesthesia Program  
Associate Director, WISER  
412-624-4860 or [jod01@pitt.edu](mailto:jod01@pitt.edu)

Joseph Goode RN, CRNA, BSN, MSN  
Instructor and Admissions Coordinator  
Nurse Anesthesia Program  
412-624-4860 or [jsgst33@pitt.edu](mailto:jsgst33@pitt.edu)