School of Nursing

5th in DNP & 7th in MSN, U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best Nursing Grad Schools
5th in NIH funding (2018) among schools of nursing
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

OVERVIEW
Ranked 4th among Anesthesia Programs in U.S. News & World Report's 2017 Best Nursing Grad Schools, the Nurse Anesthesia DNP Program prepares nurses to be leaders at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. Graduates are prepared to safely administer a full range of anesthetics and render perioperative anesthesia nursing services to patients of all ages in a variety of health care settings.

The curriculum prepares students for their professional roles through coursework that develops organizational, economic, and leadership skills. Through integrated classroom and clinical instruction, students develop the didactic knowledge base and clinical skills necessary to provide the optimum anesthetic experience.

Students rotate through clinical sites in Pittsburgh (including world-renowned UPMC Health System hospitals), the surrounding region, and distant sites. Clinical rotations in community hospitals prepare graduates for practice in diverse settings. Specialized clinical experiences include cardiothoracic, neurosurgical, dental, regional anesthesia, organ transplantation, pediatrics, obstetrics, burns and electroconvulsive therapy. The average student administers more than 850 anesthetics. A culminating DNP Project reflects the synthesis and application of knowledge gained throughout the curriculum.

The Nurse Anesthesia Program is accredited through 2019 by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Graduates are eligible to take the National Certification Exam (NCE) administered by the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).

CURRICULUM FORMAT
BSN to DNP
- Onsite
- Full-time (3 years)
- 85 credits (includes more than 2,000 clinical hours with more than 800 anesthetics provided)
- Curriculum Plan: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu)
- Spring Term admission (Applicants who are offered admission may take select core courses prior to full-time admission)

MSN to DNP
- Online* only
- Full-time (1.5 years) or Part-time (varies)
- 36 credits
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with MSN to DNP Coordinator)
- Fall Term admission
  * Upon admission, MSN to DNP Coordinator will review official master's transcript for:
    - clinical hours completed for applicability toward minimum 1,000 clinical hours
    - coursework for permissible transfer credits (additional coursework may be required)

*PittOnline (online.pitt.edu / 412-648-9499)
- View Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, and virtual tech support

(rev. 3-27-18)
OBJECTIVES
Graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia DNP 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 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

BSN to DNP
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- Minimum 1 year full-time ICU/critical care nursing experience (within last 5 years) by start of program (may apply if employed in ICU/critical care & will have required experience before admission term)
- \( \geq 3.0 \) GPA in BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B or higher
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP is available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

MSN to DNP
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- Current Nurse Anesthetist certification in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete DNP Scholarly Project
- \( \geq 3.0 \) GPA in MSN or MS in Nurse Anesthesia from accredited program (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if MSN or MS in Nurse Anesthesia GPA \( \geq 3.5 \))
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B or higher
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP is available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

APPLICATION (Holistic Review Process)
- Complete online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu & ois.pitt.edu
- Pre-admission interview
- Deadlines: February 15 or May 1 (international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 15)
  - Complete applications received by Feb. 15 - admission decision expected by June 1
  - Complete applications received by May 1 - admission decision expected by June 30

Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option
- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an application to the Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option at nursing.pitt.edu
  - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
John M. O'Donnell, RN, CRNA, MSN, DrPH
Professor and Chair, Department of Nurse Anesthesia
Director, Nurse Anesthesia Program
Associate Director, WISER
412-624-4860 or jod01@pitt.edu

Michael Neft, DNP, MHA, CRNA
Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Administration
Department of Nurse Anesthesia
MSN to DNP Coordinator, Nurse Anesthesia Program
412-624-3820 or neftm@pitt.edu