OVERVIEW

Ranked 1st among Anesthesia Programs in the 2016 U.S. News & World Reports “America’s Best Graduate Schools”, the Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program prepares registered nurses to safely administer anesthesia and render perioperative anesthesia nursing services to patients of all ages in various health care settings. The 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 Examination (NCE) administered by the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRMA).

The curriculum is based on a continuum of perioperative anesthesia nursing care: preoperative assessment, formulation of an anesthesia management plan, administration of anesthetic agents and adjunctive medications, and provision of postoperative care. It includes research methods and theory, physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, basic and advanced principles of anesthesia, chemistry and physics, patient safety, team training and professional role issues. Courses are taught by faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, and UPMC/UPP Department of Anesthesiology.

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 nationally-recognized simulation program. Designed to bridge the gap between classroom and clinical settings, the simulation program offers a wide variety of human simulators and models to maximize hands-on learning and utilizes the AHA Structured and Supported Debriefing model 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 800 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 and frequency throughout the curriculum. Clinical practice in the final two terms is 4-5 days/week and includes preparation sessions for the 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 nursing.pitt.edu
  - Part-time: core ‘NUR’ courses only (before beginning full-time specialty curriculum)

(rev. 11-18-15)
OBJECTIVES
Graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia MSN Program will:
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and competence in nurse anesthesia practice in various health care settings for patients of all acuity levels
- Adhere to the American Nurses Association Code of Conduct, University of Pittsburgh Policies and Clinical Site Policies regarding a culture of dignity and respect
- Critically examine and demonstrate the ability to apply findings from the scientific literature as a basis for informed nurse anesthesia practice
- Formulate and implement physiologically sound anesthesia techniques tailored to patient physical status and age
- Identify issues in anesthesia practice and conduct systematic evaluation of evidence
- Participate in evidence based practice coursework and complete a research practicum experience
- Develop an understanding of clinical, administrative, and educational roles for nurse anesthetists through didactic and clinical coursework
- Develop collaborative working relationships with members of the community of interest including surgical and anesthesia team members
- Develop patient safety skills through vigilance, effective communication, team skills and understanding of the complexity inherent in various environments of care

ADMISSION CRITERIA
- Valid registered nurse license (all students must obtain a Pennsylvania license)
- Minimum one year full-time nursing experience in ICU/Critical Care (within last 5 years) by start of program
- 3.0 or higher GPA in BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN or DNP: available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs
- Official GRE scores
- Prerequisite undergraduate statistics course (at least 3 credits with a grade of C or above)
- Pre-admission interview
- Complete online application: nursing.pitt.edu (may apply if currently employed in critical care and will have required one year full-time experience prior to admission term)
- International applicants: see nursing.pitt.edu and ois.pitt.edu
- Deadline: January 15 (for following Fall and Spring Terms)

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

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