



Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration at The University of Tennessee, College of Nursing in Knoxville. Enclosed is a description of the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration and an application packet, which includes information about the MSN program, an explanation of the application procedure, and the application forms. **Please read these materials carefully.**

The thirty-one month curriculum offers professional registered nurses the opportunity to develop into safe, highly competent nurse anesthetists by providing a course of study that encourages lifelong learning in the practice of nurse anesthesia. Upon satisfactory completion of all didactic and clinical work, candidates are awarded the Master of Science in Nursing degree from The University of Tennessee. Qualified graduates will then be recommended to write the National Certification Examination and, upon successful completion, to be recognized as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Please be aware the deadline for completion of the application process is February 1<sup>st</sup>. **It is your responsibility to ensure all requested materials and documents are included, and that the completed application packet is submitted by this date. Incomplete applications will not be considered.** To apply to the Graduate School on-line, please direct your web browser to the following URL: <http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/apply.shtml> or contact the Graduate Admissions office at (865) 974-3251.

The Selection Panel reviews all acceptable applications and a candidate pool is chosen for personal interviews, which take place during the Spring semester each year (~nine [9] months prior to the requested spring admission). Those applicants not selected for an interview, upon written request, will receive guidance for subsequent application.

Applicants selected for admission will be contacted within four weeks following completion of the interview process. Individuals selected for admission must notify the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration office, in writing, regarding acceptance of the position. A non-refundable matriculation fee (a seat fee) will be required to secure the candidate's position in the program.

**Please note that application materials go to different offices.**

The following materials should be returned to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Program Office at The University of Tennessee Medical Center:

- 1) MSN Data Form
- 2) Essay on your career goals
- 3) A photocopy of R.N. Licensure
- 4) Photocopies of ACLS and PALS certification cards
- 5) A copy of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score
- 6) Graduate Rating (reference) Forms (3 are required) – mailed directly to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Program office by each of the evaluators to:

**Alisa Canupp  
1930 Alcoa Hwy., Suite 430  
Knoxville, TN 37920**

*\*\*See the section of the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration information packet labeled Procedure for Applying #1-6 for specific information and details*

The following materials should be returned to the Graduate Admissions Office of UT:

- 1) Official transcripts of all previously attended educational institutions
- 2) Application to the graduate program of UT
- 3) Application fee of \$35.00
- 4) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores

*\*\*See the section of the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration information packet labeled Procedure for Applying #8-11 for specific information and details*

Only completed application files are acted upon by the MSN Admissions Committee and subsequently forwarded to the Nurse Anesthesia Selection Panel for review and interview. We look forward to receiving your application materials and wish you success as you complete the application procedure.

Sincerely,

*Donald M. Bell, CRNA, DNSc, APN*

Donald M. Bell, CRNA, DNSc, APN  
Program Director/Concentration Coordinator

Enclosures:

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**  
University of Tennessee, College of Nursing  
Nurse Anesthesia Concentration

1. **Meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School.**
2. Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from an accredited nursing program or a masters degree in nursing for those who wish to obtain a Post-MSN certificate\*.
3. Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Current unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Tennessee.
5. At least one year (by the time of the program start date) of current full-time intensive care nursing experience in which invasive hemodynamic monitoring and utilization of vasoactive intravenous medications were a routine occurrence. Current full-time Intensive care nursing experience including ICU, CCU, SICU, TICU, MICU, and CVICU fulfills this requirement. **ER, ICN, or PARR does not fulfill this requirement.**
6. Physical Assessment course from an accredited nursing program, as a component of your BSN.
7. Graduate level course in Statistics, of at least 3 semester credit hours.
8. Three letters of reference: (1) one from a former nursing faculty member, (2) one from an immediate work superior (eg., nurse manager or charge nurse), and (3) one from a physician who works directly with the applicant.
9. 3-5 page typed essay addressing the applicant's long-range professional and educational goals, preparation (including your work experiences) for anesthesia education, and qualities that would make the applicant a good candidate for a career in Nurse Anesthesia.
10. A personal interview by the Selection Panel at The University of Tennessee, College of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Concentration.
11. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants whose native tongue is not English, with a minimum score of 550 via paper examination or 215 via computerized examination. (earned within two years prior to application).
12. Current ACLS and PALS certifications are required at the time of enrollment for all candidates selected for admission. Refer to the enclosed Admission Requirements sheet for further details.
13. Competitive score on the verbal and on the quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants will be ranked in this category based on their scores. The higher the total combined verbal and quantitative scores, the more competitive the applicant will be in the admission criteria category. The impact of any individual's GRE score will be dependent on the scores of all applicants who are also in any application pool. This degree of competitiveness can not be determined until the time of interview invitation.
14. Following the interview, individuals offered admission must successfully pass an independently conducted criminal background investigation approved by the College of Nursing. No substitutions allowed.

**\*Post-MSN students** who wish to obtain a certificate in a program of study must have graduated from BSN and/or MSN program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Course requirements are discussed under the specific concentrations at the end of this information brochure. They must at minimum:

- a. Have a competitive GPA in their undergraduate and graduate programs.
- b. Follow the admission procedure outlined in on the College of Nursing Website for admission to the Post-MSN Program.

**Additional requirements may be imposed to all applicants with notice**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**Nurse Anesthesia Concentration**

**History:**

The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration at Knoxville was established in 2000. A nurse anesthesia educational program has been in continuous operation at our primary clinical site since 1963. Students completing the program prior to 1992 were awarded a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of Tennessee Memorial Hospital. In 1992, a graduate curriculum was initiated in concert with the University of Tennessee, Memphis, College of Nursing, to award graduates a Master of Science in Nursing. The establishment of a new and autonomous program of nurse anesthesia education, within the College of Nursing at the Knoxville Campus, was finalized in the Fall of 2000 and all students transitioned to the new program in July of this year..

**Goal of the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration:**

The goal of the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration is to prepare qualified registered nurses to become anesthesia practitioners with an advanced scientific knowledge base and a comprehensive array of clinical skills. Graduates should be able to:

1. Competently prepare and deliver nurse anesthesia services throughout the spectrum of practice settings in order to meet the health care needs of the public.
2. Conduct independent study and research in support of advancement of the profession.
3. Participate in the clinical and didactic components of nurse anesthesia educational programs.
4. Assume professional leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels.

**MATRICULANT REQUIREMENTS:**

Meeting the minimal requirements does not guarantee admission. The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration is highly competitive. Successful applicants are highly motivated, typically have several years of critical care experience, strong GPAs and GRE scores, and many have taken additional courses in advanced sciences such as physiology, organic chemistry or biochemistry.

Graduate education, and Nurse Anesthesia education in particular, is a major undertaking; academically, professionally, emotionally, and financially. Applicants are strongly encouraged to research all aspects of this undertaking carefully. It is recommended that you speak with practicing CRNAs and anesthesiologists to observe and/or discuss the practice of anesthesia prior to the time of personal admission interview.

It is a faculty expectation for beginning students to be academically prepared to undertake the advanced study of nursing, clinical and basic sciences. The curriculum features the intensive use of informational technology for educational purposes. All students must possess basic computer skills and equipment prior to enrollment. These skills and equipment include, but are not limited to:

1. Able to utilize word processing program Windows™, as well as databases, and spread sheets.
2. Able to send and receive e-mails and attachments to e-mail
3. On-line with Internet service of choice must be maintained, at student cost, for the duration of the program of study
4. Anti-virus software, Adobe Acrobat Reader™

**Additional requirements may be imposed for all students with notice**

### **PROGRAM DESIGN**

If you are a highly capable and motivated professional, comfortable with the physical sciences, seeking increased education, autonomy and the beginning of a life-long period of challenge and continued learning, this program may be of interest to you. Completion of this program will permit the graduate an opportunity to take his or her place among the ranks of the highly respected CRNAs who will be molding the health care history of our next century.

The program duration is 31 months with classes starting Spring Semester (January) each year. Applications for admission must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year in order to meet the Selection Panel's deadline. All applications are reviewed and selected applicants will be scheduled for a personal interview approximately nine (9) months prior to the Spring Semester admission. Applicants are notified of their selection for admission to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration within four weeks following the completion of all interviews.

Enclosed is the curriculum outline for the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration. The curriculum contains didactic classes in the principles and practices of anesthesia (both general and regional) for all types of patients undergoing surgical and diagnostic procedures in all specialty areas. These include general surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, geriatrics, OB/Gyn, cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgery. Considerable course work is devoted to pathophysiology and pharmacology. Courses also cover the theoretical considerations of practice, professional issues and research. In preparation for the clinical anesthesia practicum that begins Fall semester of your first year of study and continues throughout the remainder of the program, all students will be exposed to numerous simulation exercises in the Human Anesthesia Simulation Laboratory (HASL) in the first Summer semester. Students begin to administer anesthesia in the clinical area under constant supervision. A supervised call experience begins in October of the third semester.

As is the case with all graduate programs of nurse anesthesia education, our curriculum is very demanding and academically rigorous. The time commitment required of successful students is substantial.

## **MSN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students must complete the coursework outlined in their *Program of Study*.
2. Students must complete graduate-level course work with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better to graduate. A student receiving a grade lower than a B in a course with a clinical component (N504 Advanced Health/Physical Assessment & all clinical concentration courses) will result in the student being dismissed from the program.
3. Students select either a thesis or a non-thesis option. Students selecting the non-thesis option take three (3) hours of N582 and take a Comprehensive Final Examination. Students selecting the thesis option will take six (6) hours of N500 and the defense of their thesis serves as their Comprehensive Final Examination.

## **MINORS**

Students enrolled in the MSN program can elect to complete minors in statistics, education, or gerontology. Information on the minors is available in the College of Nursing *Graduate Student Handbook*, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville *Graduate Catalog* and at this web site <http://nightingale.con.utk.edu/programs/msn.html>

**Education:** The minor requires 12 hours of course work. Requirements are N566 *Education Principles and Strategies* and N565 *Nursing Education Practicum* in addition to 6 hours of education classes in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences (CEHHS). Please consult with your academic advisor about the specific CEHHS courses that can be taken in the minor.

**Gerontology:** The minor requires 12 hours of course work. Requirements are selected from 9 hours of approved courses from the gerontology minor in 3 different departments and include a practicum. Contact Dr. Diane Klein ([dklein1@utk.edu](mailto:dklein1@utk.edu)) to sign up for the minor and obtain information on approved courses.

**Statistics:** The minor requires 9 hours of course work. The student needs to complete 9 hours of approved statistics courses, with 6 of those hours as an approved statistics sequence. A list of approved statistics courses is on the Intercollegiate Graduate Statistics Program (IGSP) website. N511 *Statistical Applications to Nursing Research* is not an approved course for the IGSP curriculum. An additional option through ISGP is the completion of a Master of Science degree in statistics concurrently with the MSN degree. For additional information on the minor in statistics refer to the IGSP webpage (<http://bus.utk.edu/stat/igsp/index.htm>) or contact Dr. Linda Mefford ([lmefford@utk.edu](mailto:lmefford@utk.edu)) or (865) 974-7590.

## **NURSE ANESTHESIA CONCENTRATION CURRICULUM**

<u>Spring Semester I:</u>	
N501 Nursing Research	3
N510 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing	3
N507 Healthy Policy & Promotion for APN's	4 = <b>10 hours</b>
<u>Mini-term I:</u>	
N504 Advanced Health/Physical Assessment	3 = <b>3 hours</b>
<u>Summer Semester I:</u>	
N524 Basic Principles of Anesthesia I	3
N505 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
N522 Integrated Health Science for Anesthesia	3 = <b>9 hours</b>
<u>Fall Semester I:</u>	
N525 Basic Principles of Anesthesia II	3
N526 Professional Issues in Nurse Anesthesia	2
N544 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum I	4 = <b>9 hours</b>
<u>Spring Semester II:</u>	
N523 Advanced Principles of Anesthesia Practice	2
N545 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum II	9 = <b>11 hours</b>
<u>Mini-term II:</u>	
N546 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum III	2 = <b>2 hours</b>
<u>Summer Semester II:</u>	
N518 Advanced Pathophysiology: OB/Pediatrics	2
N547 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum IV	9 = <b>11 hours</b>
<u>Fall Semester II:</u>	
N516 Advanced Pathophysiology: Neuro/CV	2
N582 Scholarly Inquiry	3
N548 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum V	8 = <b>13 hours</b>
<u>Spring Semester III:</u>	
N517 Advanced Pathophysiology: Resp/Renal	2
N549 Clinical Anesthesia Practicum VI	10 = <b>12 hours</b>
<u>Mini-Term III:</u>	
N583 Directed Clinical Practice	3 = <b>3 hours</b>
<u>Summer Semester III:</u>	
N506 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology	3
N583 Directed Clinical Practice	9 = <b>12 hours</b>
(will take comprehensive exams this semester)	
**(and N500 @ 3hr for thesis option)	
	Total: 95
(with Thesis option:	Total: 98)

\*Your actual plan of study and sequencing of coursework will be determined by mutual agreement of your academic adviser at the time you matriculate in the concentration

## ***Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Curriculum***

**N500 Thesis** (3,3) Utilization of the research process in an original scholarly inquiry using either quantitative or qualitative methods. Thesis hours are conducted under faculty guidance, and the completed thesis is prepared according to the *University of Tennessee Guide for Thesis and Dissertations*. Prereq: 501. NOTE: Student will register for this course twice in order to fulfill the hours requirement for Thesis. Students choosing the Thesis option DO NOT take N582, Scholarly Inquiry for Advanced Practice.

**N501 Nursing Research** (3) Basic principles of research process in application to clinical questions; critical evaluation of nursing and health-related research. Prereq or coreq: 510, Graduate Level Statistics.

**N504 Advanced Assessment** (3) Development of advanced clinical reasoning skills for assessment of client health status and needs: physiological and pathophysiological concepts as dimensions of the whole person. Implication for therapeutic nursing interventions. Prereq or coreq: 503.

**N505 Advanced Pharmacology** (3) Pharmacological agents utilized to treat common, recurrent health problems; indications, contraindications, side and interactive effects of commonly prescribed drugs. Prereq: 301 or equivalent or consent of instructor.

**N506 Advanced Anesthesia Pharmacology** (3) Utilization of the research process in an original scholarly inquiry using either quantitative or qualitative methods. Thesis hours are conducted under faculty guidance, and the completed thesis is prepared according to the *University of Tennessee Guide for Thesis and Dissertations*. Prereq: 501. NOTE: Student will register for this course twice in order to fulfill the hours requirement for Thesis. Students choosing the Thesis option DO NOT take N582, Scholarly Inquiry for Advanced Practice

**N507 Healthy Policy and Promotion for APNs** (4) Exploration of advance nursing practitioners and their role in the dynamic health care system. Emphasis on health policy, health promotion and the organizational, social, ethical, political, economic, and technological factors that impact advanced practice nursing and the delivery/promotion of health care.

**N510 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing** (3) Historical evolution of nursing science; nursing's metaparadigm and selected philosophies, conceptual models and theories as structures which guide critical thinking in analysis, reasoning, and decision making for advanced practice nursing.

**N516 Advanced Pathophysiology: Neurological & Cardiovascular with Anesthesia Implications** (2) Review of anatomy and physiology and integration of pathophysiology involved in patients requiring anesthetic care for cardiac surgical procedures (both children and adults) with and without cardiopulmonary bypass, intercranial surgical procedures for vascular and mass occupying lesions, patients requiring somatosensory evoked potential monitoring, and patients requiring anesthesia for non-cardiac and non-neurological procedures who present with either neurological and/or cardiovascular comorbidity.

**N517 Advanced Pathophysiology: Respiratory/Renal with Anesthesia Implications** (2) Review of anatomy and physiology and integration of pathophysiology involved in administration of anesthesia for patients who present with renal or respiratory pathology.

Pathological implications of acute and chronic renal failure, renal transplantation, pulmonary disease states: obstructive and restrictive diseases, one lung ventilation, and acute pulmonary disease states and their management.

**N518 Advanced Pathophysiology: Obstetrics/Pediatric Anesthesia** (2) Review of anatomy and physiology with focus on the integration of pathophysiology for obstetrical and pediatric patients requiring anesthetic care.

**N522 Integrated Health Science For Anesthesia** (3) Fundamental principles of chemistry and physics as related to practice of nurse anesthesia. Correlation of principles to clinical anesthesia practice.

**N523 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice** (2) Advanced concepts/principles of anesthetic management and legal implications of nurse anesthesia practice.

**N524 Basic Principles of Anesthesia I** (3) An introduction to the scientific principles upon which anesthesia administration is based. The focus of this course (part one of a two part series) is on the sound elementary principles of safe anesthesia delivery for the beginning practitioner.

**N525 Basic Principles of Anesthesia II** (3) A continuation of N524 (Basic Principles of Anesthesia I) which builds upon the previous course to provide advanced elementary scientific principles upon which nurse anesthetists implement plans of care which have been developed. The focus of this course (part two of a two part series) is on the sound basic principles of safe anesthesia management for the beginning practitioner.

**N526 Professional Issues in Nurse Anesthesia** (2) Exploration of nurse anesthesia as an advanced practice nursing specialty and examination of CRNAs and their interrelationships within the health care system. Includes historical, organizational, medical-legal, ethical, personal and professional topics, such as: standards of practice: patient's rights: quality improvement: management: and cultural considerations.

**N582 Scholarly Inquiry for Advanced Practice** (3) Supervised research culminating in scholarly paper. Experiential learning of research process. Participation in on-going faculty research project by completing specified portion of project under faculty guidance. Prereq: Consent of instructor, 501, 510. May be repeated. Maximum 6 hrs.

**N544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549 Clinical Practica/Seminar I-VI (2-9)** The integration and application of theoretical foundations and development of clinical skills in nurse anesthesia practice. As students matriculate through their clinical courses, they are confronted with increasingly more complex patient populations. The beginning student practices under constant supervision of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). As a student's knowledge base and skills increase, supervision may be exclusively by a CRNA, by the combination of CRNA and anesthesiologist, or solely by an anesthesiologist.

**N583 Directed Clinical Practice** (4-10) Additional opportunities for advanced nursing practice. Objectives to be developed collaboratively by student and faculty. Prereq: Enrollment in or completion of graduate level courses in clinical nursing. Maximum 14 hrs.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The University of Tennessee, College of Nursing is accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and is unconditionally approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. In addition, the College of Nursing has provisional accreditation approval from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The University of Tennessee is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). Because the concentration is fully accredited, qualified students are eligible to apply for VA benefits and/or low interest loans guaranteed by the Federal Government. The Financial Aid department at The University of Tennessee can answer any questions regarding qualification for, and availability of, student loan funds (865-974-3131). All clinical sites, where applicable, are fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

The Council On Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
222 South Prospect Avenue, Suite 304  
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001  
Phone: 847-692-7050, ext. 1160  
Fax: 847-692-7137

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097  
Phone: 404-679-4500  
Fax: 404-679-4556

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
One Renaissance Blvd.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
Phone: 630-792-5000  
Fax: 630-792-5005

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.  
61 Broadway, 33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: 800-669-1656 or 212-363-5555  
Fax: 212-812-0390  
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202-887-6791  
Fax: (202) 887-8476

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration is an extremely rigorous academic and clinical undertaking. Students average **no less than** forty hours per week in the clinical area and/or in the classroom. Beginning with the first Fall Semester, students average a minimum of six hours of didactic coursework per week. Case conference, M & M conference, and journal club attendance are mandatory. Students take in house call on a rotational basis with the following day off **except for classes**.

### **TUITION, FEE, AND OTHER COSTS**

At the time of printing of these informational materials, tuition for a graduate student at the University of Tennessee was approximately **\$31,368** for the entire 31-month nurse anesthesia program for in-state students and **\$88,960** for the entire 31-month program for out-of-state students. Historical trends suggest students can expect a 5-15% increase in tuition and fees each academic year. For a listing of current tuition and fees for our graduate program, please direct your browser to the following website:

<http://web.utk.edu/~bursar/graduaterate.html>.

Additional estimated student expenses associated with this program are broken down on the following page. Be aware that if a student already possesses any of these supplies, their personal expense would be decreased by the estimated value of that item(s).  
Approximate costs to the student include:

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL FEES AND COSTS**

Basic personal anesthesia library: (Required textbooks)		\$1500.00
Personal Computer	est.	\$3000.00
with worldwide communication abilities	est.	\$ 775.00
(online @ \$25 month x 31 months)		
Associate membership American Association of Nurse Anesthetists:		\$100.00
Basic Monitoring equipment / OR supplies:		\$145.00
Professional journal subscription:		\$60.00
Thesis binding / copying:		\$100.00
Certification Examination		\$725.00
Anesthesia Review Course		\$675.00
Self-Evaluation Examination (CCNA)		\$250.00
ACLS & PALS Course Registration		\$300.00
<hr/>		
Total:		\$7,630.00*

**\*These costs have been approximated at the time of printing, actual costs may vary. This is not intended to represent an all inclusive listing of expenses.**

**FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS**

### **The University of Tennessee Financial Aid**

The College does not administer any loan programs. Students who would like information on loans, financial aid, and university scholarships should contact the University Financial Aid Office, 115 Student Services Building, (865-974-3131).

### **Army and Air Force ROTC Nursing Scholarships**

Army ROTC Nursing Scholarships and Air Force ROTC Nursing Scholarships are available through the University of Tennessee ROTC programs. For more information contact the Army ROTC, Stokely Athletic Center, Room 210, 974-5371 or Air Force ROTC, Stokely Athletic Center, Room 205, 974-8865.

### **College of Nursing Scholarships and Traineeships**

A number scholarships, awards and recognitions are administered through the College of Nursing. In order to be considered for many of these students need to have a current *Student Activities Form* on file with College of Nursing Student Services. A copy of this form is available in the Student Services Office (CON Room 203).

### **Scholarships**

***Information on and applications for College of Nursing Scholarships can be found on the College website (click on "Students" then "Financial Aid").*** Forms should be completed, and submitted to the Chair of Scholarship Committee (The Dean's office and the student's advisor will have current information on who is the committee chair). On-line submission is not available at this time. Once an application is completed and submitted, students will be considered for all scholarships for which they meet the criteria. Some scholarships require the submission of a written essay and/or interview. Students desiring more information about any of the scholarships should make an appointment with the Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Recipients of most College of Nursing scholarships are selected by the Scholarship Committee in the Spring semester, with funds distributed the following Fall semester. The dollar amount of these stipends varies depending on availability. Recipients of the College of Nursing scholarships must have completed at least one semester of upper division or graduate work.

***The following scholarships administered by the College of Nursing are available to graduate students:***

The **Dr. Lewis Frederick & Mary Sue Preston Endowment Scholarship** gives preference to nurse anesthesia students who demonstrate excellent academic achievements and who demonstrate a financial need.

The **Fraker Family Nursing Scholarship** gives first preference to a student with Tennessee ties who has demonstrated financial need.

The **Betty Jo McAfee Greene Nursing Scholarship** is open to all nursing students with financial need being the primary consideration.

The **Sylvia Hart Scholarship** is open to all full-time nursing students who have demonstrated the following: BSN - 3.25 GPA with 90 semester hours completed; all junior level nursing courses completed with "B" or higher. MSN - 3.5 GPA with 12 graduate credit hours completed with a grade of B or higher for each course. PhD - 3.75 with 18 post masters credit hours completed with a grade of B or higher in each course. The student must submit a letter of application for the scholarship that includes a statement of personal philosophy of nursing, career aspirations and hopes, and dreams for the nursing profession. These statements will be compared within, but not across program levels, to determine the recipients.

The **Robert Profitt Memorial Scholarship** is open to all students pursuing a career in trauma care or community health, or who have displayed a commitment to the prevention of gun violence.

The **University of Tennessee Hospital Auxiliary Nursing Scholarship** funds are available for either a junior or senior students based primarily on demonstrated financial need. Preference is given to in-state students.

### **Nurse Traineeships**

Professional Nurse Traineeships. Recipients of Traineeships must be registered nurses (RNs) admitted as potential degree candidates and are selected on the basis of merit. Application forms for Traineeships are mailed to eligible RNs admitted as potential degree candidates in the summer. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure they have been admitted as degree seeking students and have filed the traineeship application.

### **HOUSING, MEALS, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Students must provide their own housing. There are a variety of housing options throughout the local vicinity. Housing may be obtained through the University Student Housing Office subject to availability. For more information you may call or write:

Associate Director, University Housing  
405 Student Services Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3603  
Phone: 865-974-3411

Meals are available for purchase by the student in the cafeterias at each clinical site and on UT Campus. All meals are the responsibility of the individual student.

Students must furnish their own transportation and must abide by The University of Tennessee (and each clinical site's) rules and regulations governing the use of motor vehicles and parking.

### **HEALTH CARE**

All students are required to obtain/maintain basic health and medical care insurance to protect themselves. Family coverage is encouraged. The student may elect to enroll in the University of Tennessee Student Health Insurance Plan or obtain insurance with a private carrier. Proof of personal health insurance coverage must be submitted **each semester**. Students are ineligible to register for classes or attend clinicals unless proof of insurance is on file with The University of Tennessee and the program office.

### **STUDENT PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Any semester in which a student does clinical practice the student must have professional liability insurance. The University, under its Liability Insurance Program, will provide the necessary coverage at the lowest possible cost. Liability insurance premiums are added to student fees. **Students must have liability insurance to participate in clinical placements.**

Student Professional Liability Insurance coverage is limited to clinical laboratory experiences (all locations on and off campus) that are a component of nursing courses planned and supervised by faculty and does not cover student employment in clinical facilities. RNs with RN Professional Liability Insurance must still purchase student liability insurance.

### **PERSONAL LEAVE, HOLIDAYS, AND SICK LEAVE**

In addition to holidays as detailed in the following paragraphs, all student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) will be given 15 days of personal time off (PTO) each year beginning September 1 and ending August 31 annually. The only exception to the PTO policy occurs during fall semester of your first year of the program where transitional SRNAs will be off as follows:

- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving (constitutes 1 PTO day)
- Christmas Day thru New Years Day (constitutes 4 PTO days)

The remaining ten PTO days can be scheduled between January 2 and August 31. This is subject to change based on the calendar placement of the holidays.

PTO time cannot be carried over from the first year to the second year. These PTO days shall be utilized by the SRNA whenever they need release from clinical responsibilities for any reason (examples include, but are not limited to: sick leave, physician appointments, vacation requests, and funeral leave). Any SRNA who has absences from a scheduled clinical practicum in excess of 15 days per 12 calendar months, will have to make-up the excess time at the discretion and convenience of the administrative faculty. No SRNA will be eligible for program completion until this clinical practicum deficit has been removed.

If more than 15 days of PTO are required in any calendar year, the student must make arrangements with the Concentration Coordinator. Students will not be recommended for graduation until all clinical time in excess of these limits has been corrected.

### **LIBRARY**

Educational materials of the Anesthesia Concentration at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, are available for student use. Periodicals/books may be checked out through the program's Administrative Support Specialist. These periodicals/books must be returned by the due date. The UT Medical Center Library (The Preston Medical Library) and all library services of The University of Tennessee campus are available for student use. Nurse Anesthesia Concentration students have access to all libraries on the UTK campus. To find out more information about library services available to you, please visit <http://www.utk.edu/libraries/>

### **EVALUATIONS**

Informal Formative clinical and didactic evaluations occur frequently during each semester. Formative Mid-term evaluations will be performed and if any deficits or outstanding achievements are identified they will be discussed with the student in a conference with the NAC Administrative Faculty. Formal Summative evaluations are performed at the end of each semester and will be discussed with each student in a private evaluation conference with the Concentration Coordinator and other appropriate concentration administrative faculty if necessary.

### **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

Due to the intensity and workload of the graduate curriculum and practicum, students are discouraged from working. If students elect to work part-time, they may do so as long as academic and clinical performance are not compromised. Under no circumstances may any student engage in the delivery of anesthesia care outside the educational training program. **Any student discovered to be administering anesthesia care, except as a component of their clinical education, will be immediately dismissed from the program.**

### **TRANSFER**

Transferred course credit must be reviewed by the Program Director/Concentration Coordinator, approved by the Chair of the Master's Program, and subsequently by the Graduate School. A "Transfer Credit Request Form" can be obtained from the College of Nursing's Student Services Office, Room 203. Official transcripts of all transferred courses must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions and Records. The courses must (a) have been taken for graduate level credit; (b) carry a grade of B or better; (c) be part of a graduate program in which the student had a B average; (d) be listed on the student's *Admission to Candidacy Form*; and (e) not have been used as a graduation requirement in a previous master's program. Transfer course policies are found in the current UT Graduate Catalog. Please be aware that final determination of the acceptability of transfer credit will not be processed until a student is admitted to the anesthesia concentration. There are no guarantees of the acceptance of any transfer credit until all parties have approved the credit transfer.

### **PROGRESSION**

The practice of anesthesia requires a special kind of temperament, judgment, and confidence, which is not always apparent upon first meeting. If a student does not meet the requirements as determined by the faculty, he or she may be asked to withdraw. The faculty reserves the right to request the withdrawal of a student if his/her conduct, rate of progress, or other circumstances justify such action at any time during the program. Specific student rights in association with progression are detailed in several separate documents. These include, but are not limited to:

1. College of Nursing Handbook, due process
2. Hilltopics, student handbook
3. Graduate catalog
4. Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Handbook Addendum

### **NONDISCRIMINATION**

The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in provision of education programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends both to employment by and admission to the University. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in the education programs and activities pursuant to requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of

the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 1840 Melrose, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (TTY available). Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator; Human Resources; 600 Henley Street; Knoxville, TN 37996-4125.

### **PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING**

**Please note that application materials go to different offices.**

**Items 1-7** should be returned to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Program Office

- 1) MSN Data Form.
- 2) 3-5 page typed essay addressing your long-range professional and educational goals, your preparation (including your work experiences) for anesthesia education, and qualities that would make you a good candidate for a career in Nurse Anesthesia.
- 3) Graduate Rating (reference) forms are required from (*one each*):
  - a. The applicant's immediate nursing superior (eg., nurse manager or charge nurse)
  - b. A professor from the College of Nursing from which the applicant graduated.
  - c. A physician who works directly with the applicant

**\*\*All completed forms must be mailed DIRECTLY to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Program office by the individual completing the form.**

**Ms. Alisa Canupp  
1930 Alcoa Hwy., Suite 430  
Knoxville, TN 37920**

- 4) A photocopy of the applicant's R.N. licensure is required.
- 5) A current copy of the applicant's Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Advanced Pediatric Life Support (PALS) card must be mailed with the application. ACLS and PALS certifications must be current through the 1<sup>st</sup> twelve months of the program of study if the candidate is accepted for enrollment.
- 6) Evidence of completion of a graduate level course in statistics of at least 3 credit hours.

**Items 7-10** should be returned to the UT Graduate Admissions & Records Office, 201 Student Services Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-0230:

- 7) Official ***sealed*** transcripts from the applicant's Nursing School and ***each*** college or university attended mailed directly to the Admission Office. The Admission Office ***will not*** accept hand delivered, faxed, or applicant mailed transcripts.

- 8) Application to the graduate program of UT.
- 9) Application forms should be completed and returned to the above address with a check or money order for \$35.00 (no cash) payable to: The University of Tennessee. This application fee is non-refundable. The application will not be processed until the fee is paid.
- 10) Submission of Graduate Record Exam scores taken within 5 years of the date of desired enrollment.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that his/her file is complete prior to the application deadline (February 1st) each year.**

***All application materials must be received no later than February 1st.***

Applicants with incomplete files will not be notified by the program and these files will be discarded.

NOTE: As of Fall 2006 in order to safeguard the welfare of the public, all applicants to the College of Nursing at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, are subject to a criminal background check as a condition of admission. Any criminal activity other than minor traffic violations, may prevent any student from being admitted per University policy. The cost of evaluations will be the sole responsibility of the applicant. In addition, witnessed drug screening may be imposed prior to admission decision and the results may negatively affect admission decisions. Once enrolled, all students are subject to random periodic witnessed drug screening.

If you need additional information about the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration **or** the Knoxville Campus you may contact:

Donald M. Bell, CRNA, DNSc, APN  
Program Director/Concentration Coordinator  
1930 Alcoa Highway, Suite 430  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37920

Phone: 865-305-SRNA (7762)  
Fax: 865-305-6852  
E-mail: [dbell@utmck.edu](mailto:dbell@utmck.edu)

For additional information regarding the Graduate Record Exam, contact:  
1-609-771-7670 or via the web at [www.GRE.org](http://www.GRE.org)  
a service of Educational Testing Service.

## **Disclaimer**

It is the intent of the College of Nursing faculty and staff to provide the most current and accurate information possible to all individuals interested in our program. The materials that you have received are reviewed and updated on at least an annual basis. The University of Tennessee is not responsible for any misrepresentation of their requirements or provisions that might arise as a result of errors in the preparation of any announcement or brochure. Applicants are advised to maintain close contact and communication with the Student Services Office and the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration faculty for current information and updates. The specific provisions and descriptions contained herein are subject to change at any time, and while future materials distributed by the College of Nursing's Student Service Office will contain these modifications, it will be the applicants responsibility to periodically determine if any alterations have occurred since their last acquisition of program materials. The information contained in these program materials does not constitute a contract of any kind between any applicant for either admission or matriculation in the program.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the application process for your program?

Some of your application materials go to the UT Graduate Admissions Office (865-974-3251). These include your University of Tennessee application and application fee, official transcripts from all schools that you have attended, and your official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

The remaining application materials are to be submitted directly to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration (NAC) program office at The University of Tennessee Medical Center (865-305-7762). These materials include a MSN Data Sheet, Essay, Proof of RN Licensure, copies of academic transcripts from all schools you attended, a copy of your official GRE scores and the three Graduate Rating Forms, one from each of the following:

1. Your immediate work superior (e.g. nurse manager or charge nurse)
2. A faculty member from your undergraduate program in nursing
3. A physician who is familiar with your work in the ICU where you are employed  
*(PLEASE NOTE: Ratings from interns, resident physicians, clinical preceptor, friends, and/or fellows are NOT acceptable).*

By University policy, the Graduate Admissions Office is not allowed to forward your file to the College of Nursing until they have received the application, processed the fee, entered your data into the admission system, reviewed your file for accuracy and completeness, and confirmed that there are no prohibitions for admission.

After all the documents are received, your academic credentials will be evaluated to determine that you meet the minimum Graduate Council requirements, which include the following:

1. A bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from a regionally accredited institution, with a satisfactory grade-point average
2. An acceptable TOEFL score if your native language is not English.

Once all materials are received and processed by the Graduate Admission Office, they are released to the College of Nursing Student Services Office. **Only** when these two sources of materials are joined, is a complete file generated for you. Please note that the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration Selection Panel will review and act only upon those files that are complete and submitted in a timely fashion. We do not assume any responsibility to notify you if you are missing materials from your file. Rather, it is your responsibility to assure that all of the required materials you are instructed to forward to the NAC program office are received and accounted for in your file. If you determine that any portion of your NAC file is not complete, it is your responsibility to follow-up and assure it is received. Failure to do so may result in your application being denied due to missing items.

If you meet all requirements as detailed, the NAC Faculty will carefully consider your application; looking at all materials in your file, not simply your test scores and grades. Selected applicants are invited for a personal interview, a necessary component of the admission process for students in the NAC. Of those applicants interviewed, only the most competitive are selected and recommended to the UT Graduate School for admission. Once a final admission decision is made at the University level, you will be notified of your admission status by mail (generally w/i 4-6 weeks following the interview process).

## **I'm planning to apply for January admission. I know everything has to be submitted by February 1 (11 months prior to admission), but when should I get started?**

Send in your application IMMEDIATELY. In 2008, many applications were received in the 7 weeks preceding the application deadline. While this should not discourage

anyone from applying, understand that this is the busiest time of year for our admissions office.

**What are your GRE Institution and Department Codes?**

U.T. Knoxville's – Graduate School Institution Code is 1843.

**I took the GRE over five years ago, do I have to take it again?**

Yes, you will have to retake the GRE, unless you tested prior to September 30, 1985. We only accept official\* GRE scores. GRE will not report scores that are more than five years old, unless you tested prior to 9/30/85.

\* scores sent directly from GRE to The Graduate School at U.T. Knoxville (not a student's copy)

**I have a master's degree in nursing, do I need to take the GRE?**

Maybe. If you took the GRE for your master's degree, you will not be required to take the GRE again. Otherwise, you will most likely need to take the GRE. Contract program faculty for guidance if this situation applies to you.

**I haven't taken the GRE, yet. How will I know you'll receive it in time?**

GRE recommends that applicants allow 6 weeks between completing the tests and official scores being received by an applicant program. In our experience, you should allow 12 weeks to be sure your scores are received and entered in your file.

**Do you look at a cumulative GPA or just the last 60 credits?**

GPA's are evaluated several ways. There is a cumulative calculation, in which all undergraduate college credits are included. The last 60 credits, all science courses, science and math courses, and graduate courses are also calculated. If a course is taken twice, both grades are included.

**People are already offering to write personal letters of recommendation. Can I use those instead of the recommendation forms?**

No. Letters are a welcomed accompaniment to the recommendation form, but the form must be completed. The forms ask specific questions that a letter may not address, so a letter by itself is not acceptable.

**I'm getting ready to mail my application. Can someone go ahead and send the recommendation forms or can I get them off the internet?**

You must use the MSN-specific Graduate Rating form. Please formally apply to the Graduate School at U.T. Knoxville before distributing the recommendation forms. The forms are available via our internet site: <http://nightingale.con.utk.edu/programs/msn/msn.html>. Be sure to print both sides of the 2-page form. If you need assistance with locating the forms on the internet, contact the program office at 865-305-7762.

**Do recommendations have to be from certain people?**

Yes, there should be one from a previous nursing faculty member of your BSN program, one from your immediate supervisor, and one from a physician who's patients you have taken care of in an adult ICU. Some applicants who have been out of school for some time may find a meaningful academic reference difficult to attain. You should contact the Dean or Director of the BSN program that you attended. They should be able to provide a recommendation based on your academic file.

**Should I ask a renowned physician with whom I work occasionally, or the physician with whom I work every day? Similarly, should I ask the dean of nursing to write my academic recommendation or the faculty member who taught two of my nursing courses?**

Definitely ask individuals who know you best. A recommendation from someone who does not appear to know you well will be to your disadvantage.

**I didn't complete all of my nursing at one college, but you can see my transfer credits on my BSN transcript. Do I still have to send all my transcripts?**

YES. Transcripts must be received from ALL SCHOOLS ATTENDED. Even if it was one class at another school, a transcript must be received.

**How many copies of each transcript do you need?**

One copy is sufficient

**How many applications for admission do you receive each year?**

Each year, the UT Graduate Admissions Office receives a large number of completed admissions applications. This number is highly variable and the total number has been steadily rising each of the past several years.

**How many applicants are normally interviewed for admission?**

The number of applicants interviewed is determined by the number of positions available, which is currently capped at 15. From the pool of completed applications, approximately 30-45 fully qualified applicants have been invited to interview for each of the last two years. Admission is highly competitive and will vary from year to year, depending on the number and quality of applicants, available space, and resources of the program.

**Admission decisions will be based on:**

- Overall GPA
- GRE scores
- Personal Essay
- Graduate Rating Forms
- Personal Interview
- Duration and type of ICU work experience
- Although the CCRN certification is not required, it is highly recommended and applicants who possess specialty certification will be given priority consideration

**What is the average ICU experience in years of the accepted applicants?**

An applicant must have a **minimum** of **one year** of **current, full-time**, adult **ICU experience**. There are no exceptions to this policy. Of interest, many of our students have at least 2-3 years of experience at the time they begin the program. We do not track or trend "average years of ICU experience", so no statistics are available.

**Which type of clinical experience is most preferred?**

The types of clinical experience that may be most beneficial to anesthesia students are frequently found in:

- Surgical Intensive Care
- Cardiothoracic Intensive Care
- Trauma Intensive Care

However, experience in any type of adult critical care area will be accepted as meeting the minimum requirement. The highest priority is given to applicants who are currently working in a high acuity, large hospital ICU setting where they are likely to have a broad base of experiences.

For admission purposes, if the applicant has at least one year's experience in ICU, but that experience is not current, the applicant must be able to demonstrate current employment in an adult ICU at the time of the interview. Failure to demonstrate current ICU work experience to the satisfaction of the selection panel will make the applicant less competitive in comparison to other applicants whose ICU experience is current.

**I have been an RN for 10 years and I am now working towards my BSN. Do I have to have a certain number of year's experience as a BSN prepared nurse?**

No, experience is credited as years working full-time (more than 35-hours per week) providing direct patient care in an intensive care unit as a Registered Nurse.

**Would other experience (OR, ER, PACU, etc.) be considered critical care?**

No. Students need experience working with invasive monitors (pulmonary artery, central venous, and arterial lines), positive pressure ventilators, vasoactive drip titration, and the provision of sustained care for patients with multisystem dysfunction. The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration will consider only those work experiences where the applicant has been consistently applying these skills in the management of critically ill adult patients, who remain in one acute care area, over extended time periods (generally more than 24 hours). Consequently, OR, PACU, ER, NICU, PICU, or step-down units do not meet the program's admission criteria.

Certainly, program faculty recognizes that experiences in these types of critical care areas are enriching and valuable for applicants to our program. While it is always beneficial for applicants to have extra supplemental experiences in these areas, these types of professional work experiences **cannot substitute** for the required adult ICU full-time work experience.

Any applicant unsure whether or not their work experiences are acceptable for admission should consult a faculty member in the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration prior to beginning the application process.

**What other certifications are necessary for admission?**

All applicants are required to have current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Provider Status Certification at the time of matriculation. In addition, at the time of admission, these certifications must be current throughout the first 12-months of the program. All students, once enrolled, must maintain their ACLS and PALS certifications. The cost of maintaining these certifications is the responsibility of the individual student.

**Does the Bachelor of Science degree have to be in nursing?**

Yes. Although some programs of nurse anesthesia education allow the RN applicant to have a degree in a field other than nursing, The University of Tennessee Nurse Anesthesia Concentration requires all applicants to have at minimum an earned a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN).

**I am currently considering distance (online) RN to BSN programs. Will this hurt my chances of being admitted to a nurse anesthesia program?**

As long as you are completing a BSN program from a regionally accredited college or university, this should not hurt your chances. However, the exception would be programs that give grades on a pass/fail basis. Although the program may be accredited and academically rigorous, too many course grades that are pass/fail prevent the admissions committee from accurately considering the student's academic abilities in comparison to other highly qualified applicants.

**How long after the deadline date does the interview process begin?**

Selected applicants are notified and scheduled for a personal interview within 8-10 weeks following closure of the application deadline.

**What is the application deadline?**

February 1st is the deadline for the submission of ALL required application materials. Acceptance of applications will cease at 4:30 PM on this date (or the first business day following this day, should February 1 occur during a weekend). Failure of the applicant to assure that all required materials are received on or before this date will render the applicant's file ineligible for review. Please note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to assure that all application materials are in order.

**How many students were admitted for previous classes?**

There are currently 15-first year students, 15-second year students, and 15-third year students enrolled.

**How many students will be admitted in the upcoming class?**

The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration plans to admit approximately 15 students in the next class.

**Is there a waiting list?**

The Nursing Anesthesia Concentration Selection Panel routinely interviews more applicants than there are spaces available. Following the interview, all applicants are ranked, and those applicants with the highest scores are recommended for admission.

On occasion, some applicants do not accept an offer of admission. For this reason, the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration maintains a wait-list of prospective applicants who are eligible for admission. If any spaces become available, they are filled with the applicants from this list. Applicants unsuccessful in gaining admission may reapply in subsequent years. However, selection as an alternate for one year has no bearing upon selection for admission to future classes.

**Which graduate or undergraduate courses might be of the most benefit to me as a potential Nurse Anesthesia student?**

Undergraduate courses in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, physics, pharmacology, and biochemistry are strongly recommended. Each applicant should assess their own strengths and weaknesses and may wish to supplement their knowledge through coursework in any area they personally deem to be of weakness. This preparation, however, is completely voluntary on your part.

As a requirement for admission, you must complete a graduate-level course in statistics from a regionally accredited university/college. This course must be of at least 3 semester hours in length. If you plan on taking your course outside of The University of Tennessee, you should consult with a program faculty member for advice and guidance in selecting an appropriate course.

Potential applicants are cautioned, however, that the completion of coursework (other than the statistics prerequisite) prior to admission as a degree-seeking student may decrease the maximum number of hours in one or more semesters during your program. This situation may result in the student being enrolled for fewer credit hours than are required to maintain a full-time course load. Part-time students may not qualify for the same financial aid awards or benefits as do full-time students. Therefore, you are cautioned to seek the advice of a program faculty member prior to registering for any graduate nursing coursework.

***I had nursing research as part of my BSN. Will this fulfill the prerequisite for a graduate-level statistics course?***

No. Only statistics courses taken on the graduate level (beyond the BSN curriculum) are acceptable. You may complete this prerequisite from any regionally accredited college or university.

***Do I have to obtain my own liability insurance before clinicals begin?***

No. Liability insurance is provided through the University and must be purchased before the beginning of the clinical phase of the program. Currently, the cost of this insurance is approximately \$25.00 per year. All students must purchase this insurance and cannot enter the clinical area unless proof of such coverage is evidenced. In order to progress through the program of study, university issued insurance coverage must remain in force at all times without interruption.

***Are Tennessee residents more likely to be accepted into the program?***

The majority of students accepted into the program over the preceding two years have been living in Tennessee at the time of application. The University of Tennessee is a land grant institution, and therefore by legislative mandate is funded to serve the needs of the citizens of the State of Tennessee. Although some preference is given to Tennessee residents, both the University and College seek to admit the highest quality students to the program.

***If I am scheduled to finish my BSN after the application deadline date, can I still apply for admission?***

Unless you are already an RN and will be completing your BSN within 4 weeks of the end of our interview process, we generally can't consider you for admission until the following year. A selected applicant who is already a registered nurse, scheduled to finish their BSN within the time frame described above, who has met **all other criteria**, may be granted an interview. However, such individuals are not permitted to matriculate into the University until the undergraduate degree has been awarded and confirmed. Failure to complete the degree, and meet the application requirements with regards to GPA, would prevent the applicant from gaining admission to the program, regardless of Selection Panel decision.

**Do you accept any other placement exam results besides the GRE (such as MAT, etc.)?**

No. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for application to the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration. All foreign applicants will also be required to submit TOEFL scores.

**Do I have time to work while enrolled in the program?**

Outside employment is discouraged because of the intense nature of the program. Failure to maintain strict academic and clinical rigor are grounds for dismissal. Individuals who are over-extended by both academic and work commitments are rarely able to maintain the pace and level of productivity required of all students in the Nurse Anesthesia Concentration.

**How much does the program cost?**

As of the date of printing the approximate cost for tuition and estimated expenses for in-state students is \$31,368.00. For out-of-state students, the cost is \$88,960.00. For current tuition and fees information, please direct your browsers to:  
<http://web.utk.edu/~bursar/sgraduaterate.html>

\*When admission is accepted, there is a required, non-refundable deposit of \$2,000.00

**What types of courses are offered in Nurse Anesthesia education?**

The Nurse Anesthesia Concentration offers 31 months of graduate course work including both classroom (didactic) and clinical experience. The classroom curriculum emphasizes pathophysiology, pharmacology, and principles of anesthesia practice. Clinical experiences are provided in a number of facilities and include techniques for the administration of general and regional anesthesia for all types of surgical procedures. All but one clinical site is located within the metro Knoxville area.

**Can I attend classes part time?**

No. This is a full time only program.

**How long is the program?**

This is a 31-month program. Students who begin in January of one year will graduate in August, 31-months later.

**Will I receive a Master's in Nursing or Anesthesia?**

We grant a Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Nurse Anesthesia.

**Is financial aid available?**

Once a student is accepted into the program, he/she may contact the UTK Office of Student Financial Aid, which administers financial the aid programs. The telephone number is (865) 974-3131.

**What is the approximate annual salary of a CRNA?**

According to information published by the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists* (AANA), CRNAs are one of the highest paid advanced practice

nursing specialties, with an average annual starting salary of approximately \$125,000 [Source: AANA].

**There is a CRNA shortage. Why don't you admit more students to your program?**

The NAC Faculty feels very strongly that class sizes should be kept small. This allows each student to receive the individual attention they need and allows the faculty member to dedicate themselves to each student's learning. A shortage is no reason to sacrifice the quality of a student's education, simply to increase the quantity of practitioners.

**Do you offer courses online? I live outside of Knoxville and it's too far to drive every day.**

No, we do not offer courses online. Some courses have an online component, but applicants must plan on being full time students, convenient to campus.

**Is housing available for graduate students?**

The University of Tennessee has limited residence hall and apartment accommodations on and off campus. Graduate and married student housing is separate from undergraduate housing, however, accommodations in undergraduate housing are available (if desired) as space allows. Campus housing listings and openings are available by contacting the Department of University Housing at (865) 974-2571.