



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)?

A CRNA is a registered nurse that has received extensive graduate level education and experience in the scientific topics and skills related to the practice of anesthesia. Following completion of a nurse anesthesia program, graduates take a certification examination administered by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists (CCNA). Successful completion of the exam allows these Master's educated nurses to become designated as CRNAs.

Will there be a job available for graduates of the program?

Nurse anesthetists are essential providers of anesthesia. Although the job market varies from year to year, graduates in nurse anesthesia have consistently found employment. This has been true for most areas of the United States.

Where do nurse anesthetists administer anesthesia?

CRNAs administer anesthesia in all settings where surgical procedures are performed. This includes hospitals of all sizes, as well as outpatient clinics, and physicians' offices.

What are the requirements for Union University's Nurse Anesthesia Program?

You must have earned a BSN degree from an accredited SON, be eligible for RN licensure in Tennessee and Kentucky, have a minimum of 1 year of critical care experience as an RN, have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours of course work, and provide 3 letters of reference. One reference must be from your most recent critical care supervisor. The GRE is no longer required. <http://www.uu.edu/programs/nursing/msn/nap/AdmissionRequirementsNAPUU.pdf>

Besides the last 60 hours GPA, are other GPAs important?

Yes, a strong foundation in science courses is very important and when looking at academic performance, Union University examines these courses (general chemistry, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, statistics). We compare the science GPA to your last 60 hours GPA in considering an overall GPA for each candidate.

Does Union University allow part-time admission?

No, Union University only enrolls full-time graduate students into the program.

What is considered “critical care” nursing experience?

Critical care nurses are those caring for critically ill patients who require invasive monitoring and the administration of vasoactive drugs. Therefore the candidate will have developed critical thinking skills, worked with ventilators, numerous vasoactive drugs [e.g., nitroglycerine, sodium nitroprusside, dopamine, amiodarone], arterial and central lines, as well as acquired experience with interpretation of hemodynamic data and EKG analysis. Critical care units that usually provide this type of experience are coronary care units, medical or surgical ICUs, and postoperative cardiovascular units. Other working environments and arrangements may be acceptable, but must be approved by the program.

I have been an RN for 10 years and I am now finishing 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 as an RN.

What are your GRE Institution and Department Codes?

Although the GRE is no longer required for admission to the MSN program at Union University, you may send your GRE scores to be included in your application. The GRE institution code for Union University is 1826 and the department code for nursing is 0610. The GRE toll free number is 866-473-4373.

Do you accept the MAT (Miller’s Analogy Test)?

No, Union University only accepts the GRE but it is not required.

How much does the program cost?

Union University’s tuition is \$700 per credit hour for this 73 credit hour program. Other educational expenses would include books, campus fees, and a PDA web-based clinical tracking system. It is not advised for students to work due to the intensity of the academic offerings which reflects the didactic challenges unique to nurse anesthesia education and the faculty’s commitment to ensure academic excellence. For this reason most students secure a non-certified alternative school loan to pay for their graduate education.

I live outside of Tennessee. What is your out of state tuition?

All Union University students are charged the same tuition amount whether their primary residence is in-state or out-of-state.

How long is the program?

Union University School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program is a “front-loaded” 73 semester hour full-time graduate track. After completing 31 months of didactic and clinical training, students receive a Master of Science in Nursing.

How is this program different from other nurse anesthesia programs?

The faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program are committed to fulfilling Union University’s mission of academic excellence, Christ-centered, people focused, and future directed. The program’s Christian worldview is expressed well by quotes from two great spiritual men:

Apostle Paul

2 Corinthians 10:5 “...and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”

Bernard of Clairveux

Some seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge;
That is curiosity; Others seek knowledge so that they themselves may be known:
That is vanity; But there are still others who seek knowledge in order to serve
and edify others; And that is charity.

In May 2007 the Nurse Anesthesia Track moved into the new White Hall Science Building with state-of-the-art simulation and skills laboratories, computer lab, gross anatomy dissection lab, wireless classrooms, and new offices. Beginning in the fall of 2010, the new School of Pharmacy Building will feature the entire 3rd floor dedicated to approximately 20,000 square feet of advanced simulation and skills labs. The nurse anesthesia program will move its Human Patient Simulator (HPS [by METI]) into a simulation laboratory that depicts a real-life operating room. The HPS will provide students with innovative preclinical training. Students will also have an opportunity to experience advanced problem-based learning techniques including exposure to critical low-frequency anesthetic events.

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