




# Nurse Anesthesia Program

Student Handbook  
2006

Welcome to Union University's Nurse Anesthesia Program. Your decision to pursue your graduate studies in this area of advanced nursing practice will begin a new era in your professional, personal, and spiritual life. Unique to the educational process at Union University is the commitment by faculty to provide the students with an academic environment where there is an emphasis in providing Christ-centered education through a people-focused, excellence-driven process. This will include assisting students to obtain a deeper understanding of God's humanity and sovereignty through the critique of appropriate research and ethical decision making that will promote His kingdom.

Currently, Union University's Nurse Anesthesia Program is comprised of two full-time nurse anesthesia educators. Dr. Mark A. Kossick is Professor and Director, and Ms. Pamela Binns-Turner, Assistant Professor, serves as the Assistant Program Director. As your anesthesia faculty, it is our goal to set academic standards that will permit you to serve as a resource person on a national level for 1) your SRNA peers during your graduate studies and 2) for your CRNA colleagues after you have completed your national certification exam. With God's grace and wisdom, as well as the support of faculty on campus and clinical educators, it is believed that Union's nurse anesthesia students will graduate with the Christian worldview of desiring to be a servant that edifies others and Christ. We pray for your success as we begin this journey and hope that you develop important professional and personal friendships that are enjoyable for years to come.



Mark A. Kossick, DNSc, CRNA  
Professor and Director  
Nurse Anesthesia  
Union University School of Nursing



Pamela Binns-Turner  
Assistant Professor and Assistant Director  
Nurse Anesthesia  
Union University School of Nursing

## **Union University**

Union University is a private, four-year liberal arts university, founded in 1823, and affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. As an institution that is Baptist by tradition and evangelical by conviction, Union has a heritage of academic excellence and is well known for providing qualitatively distinctive Christian education. Union seeks to provide a grace filled community and a Christian context where undergraduate and graduate education can be offered. Recognized in the top tier of Southern liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*, Union is also ranked as one of five highly selective private institutions by *Time Magazine* and *Princeton Review*.

Union University is located in historic Jackson, Tennessee, a city of about 55,000, located 80 miles east of Memphis and 120 miles west of Nashville. Union University has approximately 3,100 undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Nurse Anesthesia Program**

After years of planning and a commitment to seek God's will by the administration of Union University, School of Nursing faculty, and members of the community of interest, the first nurse anesthesia class began its graduate studies on January 3, 2006. Union University School of Nursing (SON) Nurse Anesthesia Program is a "front-loaded" 74 semester hour full-time graduate track. Graduates receive a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) after successfully completing 31 months of didactic and clinical training. Currently the program has 13 clinical sites, which include rotations to hospitals located in various cities in Tennessee (Jackson, Memphis, Bartlett, Paris) and Kentucky (Paducah). Students will experience a multi-site educational approach for their clinical training.

During the first eight months of the program, the didactic foundation for anesthetic practice is established. The curriculum has been designed to meet practice requirements that are specific to nurse anesthetists, such as an applied human gross anatomy course that includes work with cadavers. This laboratory work will permit student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) to receive curricular content that focuses on anatomy related to regional anesthesia and central line placement techniques. In addition, in December 2005 the SON purchased a Human Patient Simulator (HPS) manufactured by Medical Education Technologies, Inc. (METI). This \$250,000 simulator will provide students with state-of-the-art simulation training prior to and after the start of their clinical rotations. The HPS will permit SRNAs to experience advanced problem-based learning techniques and begin the process of acquiring clinical skills for acute infrequent catastrophic/emergency events. In the spring of 2007, the nurse anesthesia program will be relocated on the Jackson campus to a new state-of-the-art three-story science building (White Hall). It is through the generosity of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital (2.5 million dollar gift) and Henry County Medical Center (\$100,000) that the SON is able to have approximately 21,000 square feet dedicated in this new building for its students and faculty.

# FACULTY AND STAFF

**Dr. Mark A. Kossick** (2005) Program Director and Associate Professor. DNSc, University of Tennessee; MSN, University of Kansas; BSN, Edinboro University (CRNA); AD, Kent State University, Ashtabula Campus.

**Office:** D-11                      **Phone:** (731) 661-5332                      **Email:** mkossick@uu.edu

**Professor Pamela Binns-Turner** (2005) Assistant Director and Assistant Professor. PhDc, University of Alabama at Birmingham; MNA, University of Alabama at Birmingham (CRNA); BSN, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Office:** C-25                      **Phone:** (731) 661-5236                      **Email:** pturner@uu.edu

**Ms. Elsie Cressman** (1998). Administrative Assistant Nurse Anesthesia

**Office:** D-11                      **Phone:** (731) 661-5124                      **Email:** egressma@uu.edu

**Fax Number:** (731) 661-5504

## MSN NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

YEAR 1	YEAR 2																																				
<p><b><u>Winter Semester</u></b> - (January)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Cr. Hr.</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 530 Research Methods</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 (2-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 521 Basic Principles of Anesthesia I</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>3 (3-0)</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Semester Credits</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>5 (5-0)</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b><u>Spring Semester</u></b> – (February – May)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 (2-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 513 Advanced Concepts I</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 514 Statistics for Health Sciences</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 531 Anesthesia Pharmacology I</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 522 Basic Principles of Anesthesia II</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BIO 505 Applied Anatomy &amp; Phy I (1<sup>st</sup> 8 Wks)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BIO 507 Applied Anatomy &amp; Phy II (2<sup>nd</sup> 8 Wks)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>3 (3-0)</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Semester Credits</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>17 (17-0)</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b><u>Cr. Hr.</u></b>	NUR 530 Research Methods	2 (2-0)	NUR 521 Basic Principles of Anesthesia I	<u>3 (3-0)</u>	<b>Semester Credits</b>	<b>5 (5-0)</b>		2 (2-0)	NUR 513 Advanced Concepts I	3 (3-0)	NUR 514 Statistics for Health Sciences	3 (3-0)	NUR 531 Anesthesia Pharmacology I	3 (3-0)	NUR 522 Basic Principles of Anesthesia II	3 (3-0)	BIO 505 Applied Anatomy & Phy I (1 <sup>st</sup> 8 Wks)	3 (3-0)	BIO 507 Applied Anatomy & Phy II (2 <sup>nd</sup> 8 Wks)	<u>3 (3-0)</u>	<b>Semester Credits</b>	<b>17 (17-0)</b>	<p><b><u>Spring Semester</u></b> – (January – May)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Cr. Hr.</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 613 Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Anesthesia: Pathophysiology &amp; Perspectives of Anesthetic Care</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 (3-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 614 Neurosurgical Anesthesia: Pathophysiology and Perspectives of Anesthetic Care</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 (2-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 631 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 (2-0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUR 571 Master’s Clinical Practicum II</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>8 (0-8)</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Semester Credits</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>15 (7-8)</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b><u>Cr. Hr.</u></b>	NUR 613 Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Anesthesia: Pathophysiology & Perspectives of Anesthetic Care	3 (3-0)	NUR 614 Neurosurgical Anesthesia: Pathophysiology and Perspectives of Anesthetic Care	2 (2-0)	NUR 631 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia	2 (2-0)	NUR 571 Master’s Clinical Practicum II	<u>8 (0-8)</u>	<b>Semester Credits</b>	<b>15 (7-8)</b>
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† Indicates item is being processed for final approval for publication in graduate catalogue

## **Clinical Facilities**

Union University's Nurse Anesthesia Program currently consists of thirteen clinical sites located in Tennessee and Kentucky.

## **Student E-Mail**

Union University Nurse Anesthesia Program provides an email account to support students in their graduate studies. Students are required to have an email address that ends with '@uu.edu'. All communication from the Nurse Anesthesia Program will be sent to the uu.edu address. Students are expected to check their e-mail on a daily basis for updated communications.

## **Academic Standards, Requirements for Progression, Probation, and Dismissal**

After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses taken at Union University for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. † A student placed on academic probation has one semester to increase their GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from a probationary status.

*If the student fails to increase their GPA during one semester, the student will be dismissed from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Students will also be dismissed if they:*

- *Receive an "F" (i.e., any grade below a "C") in any course*
- *Receive an "F" in any Pass/Fail course (e.g., clinical)*

Students must maintain an overall B average and overall satisfactory performance (i.e., pass) in pass/fail courses, such as nurse anesthesia clinical practicum. The program faculty recognize that situations may arise which prevent students from successfully matriculating through the program. Students who are concerned about their academic standing should contact their advisor. If it appears the SRNA may not be able to achieve a minimum passing grade in a course they may be encouraged by the Program Director to withdraw from the program. This can potentially prevent the SRNA from acquiring an F on their Union University transcript if the dropped class occurs prior to the deadline listed on the academic calendar ("last day to drop a class"). All students who withdraw or who are academically dismissed from the program can reapply for admission. However, readmission is not guaranteed. In order to graduate with a M.S.N. students are required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken for graduate credit at Union University. (See Union University graduate catalogue page 8 - Requirements for Grade Point Average and Grading System)

# Grading

† Course grades will be based on the total points accumulated from all exams relative to the maximum points attainable. Assignment of letter grades will be based on the following grading scale:

## \*Union University Nurse Anesthesia Program School of Nursing Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
≤ 69	F

\* This grading scale differs from the standard grading scale of the SON

The **letter grade**, which appears on your transcripts, will be determined from the final course **percentage grade**. This percentage will be calculated out to the tenths; any score  $\geq 0.5$  will be rounded up to the next whole number and any score  $\leq 0.4$  will be rounded down to the next whole number (e.g., 70 accumulated course points  $\div$  88 maximum points = 79.5% = 80% = B; 59 accumulated course points  $\div$  85 maximum points = 69.4% = 69% = F). Students must achieve a passing grade (P) as defined within each course syllabus for any course designated as pass/fail.

# Testing

There may be interval examinations and/or a comprehensive final examination based upon syllabus specifications. The course grade will be based on the total points accumulated from all exams relative to the maximum points attainable. Student questions in regard to any test can be discussed with the instructor. † Taping of previously reviewed or writing down recalled test questions are grounds for dismissal from the program.

# Academic Integrity

Please see Union University Graduate Catalogue “Academic Integrity” page 8.

Academic misconduct is taken very seriously. It can be represented by such acts as:

- plagiarism
- to give or receive information during or after examinations
- to turn in assignments which are the result another’s work
- † acting in a disrespectful manner toward patients, visitors, or clinical faculty
- † falsifying clinical documents
- † duplicating and disbursing in any format copyrighted national certification exam questions

† The last bulleted item can lead to program dismissal as well as action taken by the Council On Certification - including, but not limited to, revocation of national certification licensure (i.e., CRNA).

# Union University Value Statements

See Campus Life Handbook pg. 14 for value statement definitions

## **The Judicial Process for Value Violations**

See Campus Life Handbook pg. 22

## **Grievance Procedure for Review of Grades**

See Campus Life Handbook pg. 35

## **Drug Free Environment**

See Campus Life Handbook pg. 16

† For those applicants accepted into the program, a background check and initial drug screen (at student's expense) will be required prior to January enrollment. In addition, unscheduled drug screening of students at the discretion of Union University and clinical sites can occur.

## **Mandatory Evaluation**

† Grades will be released in each course *after* completion of a course and faculty evaluation by the student. Anonymity will be assured through this process. Constructive criticism is welcomed and students are expected to complete evaluations professionally. Student evaluations will be used to continually assess and improve curriculum offerings.

## **Student Organizations**

### **Professional Association – AANA**

All graduate students in the Nurse Anesthesia Program must enroll as associate members in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). This membership will continue until the student has taken the National Certification Exam. Benefits of this membership include:

- subscription to AANA monthly publications – News Bulletin and the AANA Journal
- waived conference fee to AANA professional meetings as a non-voting participant
- opportunities to serve on committees at the national level
- ability to network with peers and future employers

Dues are \$20.00 for these privileges and are paid at the start of the program.

# TASNA

The Tennessee Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (TASNA) is a nonprofit association whose purpose is to promote student involvement in the state association, The Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) <http://www.tncrna.com>. Benefits of this membership include:

- Representation on the TANA Education Committee
- Participation in educational offerings (e.g., annual TANA meeting)
- Competitive scholarships as available
- Networking opportunities at anesthesia meetings

Membership dues are \$20.00 and are paid at the start of the program.

## Class Attendance

† Attendance in all classes, labs, and clinical sites is expected. Students are required to call Ms. Elsie Cressman (731) 661.5124 for any absences (for both campus classes/labs and clinical assignments). During clinical training, the designated clinical site contact person (as determined by the respective clinical coordinator) must be notified as well. Students must also complete an ABSENCE FORM retrospectively for any illness. Students have 48 hours from the time of illness (return to class/clinical) to submit (original or fax [731.661.5504]) this form to Ms. Cressman.

## Time Off

† During the first 12 months, students will be given the following holidays off while enrolled in the program:

Good Friday (1)  
Memorial Day (1)  
4<sup>th</sup> of July (1)  
Labor Day (1)  
Fall Holiday (Thursday and Friday) (2)  
Thanksgiving (1)  
Christmas Day (1)  
New Year's Day (1)

Students will be given additional time off during the first 12 months:

Spring Break (i.e. Monday – Friday) (5)  
Break between Spring and Summer Terms (i.e., 2 days- exact days TBA) (2)  
The other 8 days between Spring and Summer Terms will be used to begin the process of preparing SRNAs for their clinical education (e.g., clinical observation)  
Day after Thanksgiving (1)  
Christmas week (12/25- 1/1) (5)  
Annual Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Fall Meeting

Please note the week between Summer and Fall semesters is **NOT** given as off time. This time will also be used to further prepare SRNAs for the start of their clinical rotations (e.g. ACLS, PALS, hospital orientations, and simulation).

† For the remainder of the program (13<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> month), students will be given the following holidays off while enrolled in the program:

Good Friday (1)

Memorial Day (1)

4<sup>th</sup> of July (1)

Labor Day (1)

Annual Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Fall Meeting

Thanksgiving (1)

Students will be given the day after Thanksgiving off (1)

Christmas Day (1)

Students will be given additional time off between 12/25-1/1 [Christmas week] (5)

New Year's Day (1)

Good Friday (1)

Memorial Day (1)

4<sup>th</sup> of July (1)

† Throughout the program, a **maximum of 10 days** are available to be used as needed for illness, extended medical leave, interview for employment, or to attend a board review session. If these 10 “grace” days are exceeded during the 31 months of the program, graduation will be deferred from August to December. Students are not permitted to work extra days (e.g., designated holidays) to “make-up” for any time that exceeds the maximum number of grace days (i.e., 10). An ABSENCE FORM must be completed and submitted to Ms. Elsie Cressman for any illnesses/scheduled absences/requests.

The total number of days off during the 31 months of the program equals 48.

## **Other Absence Requests**

### **Attendance at Professional Meetings**

† Attendance at the Annual TANA Fall Meeting is expected. Attendance at other professional anesthesia meetings is encouraged for students who are not having difficulty matriculating through the program (e.g., poor academic performance – on probation). Requests to attend any meeting should be made to Ms. Cressman and will be approved at the discretion of the Program Director. An ABSENCE FORM must be completed and submitted to Ms. Cressman for any request to attend a meeting. Meeting requests will not be approved if the scheduled event occurs during a student's specialty rotation (e.g., pediatrics).

Students who are authorized to attend a meeting, **MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHEDULED MEETING TIMES**. As representatives of Union University's Nurse Anesthesia Program, students are expected to dress and act professionally.

## **Taping/Transcription**

† Taping (video/audio) of classroom lectures is usually permitted, however, it is at the discretion of the individual faculty/guest speaker. The student should obtain permission from the faculty/presenter at the beginning of the semester/presentation.

## **Copyright Violation**

† Any copied copyrighted materials(s) that are provided to or reproduced by the students should be credited to the original source. It is a violation of copyright law for the student to reproduce any copyrighted material for any use other than their personal study.

## **Military Service**

† Students will be allowed to fulfill military obligations during their tenure with the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Any such requests should be directed to the program director. Students absent from the nurse anesthesia program due to military service will still be under obligation to meet minimum educational requirements set forth by the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (e.g., minimum number of anesthetics). Military service can potentially result in a delay in graduation based upon concern by the program faculty regarding a student's academic and/or clinical performance. Decisions for deferral in graduation will be based upon such variables as clinical evaluations, examination scores, and existing grade point average. Military service does not preclude a student's need/requirement to meet minimum academic (didactic and clinical) standards for graduation.

## **Jury Duty**

† If summoned, students will be allowed an approved absence for serving on Jury Duty. The student should bring a copy of the judicial summons to serve, verifying the dates of service to Ms. Elsie Cressman. At the discretion of the Program Director, the student may be required to make up any lost academic or clinical time. Variables considered in making this decision are length of the jury duty service, and the SRNAs current clinical performance. Should students be absent during a routine scheduled class, they will be held responsible for the class material.

## **Employment**

Due to intense course load, students are *discouraged* from working during their graduate studies, in particular during the first year. Working during the 31 months of graduate studies could result in failure to matriculate through the program.

## **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress neatly for the attendance of class. The Program expects students to dress appropriately at professional meetings/seminars as the student could be interacting with other anesthesia professionals as well as professionals from other disciplines.

**POLICIES OF THIS HANDBOOK ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GOVERNING  
POLICIES AS NOTED IN THE GRADUATE ACADEMIC CATALOGUE**

**<http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/msn/> AND THE CAMPUS LIFE HANDBOOK  
<http://www.uu.edu/student-services/handbook/clh0506.pdf>**

The signature of the graduate student below indicates they have read and understood the student handbook including the student honor code, maximum number of grace days, and the consequences of exceeding this number (i.e., deferred graduation), and agree to abide by the provisions within. This signed agreement will be placed in the student's file as a permanent record.

Graduate Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Graduate Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*