

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOCTOR OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE PROGRAM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program within the Department of Health Sciences in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, effective Fall 2018.

Background

The Council on Accreditation for Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) requires all Nurse Anesthesia programs to be at the doctoral level by January 1, 2022 for entry into practice by 2025. No master degree programs will be accredited after January 2022. The need to prepare practitioners with the level of education and competencies to function in a rapidly changing demographic society, and with complex patient populations with increasing health risks is further emphasized by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2010 which indicated that doctoral prepared nurses should be doubled by 2020. Upon completion of the doctoral program, graduates must have successfully passed all the curriculum content as well as meet the clinical requirements established by the National Board of Certified and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetist (NBCRNA) to be eligible to take the National Certification Examination (NCE) which is necessary to practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Graduates are employed in large teaching hospitals, community hospitals, ambulatory settings, and in critical care areas of need such as rural hospitals. Graduates are 100 % successful on national boards and are employed within 3 months of graduation. In addition to diverse employment settings, our graduates enjoy leadership roles at the state, federal, and professional organizations and as program administrators.

Program Description

The program design follows the 2015 Accreditation Standards for doctoral education that focuses on full scope of anesthesia practice. The uniqueness of the proposed curriculum lies in the design of 2 specialty tracks. The Applied Science track is essential for anesthesia practitioners on surgical teams in specialty areas such as Cardiac, Neurosurgical, Trauma, Pediatrics, and Pain Management and predisposes learners to extensive clinical research opportunities that could lead to the development of anesthesia pathways or practice models for best practices. The Education and Teaching track offers diverse educational and teaching strategies important in understanding complex healthcare environments and learners of the coming decades.

The flexibility in the curriculum allows applicants the opportunity to select a route of study most beneficial to their professional direction, development, and interest. The program must also maintain the COA required course content specific to safe anesthesia practice in addition to the essentials for a doctoral programs. Experiential education and training will continue in order for students to develop the technical skills and clinical competencies required to provide full scope of practice to diverse patient populations.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the requirements for admission to graduate school. Applicants must be 1) baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurses with a minimum of one year work history in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), 2) provide letters of recommendations from the applicant's immediate supervisor and from two work colleagues 3) possess an overall GPA and Science GPA of 3.0, and

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3) must have a current nursing licensure and specialty certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), as well as certification in Critical Care Registered Nursing (CCRN). These requirements are made available to the admission panel for a personal interview with each applicant. Final selection to the Nurse Anesthesia program is by committee interview, conducted by the program's Admissions Committee

Curriculum Requirements

The DNAP curriculum includes 98 credits of course and clinical experiences over 3 years, versus the master degree at 74 credits for 24 months. The curriculum is in compliance with the COA requirements for course content for doctoral programs. Year I is comprised of 41 credits and is structured to teach principles for safe anesthesia practice. Year II includes 28 credits covering advanced areas of studies, in electrocardiography, advanced anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and regional anesthesia along with caring for high acuity patients, and using the literature to develop evidenced base practice. Year III covers a total of 29 credits with a focus on Education and Leadership or the Applied Science to prepare students in the development of a professional research projects worthy of doctoral degree recognition.

Graduation Requirements

The program is full time and all course work must be completed in accordance with the Graduate School policies and regulations governing graduate scholarship degree. Graduates must also meet the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) to be eligible to take their board examination to practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Program Administration

The curriculum development is the responsibility of the Program Director in the college's Department of Health Care Sciences.

Budget and Resource Requirements

An increase of 2.5 faculty and 1.0 support has been requested for the changes in program content, the increase in class size, the increase length of the program, as well as increased teaching workload, and research expectations of faculty members

Accreditation

The program is fully accredited for 10 years by the COA who will be the accrediting body for review of the doctoral program.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the department faculty, by the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Curriculum Committee, the College faculty assembly, the Graduate School, and Office of the the Provost.