

# CRNA Education and Training

**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as physician anesthesiologists.**

CRNAs have a minimum of **7 to 8½ years** of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.



Baccalaureate prepared RN

Average  
2.9 Years

Critical care nursing experience prior to entering nurse anesthesia program<sup>1</sup>

24 – 42  
Months

Classroom and clinical education and training



Master's or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program<sup>2</sup>

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees

Nurse anesthetists obtain an average of

**9,369**  
Clinical Hours



of training prior to becoming a CRNA.

## Constant Learners



CRNAs must pass a **National Certification Examination** for entry into practice and be recertified every 4 years so they are current on anesthesia techniques and technologies. They must also pass a Continued Professional Certification exam every **8 years**. Physician anesthesiologists are recertified **every 10 years**.



Minimum **60 hours** of approved continuing education and **40 hours** professional development activities every 4 years



Documentation of substantial anesthesia practice



Maintenance of current state licensure

**CRNAs**

CRNAs are qualified to administer **every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting**, including pain management for acute or chronic pain.



Manage difficult cases



Use advanced monitoring equipment



Interpret diagnostic information



Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Research shows that CRNAs are

**85%**

**less costly** to educate and train than physician anesthesiologists.<sup>3</sup>

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of CRNAs will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

<sup>1</sup> CRNAs are the only anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.

<sup>2</sup> Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

<sup>3</sup> Update of Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers, Lewin Group Publications, May 2016