

St. Joseph Hospital
School of Nurse Anesthesia
In Partnership with Rhode Island College
School of Nursing

Applicant Handbook



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Revised 1/10, 5/11, 7/12, 1/14, 4/15, 7/18

St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia



Dear Applicant:

Welcome to the applicant handbook. This handbook contains information regarding the Program, the admission requirements and process. We encourage each applicant to thoroughly review this handbook and the Rhode Island College Graduate Studies Manual (www.ric.edu/graduatestudies).

This program represents a collaboration between the Rhode Island College School of Nursing (RICSON) and the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia (SJHSNA). The Master of Science in Nursing provides Masters level education and training for nurses pursuing a career in nurse anesthesia. The program is designed to meet all the accreditation standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

Completed applications must be submitted electronically to RICSON by December 15th in order to be considered for the class beginning in the summer term. Applications submitted after the deadline will be reviewed on a space available basis only.

The information in this handbook is subject to change without prior notice.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Tierney, DNP, MA, CRNA
CRNA Program Administrator
School of Nurse Anesthesia

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ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSE ANESTHESIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia (SJHSNA) is conducted under the auspices of Associates in Anesthesia, Inc. The school was founded and received full accreditation in 1962.

Associates in Anesthesia (AIA) believed that the need for formal education of Nurse Anesthetists was essential for the delivery of quality anesthesia care. To date, we have enrolled over 375 students into our program. Although many of our graduates practice as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in Rhode Island, we have graduates throughout the country.

In 1990, the program, through a university affiliation, gave the students the opportunity to earn a Master of Science degree. In 2013, AIA formed a partnership with the Rhode Island College School of Nursing to create a program, which will offer a Master of Science in Nursing.

St. Joseph Health Services of RI, a Charter CARE Health Partner, includes Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence, RI. The "Fatima Unit" is where the school is based and our students' primary clinical site. Anesthesia is administered for all types of surgical procedures, excluding open heart, organ transplantation and obstetrics.

SJHSNA has an arrangement with five (5) affiliate sites for required clinical rotations ~ Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Childrens' Hospital (Pediatrics, Neurosurgery, Vascular and Thoracic), St. Vincent Hospital, MA (Obstetrics), MetroWest Medical Center (Framingham Union and Leonard Morse Hospitals), MA (Regional, general anesthetics, Thoracic and Pediatrics). Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center, West Roxbury, MA (hearts and general anesthetics), Roger Williams Medical Center (bariatrics, major general surgery with invasive monitoring).

The philosophies and missions of SJHSNA and Rhode Island College School of Nursing (RICSON) synergize to promote accessible higher education including professional majors while respecting diversity and valuing academic excellence.

PHILOSOPHY

The curriculum of the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia (SJHSNA) evolves from the following statements of philosophy:

1. Demands of a more health-oriented citizenry for expanding health care requires continuing assessment, evaluation, and updating of all aspects of health, including education of health care providers.
2. Administration of anesthesia is an advanced nursing specialty, which is an essential component of the health care team.
3. The knowledge base, clinical experiences and attitude of select registered nurses can serve as the foundation for the preparation of competent, effective nurse anesthetists.
4. Qualified instructors and preceptors operating within a graduate framework and accredited comprehensive health agencies contribute to the milieu for qualitative learning experiences for student nurse anesthetists as they become self directed.
5. Learning is a life-long process and the continued development of each nurse anesthetist is an essential individual, moral, and professional responsibility.

MISSION

SJHSNA focuses on enhancing and expanding the knowledge, attitude, and skills of the professional nurse in a graduate framework so that he/she as a nurse anesthetist can function safely and effectively in any setting with patients of all ages. This is accomplished through application of educational principles, methodology, theory, and practice in the range of activities related to anesthesia through optimum utilization of

clinical and other learning resources. SJHSNA is guided by the values of respect, compassion, responsibility and teamwork.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

SJHSNA is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), 222 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Telephone (847) 692-7050 (www.coacrna.org). The certification pass rate for SJHSNA first time takers (2017 cohort) is six out of nine seven graduates. All graduates have secured employment within six months of graduation and most secure employment before graduation. The SJHSNA attrition rate for the class of 2017 was 12.5%. SJHSNA received full reaccreditation in 2006 2016 and maintains this status until the next review in 2017.

COA approved the major programmatic change of the partnership with RICSON in November 2013.

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA)

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 125 years. The credential CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) came into existence in 1956. CRNAs are anesthesia professionals who safely administer *more than 34 million anesthetics* to patients each year in the United States, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) 2012 Practice Profile Survey.

CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in rural America, enabling healthcare facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services. In some states, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals.

According to a 1999 report from the Institute of Medicine, anesthesia care today is nearly 50 times safer than it was in the early 1980's. CRNAs provide anesthesia in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists, and other qualified healthcare professionals. When anesthesia is administered by a nurse anesthetist, it is recognized as the practice of nursing; when administered by an anesthesiologist, it is recognized as the practice of medicine. Regardless of whether their educational background is in nursing or medicine, all anesthesia professionals give anesthesia the same way.

As advanced practice nurses, CRNAs practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. They carry a heavy load of responsibility and are compensated accordingly.

CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

Nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military men and women on the front lines since WWI, including current conflicts. Nurses first provided anesthesia to wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

Managed care plans recognize CRNAs for providing high-quality anesthesia care with reduced expense to patients and insurance companies. *The cost-efficiency of CRNAs helps control escalating healthcare costs.*

Legislation passed by Congress in 1986 made nurse anesthetists the first nursing specialty to be accorded direct reimbursement rights under the Medicare program.

More than 90% of U.S. nurse anesthetists are members of the AANA. (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists at a Glance @ www.aana.com/ceandeducation)

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS (AANA)

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) was founded in 1931. Today, AANA represents over 47,000 CRNAs nationwide and is one of the nation's most dynamic health care professional organizations. In addition to offering educational workshops at its many conventions and regional meetings, AANA represents the interests of the CRNAs in Congress. A bill was signed into law in 1986 making nurse anesthetists the first nursing specialty to be accorded direct reimbursement rights under Medicare's prospective payment system, AANA's effectiveness as an organization is evident in the fact that more than 90% of nurse anesthetists in America today belong to AANA. Learn more about the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist at AANA.com.

RICSON/SJHSNA - Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program

The MSN program represents a partnership between the School of Nursing and SJHSNA with significant contributions from the faculty of the Division of Arts and Sciences, and the instructors of SJHSNA. The 30 month, 56 credit program is designed so that students are based primarily ~~on~~ in the Rhode Island College classrooms for the beginning semesters. The majority of the required science didactic courses are offered during this period along with core nursing courses. The remaining continuous months of the program are clinical education and didactic courses with an emphasis on advanced course work, clinical training and research. Successful completion of the program qualifies the student to take the National Certification Exam.

Applicant Rights

Applicants have the following rights:

- ✓ Will be treated in a respectful manner.
- ✓ Will be communicated with in a truthful and timely fashion.
- ✓ Will have their application considered with the same degree of consideration as any other applicant.
- ✓ Will be notified when their application is incomplete and what items they need to send in for completeness.

Applicants Responsibilities

Applicants have the responsibility to:

- ✓ Inform the program of changes in contact information (address, e-mail, and phone).
- ✓ Complete their application before the deadline and send in all supporting documentation.
- ✓ Be truthful and complete on the application and in all aspects of their communication.
- ✓ Provide the program with the information necessary to make decisions about their qualifications for admission into the program.
- ✓ Make arrangements needed for the interview process.

Non Discrimination Policy

All applicants for the School are treated without regard to race, marital status, religion, age, sex, national origin, color, handicap, veteran status, sexual orientation or any other factor prohibited by law.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, the Graduate should be able to:

- Perform a pre-anesthetic interview and physical assessment, to include:
 - ✓ Psychological preparation of the patient for anesthesia and surgery.
 - ✓ Obtain an accurate health history from the patient and/or family.
 - ✓ Evaluation of the patient's physical and psychological status identifying abnormalities that will have implications on the anesthesia care plan including evaluation of all laboratory, radiographic and other diagnostic test data.
- Integrate and apply the knowledge learned in didactic studies to ensure greater clinical competence in providing safe and effective patient care.
- Formulate a comprehensive anesthesia care plan.
- Administer a physiologically sound anesthetic, using general and/or regional techniques and procedures that are compatible with the physiological condition of the patient.
- Interpret and integrate information from a variety of monitoring modalities including electrocardiography, pulse, oximetry, capnography, noninvasive and invasive arterial blood pressure monitoring, central venous pressure monitoring, pulmonary artery pressure monitoring, etc.
- Identify the need for and insert a variety of invasive monitoring devices including arterial ~~and~~ central venous ~~and pulmonary artery~~ catheters.
- Develop and execute an effective plan for fluid and blood component administration.
- Execute and maintain effective mechanical ventilation integrating available information.
- Implement and supervise appropriate physical positioning of the patient to ensure safety for the patient and optimum working conditions for the surgical team.
- Recognize indications of physiological stress demonstrated by patients and initiate appropriate interventions.
- Implement indicated crisis interventions for the patient undergoing anesthesia and surgery to facilitate safe and effective patient care as well as efficient and harmonious function of the health care team.
- Maintain advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) and pediatric advanced life support (PALS) certification.
- Function as a resource person for the respiratory care of patients receiving mechanical ventilation.
- Function within appropriate legal requirements, accepting responsibility and accountability for their practice.
- Demonstrate professional presentation and clinical teaching skills necessary to effectively promote the education of nurse anesthetist and others involved in health care.
- Critically evaluate and apply research in preparation of a master's major project.
- Function as a positive member of the health team and the role model for future health care providers.
- Assume total responsibility for one's own actions through continuous professional growth.

Program of Study -- Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia

1st Semester: Summer

NURS 501: Advanced Nursing Research 3 Credits

2nd Semester: Fall

NURS 502: Health Care Systems 3 Credits

NURS 506: Advanced Health Assessment 3 Credits

NURS 505: Advanced Pharmacology 3 Credits

CHEM 519: Biochemistry for Health Professionals 3 Credits

BIOL 535: Advanced Physiology I 4 Credits

3rd Semester: Spring

NURS 503: Professional Role Development 3 Credit

NURS 504: Advanced Pathophysiology 3 credits

BIOL 536: Advanced Physiology II 4 credits

NURS 514: Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia 2 credits

NURS 517: Foundational Principles of Nurse Anesthesia 3 credits

4th Semester: Summer

NURS 509: Professional Project Seminar 1 Credit

NURS 516: Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia I 3 Credits

NURS 570: NA Clinical Practicum I 1 Credit

5th Semester: Fall

NURS 512: Genetics and Genomics 3 Credits

NURS 616: Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia II 3 Credits

NURS 630: NA Clinical Practicum II 1 Credit

6th Semester: Spring

NURS 626: Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia III 3 Credits

NURS 692: Master's Major Project 1 Credit

NURS 640: NA Clinical Practicum III 1 Credit

7th Semester: Summer

NURS 693: Master's Major Project 1 Credit

NURS 670: NA Clinical Practicum IV 1 Credit

8th Semester: Fall

NURS 636: Transition to Practice 2 Credits

NURS 691: NA Clinical Practicum V 1 Credit

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

One class is accepted annually to begin approximately in July, Summer Session II, and continues for 30 consecutive months. The college calendar is followed until the beginning of clinical practicums in the summer semester 4. The clinical internship is 19 months of continuous clinical experience with time off granted by request.

NON-MATRICULATING STATUS

Students may request to apply credits earned at Rhode Island College prior to acceptance into RICSON/SHJHNA. Please see the RIC Graduate Studies Manual II, D, 3 and III, C, 4. No more than 9 credits may be applied to the RIC MSN programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS

A candidate may request credit for work taken at another accredited institution. Credit may be granted as indicated in the RIC Graduate Studies Manual, III, F.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The school admits up to 10 full-time students each year. Applications are submitted online at www.ric.edu/nursing. Admission applications must be received by December 15th. Applications submitted after the deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis. All supporting documents required for admission must be received for review. The applicant will be invited for a personal interview on a scheduled date.

The applicant who has attended another nurse anesthesia program must submit documentation from the previous program director detailing the circumstances of withdrawal or dismissal. Applicants selected for admission will be notified.

Requirements for Admission:

RICSON

1. A completed application accompanied by a fifty-dollar non-refundable application fee.
2. A baccalaureate degree major from a NLNAC or CCNE accredited program.
3. Applicants with international degrees must have their transcripts evaluated for degree and grade equivalency to that of a regionally accredited institution in the United States.
4. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.
5. Completion of a course in statistics (Math 240 or its equivalent) with a minimum grade of C.
6. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate work. Provisional acceptance occasionally granted.
7. An official report of scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies test (MA). The MA is administered on the RIC campus, for further information please contact Rhode Island College.
8. An official report of scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) from international applicants who are from countries where English is not the first language.
9. Current unrestricted licensure for the practice of nursing in Rhode Island.
10. A professional resume.
11. Three professional references (at least one from the clinical area).
12. A brief letter of intent, which includes a statement of goals.
13. Proof of residency is required for in-state tuition.
14. An interview may be required.
15. Upon acceptance, a passport photo will be required.

Additional Requirements for Nurse Anesthesia:

1. Due to clinical rotations at hospitals in Massachusetts, a license will be required for Massachusetts.
2. A personal interview is **required**.
3. Completion of two courses in chemistry (CHEM 105, CHEM 106 or their equivalent) with a minimum grade of C within the last 10 years.
4. A preferred undergraduate science GPA of 3.0.
5. Of the three required references, one must be from a clinical supervisor.
6. Current ACLS certification.
7. Minimum of 1 year critical care experience (equal to or greater than 30 hours/week).

Critical care experience – Critical care experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories, or a US military hospital outside of the United States.

During this experience, the registered professional nurse is to have developed critical decision making and psychomotor skills, competency in patient

assessment, and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring techniques. A critical care area is defined as one where, on a routine basis, the registered professional nurse manages one or more of the following: invasive hemodynamic monitors (such as pulmonary artery catheter, CVP, arterial); cardiac assist devices; mechanical ventilation; and vasoactive drips. The critical care areas include intensive care units. Those who have experience in other areas may be considered provided they can demonstrate competence with invasive monitoring, ventilators, and critical care pharmacology.

8. Skills and abilities applicants and students must demonstrate:

Observation: Candidates must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the outpatient setting and the patient's bedside. Sensory skills adequate to perform a physical examination. Functional hearing and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information from computerized monitors and procedures regularly required in a physical examination, such as inspection, auscultation and palpation.

Communication: Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and healthcare settings. Candidates must show evidence of effective written and verbal communication skills and the ability to work in teams.

Motor: The ability to participate in basic, diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures (e.g. palpation, auscultation, drawing blood, starting IV) is required. Candidates must have sufficient motor skills to execute movements reasonably required to provide care to patients, including the ability to help move or lift them. Candidates must be able to move between settings, such as clinic, classroom building and hospital.

Physical Stamina: Sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences.

Intellectual: Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize, both in quiet environments and in areas where distractions, noise and other stressors are present. Problem solving is a critical skill demanded of CRNA's. This requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend graphic displays of physiologic data, distinguish artifact on a monitor display and understand three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structure. Candidates must be able to read and understand medical and nursing literature. In order to complete the degree they must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in a timely and often critical fashion in problem solving and patient care.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completing of all academic and patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team is essential. The ability to effectively function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills and concern for others are all required.

In any case where a candidate's ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the candidate must demonstrate alternative means and /or abilities to acquire and demonstrate the essential information without reliance upon another person's interpretation of the information.

Environmental and Chemical Hazards

- Studies performed in the past have suggested an association between sustained exposure to an anesthetic environment and an increase incidence in abortions, birth defects and certain types of malignancies for both male and female personnel. While no cause and effect relationship has been

established, consideration should be given to these findings in choosing anesthesia as a specialty.

- Most hospitals have installed anesthetic gas exhaust systems for minimizing risk to operating room personnel. All of the clinical affiliates have scavenging systems for waste gases. It has not been established whether the risks to personnel are eliminated by these exhaust systems.
- Anesthesia caregivers are frequently exposed to blood products, body secretions and used syringes and needles. All students are expected to strictly adhere to universal precautions whenever involved in patient care that involves potential for contact with mucous membranes, secretions or open wounds. Gloves, protective eye wear and masks are available at each anesthetizing site and must be worn. Proper regard for and performance of aseptic technique is mandatory to protect both patients and anesthesia caregivers. All students should have been vaccinated against Hepatitis B prior to admission to the program.
- Anesthesia personnel are also frequently exposed to x rays during operative procedures. Lead aprons and thyroid shields are available at each anesthetizing site and must be worn during fluoroscopy or X ray procedures.
- Responsibility for accepting risks associated with this specialty rests with the individual who choose to work within this environment, rather than the institutions who take reasonable precautions to minimize potential risk.
- Material Safety Data Sheets are kept on the hospitals intranet database.
- All students are required to follow OSHA policy. Failure to follow blood and body fluid precaution is a critical clinical weakness. This means that protective gear such as goggles/face shield masks must be worn whenever body fluid contact is likely. In the OR, this is on many occasions but certainly induction, emergence, invasive procedures, trauma cases; and extensive blood loss with splashing from the surgical field etc.

Drug Free Workplace Policy

- The educational program has a vital interest in maintaining a safe, healthy and efficient environment for its students and patients. Recognizing that chemical dependency is both a disease and a professional hazard the purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the prevention and management of substance abuse within the nurse anesthesia program.
- By providing a drug free environment, St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia will be better able to assure a safe and equitable practice setting for anesthesia practitioners and their patients. Nurse anesthesia students are expected to comply with the hospital policies at each clinical site. The SJHSNA prohibits the illicit or unauthorized possession, use, manufacture, sale or distribution of illicit drugs and/or alcohol on hospital property. Students are personally responsible to comply with federal state and local laws and the hospital drug and alcohol policy. When violations of policy come to the attention of the school, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
- SRNAs are prohibited from reporting to the clinical area under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Violation of the policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the school, report to state licensing board, and complaint to local law enforcement authorities.
- Curriculum will include topics covering substance abuse and chemical dependency.
- The school is responsible for identifying individuals with deteriorating academic/clinical performance, behavioral changes and excessive absenteeism but is not responsible for diagnosing the nature of the problem.

- With reasonable suspicion, SJHSNA will act to intervene and refer an SRNA for assessment.
- The cost of assessment, treatment, and recovery programs is the sole responsibility of the individual SRNA.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admissions policies and procedures are subject to continuous review by the Admission Committee and may be changed without notice. The application deadline each year is December 15th. Applications received after this date will be reviewed on a space available basis only.

Initial review of completed applications will identify candidates for full review and personal interview at SJHSNA. Candidates will be presented to the RICSON Masters Committee for final review and acceptance. Letters of acceptance will be sent with two weeks for return acceptance. Accepted candidates for nurse anesthesia will send a non-refundable commitment fee of ~~\$500~~ 600.00 made payable to SJHSNA. Candidates will receive a request for a required background check prior to the clinical internship.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTIONS

A student is selected for the School of Nurse Anesthesia on the basis of the following:

1. Personal interview.
2. References.
3. Previous experience in critical care nursing.
4. Achievement in Nursing School and College.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

It is the policy of St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia not to accept transfer students from other nurse anesthesia programs.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

Students have the right to resign from the program at any time. The resignation must be in writing and submitted to the Program Administrator of the School of Nurse Anesthesia.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available through the Rhode Island College Financial Aid Office for students who qualify. Detailed information is available by visiting the Rhode Island College Financial Aid website.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition amount will depend on Rhode Island College. The current tuition is per credit hour. Payable to: Rhode Island College. Students should be prepared to meet the financial responsibility of the program. Students are reminded that the maximum allowable federal loan is \$20,500 annually. Assistance in securing other loans or grants is provided by the financial aid office at RIC.

Rhode Island College

Per credit hour total of 56 credit hours.....	range from \$407 to \$792 per credit hour
Registration fee (per semester).....	\$100
Non Refundable application fee.....	\$.60
Additional fees.....	\$29/credit hour
SON fee.....	\$23/credit
with a maximum of \$275 per semester	
Transcript fee.....	\$30 one-time fee

School of Nurse Anesthesia

Non-refundable commitment fee (Due 14 days from date of acceptance letter).....	\$600.00
Student AANA Fee (Due at orientation at RIC).....	\$200.00

Web Modules for Wellness component in clinical orientation.....	\$110.00
Student Professional Liability Insurance.....	\$275.00 annually
Typhon Group (record keeping).....	approximately \$150.00
SEE Exam (payable in the 6 th semester).....	\$ 250.00
National Certification Exam fee.....	\$995 at the end of the program.
Licensure for RI, MA (Fees are different for each state)	

Please note: Tuition and fees are subject to change

Other Student Expenses:

The student registered nurse anesthetist (SRNA) is responsible for purchasing textbooks, stethoscope, goggles and shoes to be worn in the operating room. Students must provide personal transportation to and from all academic and clinical sites.

All students must maintain a current license as a Registered Nurse in RI, MA, and ACLS recognition throughout the program and at the time of graduation. PALS will be obtained during the program to meet requirements and eligibility for the certification exam. The cost of these is the student's responsibility.

SEE Exam: This fee of \$250.00 is required in the senior year and is payable electronically to NBCRNA. This exam is available thru the NBCRNA as an evaluation of the student's knowledge and to prepare the individual to take the National Certification Exam. It is required that all students take this examination near completion of the program. The NBCRNA offers this examination throughout the year at the same testing centers that the National Certification exam is offered.

Certification Examination fees: The current fee is \$995.00. This fee for the Certification Examination is payable electronically at the end of the program.

Professional Liability

Professional Liability Insurance is required. Application for SRNA professional liability insurance is completed prior to the clinical internship.

HOUSING

The student is responsible for acquiring his/her own transportation, housing and meals.

HEALTH

A physical exam must be on file in Rhode Island College Health Services after admission. A record of immunizations signed by a healthcare provider must be submitted to RIC Health Services. Students must meet immunization requirements mandated by the RI Dept. of Health. Proof of immunizations may also be obtained from blood titers. Students will be required to maintain current immunizations throughout the program to maintain requirements of the clinical rotation sites. A copy of the record of immunizations must be on file with SJHSNA prior to clinical practicums.

Health insurance is required and is the responsibility of the individual student. A Health plan is available to purchase through Rhode Island College. (Current pricing is subject to change). Rhode Island College provides a Health Service on campus which is open Monday through Friday.

Immunization requirements may change, subject to modifications in State law and or College/Hospital policies

TIME COMMITMENT DURING THE CLINICAL ROTATION

Students are required to be present Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until dismissal by their immediate supervisor. Dismissal time is usually by 4:00 pm but may vary according to clinical and didactic requirements. The time commitment of up to 64 hours per week includes time spent in class and all clinical hours.

Students are required to take a call day after initial clinical experience is obtained. On call duty will be rotated on a daily schedule to insure time is equally divided by the entire student body. Call duty takes place at the primary site only.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If a leave of absence is requested, then the validity of the reason for the leave and the time to be granted will be judged on an individual basis by the CRNA Program Administrator. A leave of absence may result in deferral of graduation.

TIME OFF/HOLIDAYS

RICSON: Semester breaks and holidays will be scheduled by RIC during the first semesters.

St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia: Students may request up to 25 days of personal time off (PTO) during the clinical internship. Requests for PTO are subject to approval by SJHSNA. Once the continuous clinical internship begins, students will follow the SJHSNA calendar.

In addition, students are granted the following holidays:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. New Year's Day | 6. Labor Day |
| 2. Washington's Birthday | 7. Columbus Day |
| 3. Memorial Day | 8. Thanksgiving Day |
| 4. Independence Day | 9. Day after Thanksgiving |
| 5. Victory Day (August) | 10. Christmas Day |

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all classes and be present for all clinical hours assigned. Absence beyond approved PTO requires the student to make up the time and will result in deferral of graduation.

EMPLOYMENT

Students are encouraged to enter school with adequate financial resources due to the rigorous time commitment.

- In accordance with the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, SRNA's shall not be employed as Nurse Anesthetists by title or function while in the student status of a nurse anesthesia program.
- No student is allowed to receive compensation for Anesthesia services while enrolled in this program. Non-adherence will be cause for immediate dismissal.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

Satisfactory Academic Progress

The Nurse Anesthesia program is designed to integrate didactic and clinical learning experiences to develop competency as an anesthesia provider. Therefore successful completion of every course is necessary to progress through the Program. Students are expected to maintain a cumulative average of B (3.00) or better in the program. Students who do not maintain a cumulative B (3.00) average will have their status reviewed by the SJHSNA Program Administrator and the RICSSON Masters Program Director. Students must successfully pass each clinical practicum course in order to advance to the next level. Student success will be measured against the clinical objectives designed for each clinical practicum experience. Grades will take into account clinical performance,

submitted clinical assignments (care plans, etc...) clinical preceptor feedback and student self-evaluations. The applicant is advised to refer to section VI of the RIC Graduate Studies Manual and the RICSON Handbook for Graduate Students in Nursing.

PROBATION/DISMISSAL

Students who achieve less than a B in a required nursing course will be placed on a probationary status. Students on probationary status must achieve a B or better in each required nursing course over the next 9 credits. Two grades below B are sufficient cause for consideration of dismissal.

Appeals

Appeals that are not resolved to the student's satisfaction may be appealed to the RICSON Academic Masters Committee. To do so, the student should follow the process set forth in the RICSON Handbook for Graduate Students in Nursing. The appeals process at SJHSNA shall follow the Due Process Policy as outlined in the SJHSNA handbook.

ETHICAL AND BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS

Failure to adhere to the Code of Academic Honesty of RICSON or the Rules of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. RICSON may range from a warning up through suspension or expulsion from the College.

At SJHSNA, the Program may consider any other behaviors in reaching a decision to make a recommendation to the Program Administrator for adverse actions. This includes actions outside the classroom or in the clinical rotation, which do not reflect well on the Program, profession or individuals.

Rules of Conduct at Clinical Sites

Success in the Nurse Anesthesia Profession requires certain behavioral attributes including but not limited to empathy, discipline, honesty, and integrity, personal regard for others, the ability to work effectively with others in a team environment, and the ability to address a crisis or emergency situation in a composed manner. Adherence to these attributes requires high level of maturity and self-control, even in highly stressful situations. During the clinical internship, students must conduct themselves in a highly professional manner consistent with the patient care responsibilities with which they will be entrusted. Failure to adhere to these standards (noted below) will result in a disciplinary action ranging from a written warning to dismissal from the Program (depending upon the violation and the circumstances surrounding the offense).

1. Creating or contributing to situations that jeopardize patient safety.
2. Students are expected to follow all policies of the St. Joseph School of Nurse Anesthesia. Unethical behavior such as academic dishonesty (cheating), falsifying logs or medical records is considered a violation of the Program's standards of conduct.
3. Respect the confidentiality of patients and fellow students. One is not permitted to discuss any patient by name outside the clinical encounter situation. Students should not discuss other students with preceptors. For academic presentations, all identifying data, including name, initials, date of birth and facility where seen will be omitted. SJHSNA has a social media policy.
4. Unauthorized possession, use, copying, or distribution of hospital records or disclosure of information contained in such records to unauthorized persons.

5. Use, distribution, or unauthorized possession of intoxicating beverages or drugs on hospital premises or reporting to work under the influence of intoxicants.
6. Unauthorized absence from the Anesthesia Department during regularly scheduled clinical hours.
7. Failure or refusal to follow instructions of a duly assigned preceptor including refusal to accept clinical assignments.
8. Acting in a disrespectful manner.
9. Any disorderly conduct on hospital premises.
10. Creating or contributing to unsanitary conditions.
11. Theft, fraud, or unauthorized use of property belonging to the hospital, patient, or visitor.

CLINICAL PRACTICUM COURSE EXPECTATIONS

To successfully complete each clinical practicum course, students must achieve a “B”. Details regarding clinical practicum expectations will be detailed in the SJHSNA Student Handbook received in the clinical internship of the program. Briefly, clinical progression will be monitored during each clinical practicum. If students are not meeting clinical objectives, they may be placed on a 45-day Probation. During this time the student will continue with the clinical objectives scheduled for that level. Students will communicate with the program administrators to develop a remediation plan based on their clinical evaluations, clinical instructor feedback and/or program findings. The plan will include strategies for improvement of clinical performance.

At the end of the 45-day Probation the student’s performance will be re-evaluated by the program. If they are successful, they will resume their clinical practicum at the same level as their peers.

Students may be placed on a second 45-day probation period for additional (newly identified) performance issues. The process described above would apply for this as well. Students are granted two (2) probationary periods not to exceed 90 days total. If additional (newly identified) performance issues continue to occur after a student has been granted (2) probationary periods, the student may be subject to dismissal.

ACADEMIC GRADING POLICY

The following system is in effect:

Percentage	Grade	Quality Points
93-100	A	4.00
90-92	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
84-86	B	3.00
80-83	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
74-76	C	2.00
70-73	C-	1.67

67-69	D+	1.33
63-66	D	1.00
60-62	D-	0.67
0-60	F	0.60

An incomplete (I) grade is given to a student who is doing passing work in a course, but who makes arrangements with the instructor if, for reasons beyond his/her control, he/she is not able to complete the work on time. The (I) incomplete grade must be changed within the time limit determined by the program. Failure to complete the work before the limitation date, or within the time imposed by the instructor, results in the assignment of an administrative F (fail) grade for the course.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order for a student to graduate, the following criteria must be met:

1. Successful completion of all didactic courses.
2. Satisfactory completion of clinical experience as required by the SJHSNA and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.
3. Satisfactory completion of stated behavioral objectives for clinical practicums.
4. Completion of thirty actual months in program, exclusive of personal time off.
5. Evaluations must be completed and signed.
6. All clinical records must be completed and submitted to the Anesthesia Program Administrative staff.
7. Completion of the Master's Major Project.
8. All fees must be paid in full.
9. All library materials must be returned.
10. A current RN license and ACLS and PALS Certifications must be on file.

GRADUATION

Upon completing the prescribed 30 months, the student will be awarded a diploma from the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia and a Master of Science in Nursing from the Rhode Island College School of Nursing. Each graduate will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination.

Upon passing the examination, the person shall be known as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

In the event of a student not meeting all graduation requirements, graduation may be deferred to a later date and the student's course time extended with faculty approval.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All students are invited and expected to attend the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists meetings. All seniors are encouraged to attend Regional and National meetings if they are able to do so.

***ANY INFORMATION IN THIS BOOKLET IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

