

# 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 8 years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology** before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.



Baccalaureate prepared RN



Critical care nursing experience



Classroom and clinical education and training



Master's or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program<sup>1</sup>

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees

CRNAs obtain an average of



**3.5 years**

of **critical care nursing experience** before entering a nurse anesthesia program.<sup>2</sup> They are the **only** anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.

Constant Learners



CRNAs must pass a **National Certification Examination** for entry into practice and be recertified every 4 years so they are current on the latest anesthesia techniques and technologies.

They must also pass a Continued Professional Certification exam every **8 years**. Anesthesiologists are recertified every **10 years**.



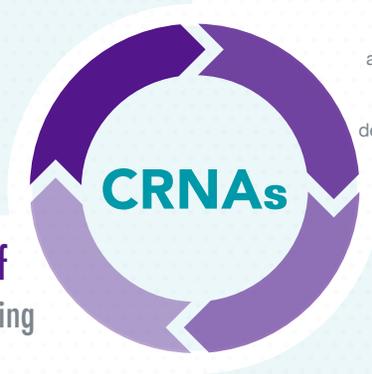
Minimum **60 hours** approved continuing education & **40 hours** professional development activities every 4 years



Attest to substantial anesthesia practice



Maintenance of current state licensure



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

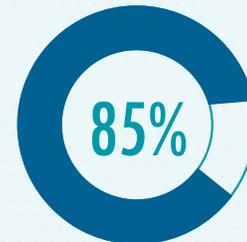


Interpret diagnostic information



Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Research shows that CRNAs are



**less costly** to educate and train than 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.

1. Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
2. NBCRNA Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Handbook, 2016  
3. Update of Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers, Lewin Group Publications, May 2016