



Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

A certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) works as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who administers anesthesia to patients, typically during surgical, diagnostic, obstetric or other medical procedures. CRNAs complete advanced nursing degrees either at the **master's or doctoral levels**. In addition to their advanced nursing degrees, CRNA candidates must **obtain national certification** in their field.

Here's a look at the extensive education CRNAs receive.

Education Requirements: It takes a *minimum of*

7-8.5
years of
education

and experience to prepare a CRNA.



2.9
YEARS

PREREQUISITES to apply for a CRNA Program

A **baccalaureate or graduate degree** in nursing or other appropriate major.

An **unencumbered license as a registered professional nurse** and/or APRN in the United States or its territories and protectorates.

A **minimum of one year of full-time work experience, or its part-time equivalent, as a registered nurse** in a critical care setting within the United States, its territories, or a U.S. military hospital outside of the United States. **The average experience of RNs entering nurse anesthesia educational programs is 2.9 years.**



Graduation with a **minimum of a master's degree from a nurse anesthesia educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs**. Nurse anesthesia programs range from 24-51 months, depending on university requirements.

Graduates of nurse anesthesia programs have an average of

9,369
hours of clinical
experience

733 HOURS
during their baccalaureate nursing program

6,302 HOURS
as a critical care registered nurse

2,604 HOURS
during their nurse anesthesia program



Information from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)