

**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
**WILLIAM F. CONNELL SCHOOL OF NURSING**



**NURSE ANESTHESIA  
GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK  
ADDENDUM  
2017-2018**

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## INTRODUCTION

These pages are meant to serve as an addition to the *Graduate Student Handbook* published by Boston College School of Nursing. All of the information contained in the handbook pertains to students in the Program in Nurse Anesthesia, however, because the Program in Nurse Anesthesia requires additional matters specific to the specialty to be addressed, this addendum has been developed.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boston College School of Nursing is to prepare professional nurses whose practice reflects a humanistic ethic and is scientifically based, technically competent, and highly compassionate. The Boston College nurse learns to think critically and to develop leadership skills. The faculty of the school aim to develop and disseminate knowledge for the advancement of professional practice and the improvement of health care by providing an environment that supports the personal development and scholarship of its faculty and students. The mission of Boston College School of nursing is congruent with that of its parent institution, with an emphasis on the development of the whole person. The School of Nursing focuses on preparing each student as a life-long learner, as a health professional and as a person who will use knowledge in service to others.

The mission of the Boston College Program in Nurse Anesthesia is to prepare graduates to excel as advanced practice care-givers and leaders. It is the belief that the role of the nurse anesthetist is based upon a foundation of ethical principles and patient advocacy. The goal of the program is to provide a climate of professional growth through the marriage of strong academics and clinical practice. The advanced practice nurse anesthetist is prepared to promote nursing through leadership, mentorship, and research-based practice. Fundamental to the mission of the program is the inherent value of the individual and the commitment to society.

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Nursing is the art and science of human caring for patients. The recipients of nursing care are individuals, families, aggregates of people, and communities who are sick and well; culturally and linguistically diverse; within all socioeconomic strata; and at all stages in the life cycle. The study of nursing is based on a common intellectual heritage transmitted by a liberal education and the art and science of nursing. Nursing activities focus on the life processes and patterns of the individual in the context of family and community. Nursing recognizes the contribution of cultural diversity and social environments to the health/illness beliefs, practices, and behavioral responses of individuals and groups.

Nurse anesthesia education prepares students for the appropriate level of knowledge and skills by building on the liberal arts and sciences. The nurse anesthesia curriculum is logically ordered to provide core knowledge and the application of that knowledge. Specialty courses prepare students for holistic care and require a holistic approach in

education. Students are supported in developing clinical skills as well as the ability to think and act ethically. Students are active participants in shaping the learning environment within the School of Nursing and the Program in Nurse Anesthesia.

The Boston College School of Nursing instills the values of service to others, truth through scholarly inquiry, and justice through promoting equal access to care for all people. Service, scholarship, and justice in caring include all people in the global community, particularly the under-served. The faculty believe that promoting the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of health are essential to understanding the human dimension. The nurse respects the uniqueness of the person and the individual's right to choose and actively participate in decisions about health care. Nursing promotes self-determination by empowering clients and advocating for those who cannot do so independently.

## **MASTER'S PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

1. Implement a philosophy of nursing congruent with the Judeo-Christian values that support the intrinsic worth of each human being;
2. Synthesize theory, research and values within a conceptual framework to guide advanced practice nursing in a specialized area.
3. Integrate knowledge from science and the humanities to generate diagnostic, therapeutic, and ethical nursing & healthcare.
4. Develop organizational and systems leadership skills to promote critical decision making supporting high quality and safe patient care.
5. Apply methods, instruments and performance measures and standards for quality improvement within an organization.
6. Use evidence-based research findings to inform clinical practice, promote change and disseminate new knowledge.
7. Utilize technology to deliver, enhance, communicate, integrate, and coordinate care.
8. Intervene at the system level through policy development and advocacy strategies to influence health and health care.
9. Collaborate, consult and coordinate continuity of care with clients and other health professionals regarding prevention and strategies that improve the health of individuals, families, and populations in a diverse and global society.

## NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Perform a detailed and complete preanesthetic assessment including obtaining a history and physical examination, reviewing laboratory data and pertinent information from the patient's medical record.
2. Develop a plan of anesthesia care based on scientific theory related to the patient's past medical and nursing history, current status, and surgical requirements.
3. Implement an anesthetic plan utilizing a broad spectrum of techniques based on sound physiology and established guidelines.
4. Incorporate patient safety considerations with regard to equipment check, positioning, and anesthetic administration.
5. Evaluate and adapt the anesthetic plan based on patient response, surgical considerations, utilizing physiologic and pharmacologic theories.
6. Demonstrate the ability to utilize a variety of anesthetic modalities including general and regional anesthetic techniques to patients across the lifespan.
7. Demonstrate the ability to utilize various invasive and non-invasive monitoring techniques and to interpret information obtained from them.
8. Utilize effectively a variety of non-anesthetic pharmacologic agents commonly used as adjuncts to anesthesia practice.
9. Rapidly synthesize essential information to develop and implement a plan of anesthesia care for emergency and trauma patients.
10. Develop and implement a plan of fluid and temperature management based on physiologic considerations.
11. Evaluate the patient post-operatively insuring patient safety and comfort identifying and consulting on any anesthesia-related complications.
12. Incorporate the study and evaluation of current literature into practice.
13. Function as a leader and resource in the area of airway management and critical care and a member of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation team.
14. Demonstrate the qualities of the self-directed learner, striving to add knowledge and improve practice through self-critique.
15. Maintain legal and ethical standards of practice accepting responsibility for one's own actions and judgments.

## **MASTER'S IN NURSING WITH NURSE ANESTHESIA SPECIALTY**

### **Spring Year One**

	<b>CREDITS</b>
Conceptual Basis for Advanced Practice Nursing	3
Pharmacotherapeutics and Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Pathophysiology	3
Chemistry & Physics for Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
Physiologic Variables for Nurse Anesthesia I – Respiratory	<u>3</u>
	15

### **Summer Year One**

Basic Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
Pharmacology of Anesthetics and Accessory Drugs	3
Physiologic Variables for Nurse Anesthesia II – Cardiovascular	3
Advanced Health Assessment (Summer Session I only)	3
Advanced Practice Nursing Role (Summer Session II only)	<u>3</u>
	15

### **Fall Year One**

Physiologic Variables for Nurse Anesthesia III – Neuro, Endocrine, Renal	3
Research Methods	3
Nurse Anesthesia I	<u>5</u>
	11

### **Spring Year Two**

Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
Nurse Anesthesia II	<u>5</u>
	11

### **Summer Year Two**

Nurse Anesthesia III	5
Research II	<u>3</u>
	8

### **Fall Year Two**

Nurse Anesthesia IV	5
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### **Spring Year Three**

Nurse Anesthesia V	5
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**Total credits = 70**

## **ACCREDITATION**

The Master's degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202-887-6791

The Program in Nurse Anesthesia is accredited for 10 years by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs effective June 3, 2016.

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
222 S. Prospect Ave.  
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001  
Tel: 847-692-7050

## **POLICIES (Reviewed December 2016)**

**These policies are not meant to replace but rather be in addition to policies of the Boston College School of Nursing.**

### **Academic Progression**

All graduate students in the William F. Connell School of Nursing are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to remain in good academic standing. The minimum acceptable passing grade for graduate courses is a B- (80). Students will undergo academic review if they have a GPA of less than 3.0 or earn a grade less than a B- (80) in a course. Academic review may result in a student being dismissed from the program or placed on probation with specific recommendations and requirements that must be met in order to continue in the program. These recommendations may include, but are not limited to: (a) completing an individualized remediation plan developed in collaboration with the course faculty and the student's advisor in order to achieve mastery of the course objectives; (b) repeating courses in which a grade of less than B- (80) was earned; and/or (c) reducing course loads until the GPA is > 3.0.

Unsafe clinical practice and/or unprofessional conduct are grounds for failure in any clinical course and may result in immediate removal from the clinical site. Students who demonstrate unsafe or unprofessional conduct in a clinical practice site will undergo academic review and may be dismissed from the program.

## **Admission Requirements**

To be considered for admission to the Program in Nurse Anesthesia, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Possess a B.S. in Nursing from a nationally accredited program
2. Be licensed as a Registered Nurse with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
3. Possess a minimum of 1 year of critical care experience as an RN in the United States, its territories, or a U.S. military hospital outside of the U.S.
4. Obtain official transcripts of all prior post-secondary academic work
5. Demonstrate an undergraduate scholastic average of B or better
6. Provide a statement of goals pertaining to career objectives and how the program will help in achieving those goals.
7. Provide 3 letters of reference pertaining to academic ability and professional competency.
8. Provide an official report of GRE scores (taken within 5 years)
9. Successful completion of an undergraduate statistics course
10. Possess current ACLS and PALS certification

A personal interview will be scheduled only after all documentation is complete.

Immunizations and health clearance are required prior to enrollment. Clinical sites may require additional documentation which must be obtained by the student at their own expense. Individual RN coverage by professional liability insurance is mandatory for all clinical practica. This requirement is met by the purchase by the student of student nurse anesthetist liability insurance.

## **Anesthesia Care Plans**

A plan of anesthesia care is to be completed on all patients the form of which is dictated by the student's level of experience. Beginning students will follow the established written format directly while more experienced students may present a verbal plan to the CRNA or MD preceptor.

## **Assignments**

To the Facility:

Student assignment to the facility will be the responsibility of the Program Director and Assistant Program Director to insure completion of all required experiences.

Daily Assignments:

The daily assignment of the student to specific cases is the responsibility of the Clinical Coordinators in conjunction with the Chairperson of Anesthesia at the facility or his/her designee.

## **Attendance**

It is the belief of the faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program that participation in all classroom and clinical activities is essential to successful completion of the program. Students are expected to be present for all didactic classes, clinical experiences, and clinical conferences. Any unexplained absence will be brought to the attention of the

Program Director. Illness, environmental (weather), and family emergencies will be taken into consideration.

### **Blood Born Pathogen**

#### Pathogen Exposure:

As part of their clinical nursing courses students are responsible to use precautions to prevent exposure to or transmission of pathogens. It is the student's responsibility to put the appropriate techniques into practice when caring for patients in the specific clinical setting. The Kennedy Resource Center has information about the latest policies and procedures from OSHA and CDC. If exposure occurs, the student must immediately inform her/his preceptor and faculty advisor and follow agency protocols. A written report of the incident also must be provided to the Graduate Office.

#### Needlestick Injuries:

Students are expected to take precautions to prevent needlestick injury in the clinical area. If such an injury occurs, the faculty member should be notified immediately and a written report should be provided to the Graduate Office.

#### Exposure to Blood Born Pathogen:

Immediate assessment and confidentiality are critical issues and direct the following actions:

If a student, or faculty member, while engaged in clinical practice activities has an exposure to potentially infected body fluid from a client, the first action is to:

- a. IMMEDIATELY remove soiled clothing and wash the exposed area with soap and water.
- b. Notify faculty member.
- c. Report to nearest emergency room on site at the agency or as directed by the University Health Service.
- d. Identify self as student/faculty with a possible HIV/HBV exposure.
- e. Give close attention to filling out the Accident Report for the agency, School of Nursing and University Health Services. A copy of the agency report form must be forwarded to the Office of the Dean, School of Nursing within 72 hours of exposure.

Boston College, in the position of guarantor, will assume the financial responsibility, if necessary, for emergency assessment and interventions through the first 72 hours after the exposure incident occurs.

No member of the Boston College community, either student or faculty, shall be denied medical evaluation and counseling based on immediate fee-for-service.

### **Call**

Invaluable experience can be gained by providing anesthesia care during off-shift hours. For this reason students will be assigned to these shifts during select rotations. These on-call assignments may include an evening or weekend shift; however at no time will the student be assigned to either the clinical area or the classroom on a day following an

overnight call. A CRNA or MD preceptor will be present at all times within the operating room suite when the student is on call.

### **Clinical Affiliations**

Clinical experiences will be coordinated utilizing the multiple facilities for which Anaesthesia Associates of Massachusetts provides anesthesia services. These sites include Mt. Auburn Hospital, Boston Medical Center, New England Baptist Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, and Cambridge Hospital. In addition the program has an affiliation with Boston Children's Hospital, Carney Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, and North Shore Medical Center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and Beth Israel Deaconess Milton Hospital. Students are required to know and adhere to all facility specific policies while on site.

### **Clinical Hours**

Clinical time is scheduled for approximately 40 hours per week and should not exceed 50 hours per week. Students are expected and encouraged to avail themselves of interesting educational experiences and should complete each anesthetic unless the case extends significantly beyond 5:30 pm. At no time should the student continue to provide anesthesia care beyond 7:30 pm without the permission of the program director or assistant program director. A break of at least 10 hours between scheduled shifts is mandatory. Compensatory time is not routinely granted.

### **Committee Participation**

Each year a student will be appointed to either the Master's Program Committee or the Doctor of Nursing Practice Committee as appropriate. Students will be asked to volunteer and program administration will select one student from the group of volunteers. The student is expected to be present at all meetings except in the case of illness. If necessary the student will be relieved of clinical responsibilities to attend the meetings.

### **Dress**

It is expected that students will dress appropriately at all times. Proper operating room attire will be adhered to, based on individual hospital policy. The attire for students outside the operating room at the clinical site should reflect the professional nature of nurse anesthesia practice.

### **Electronic Devices**

With the exception of the computerized anesthesia record, the student is prohibited from the use of electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and smart phones in the operating room. Each student is assigned a pager. The pager must be on and active at all times. Reading in the operating room is never appropriate.

### **Employment**

Students may be employed during the program as long as there is no conflict in time between employment and student responsibilities. The decision of a student to work as a

registered nurse during the program is the student's alone but is not encouraged. Should a student's academic or clinical performance appear to suffer from such employment, the student will be counseled to work less or not at all as acceptable performance will be essential to success and progression in the program. Students may not work the shift prior to a clinical anesthesia commitment and will not be excused from a call assignment because of outside employment. **Students may not be employed to practice anesthesia and at no time is a student to perform a skill attained as an anesthesia student while functioning as a registered nurse.**

## **Evaluations**

### Daily Clinical Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated daily by the preceptor while in the clinical area. All evaluations are meant to be constructive and are designed to help the student to grow and develop as a nurse anesthesia student. The daily evaluation must be written by the preceptor. These evaluations will be kept on file in the Program Director's Office. Any recurrent problem will be brought to the attention of the Program Director.

### Summative Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated at the completion of each term in the clinical area. These evaluations will be coordinated by the Clinical Faculty in conjunction with the Program Director and Assistant Program Director. They are based on data from a variety of sources including but not limited to daily evaluations, simulation performance, and performance on the Objective Structured Clinical Examination. The summative evaluation should identify both strengths and learning needs. A satisfactory evaluation is necessary for progression in the program. Student self-evaluations will be an integral part of the process. Final course grade is the responsibility of program faculty.

## **Health Insurance**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has mandated that all students, graduate and undergraduate, taking at least 75% of full-time credit hours must be covered by medical insurance providing a specified minimum coverage. Students in the School of Nursing who register for 7 or more credits are considered 75% full-time. Boston College will offer all students the option of participating in the plan offered at the University or submitting a waiver.

## **Holidays**

The following holidays will be observed by the Boston College Program in Nurse Anesthesia during the clinical phase of the program:

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day

### **Christmas Day**

Because each facility determines its own operating room schedule for other minor holidays, students will receive a day off in compensation for a minor holiday worked.

### **Leave of Absence**

Leaves of absence are not normally granted for more than 1 semester at a time. Students may obtain the Leave of Absence Form from the Graduate Programs Office and submit this form to that office for the Dean's approval. Leaves of absence for students in the Program in Nurse Anesthesia are not encouraged and should be discussed with the Program Director. The full-time nature of the curriculum and the limited clinical sites necessitates careful planning if all students are to be placed in the clinical practica. In addition, specialty courses are only offered one semester per year.

### **Liability Insurance**

Students in the Program in Nurse Anesthesia will participate in the Professional Liability Insurance Program for Student Nurse Anesthetists and Nurse Anesthesia Education programs provided by the AANA Insurance Services. The cost of such liability insurance will be borne by the student.

### **Monthly Case Records**

Students will be required to maintain a daily record of all anesthesia experiences utilizing the *Typhon Group: Anesthesia PRO Tracking Administration* system and the cost for this will be borne by the student.

### **Parking and Transportation**

Students are expected to comply with all rules and regulations regarding parking while at the Boston College campus or at the various clinical sites. Students must provide their own transportation to the clinical sites. A fee for parking may be required and facilities may require the student to park off-site.

### **Personal Time**

Students are given a total of 2 personal days each clinical semester which may be utilized for illness, interviews, re-certifications, or other personal needs. Mondays are also included once the clinical phase has begun. Whole days only are permitted. No partial days will be granted and personal appointments are not allowed during a clinical day. Any time in excess of the 2 days must be made up during regular "off time" prior to the conclusion of the semester. This may include scheduled college or program breaks and will be assigned at the program's discretion. The need for excessive absence from program responsibilities should be proactively discussed with the program director. Excessive absence may result in failure to meet program objectives and therefore failure to progress in the program.

Planned time off should be requested by e-mail to both Susan Emery ([emerysu@bc.edu](mailto:emerysu@bc.edu)) and Craig Gimbrone ([craig.gimbrone@bc.edu](mailto:craig.gimbrone@bc.edu)) a minimum of 2 weeks in advance.

Notification of approval of time off must precede the making of travel plans.

The program reserves the right to assign personal days in the case of inclement weather and other situations beyond the control of the program. Please note that in the rare event that Boston College closes as a result of weather or other environmental conditions, students are expected to be present in the clinical area unless specifically notified to the contrary.

Students who are ill on a day when they are assigned to the clinical area must call the Anaesthesia Associates of Massachusetts scheduling office (781) 407-0575 if assigned to an AAM site and notify other clinical sites as directed by the clinical coordinator. They must also email both Craig Gimbrone ([craig.gimbrone@bc.edu](mailto:craig.gimbrone@bc.edu)), Administrative Assistant for the Nurse Anesthesia Program and Susan Emery ([emerysu@bc.edu](mailto:emerysu@bc.edu)) prior to 6 am. Excessive absences will be brought to the attention of the Program Director including absences from class.

## **Policy Revisions**

All policies contained in the *Boston College Program in Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Student Handbook Addendum* will be reviewed annually prior to the spring semester or as needed. Any changes to these policies will be determined by the Nurse Anesthesia Program Administration. Policy changes which may have substantive impact on the School of Nursing or the college will be brought to the Educational Policy Committee and/or the Faculty Assembly as appropriate for a vote.

## **Post-Anesthesia Visits**

The student will visit all patients in the PACU for whom they have provided anesthesia care. In addition, they are responsible for completing a post-operative visit on any patient who is admitted to the hospital overnight.

## **Pre-Anesthesia Visits**

The student is responsible for identifying the location of his/her patient. All in-house patients will be seen the evening prior to surgery for the purpose of performing a pre-anesthesia assessment. In the case of same day surgical admissions, the student is responsible for the information located on the pre-anesthesia assessment form completed during the pre-admission testing center visit. The student will also interview the patient in the preop holding area and note any interval changes in patient assessment. The student may also be assigned preop visits during the course of their clinical day by the clinician in charge.

## Safety

All students must complete 3 modules related to medication safety prior to entering the clinical area. In addition the following program policies apply.

1. Know.....
  - a. You carry malpractice insurance because you are liable. As an experienced registered nurse you are responsible for your actions and are expected to function safely within that scope
  - b. Your limitations
    - i. You are not the “go to” person in a crisis.
    - ii. Ask for help and consultation: if you question if you should ask, the answer is always yes
  - c. Program and hospital policy
    - i. You must always be aware of who to call for what
    - ii. You are never the one to decide your level of supervision
2. Avoid distraction
  - a. Focus on the task at hand
  - b. Do not engage in conversation with OR staff when checking equipment or preparing medication
  - c. Reading in the OR is **NEVER ACCEPTABLE**
  - d. Using an electronic device such as a cell phone, smart phone, texting, or email in the OR is **NEVER ACCEPTABLE**
3. Medication safety
  - a. 5 rights of medication administration
    - i. Right patient
    - ii. Right drug
    - iii. Right dose
    - iv. Right time & frequency
    - v. Right route
  - b. Double check
    - i. Verify correct drug by checking drug name on vial  
**\*\*\* CAUTION!!! Look-alike, sound-alike medications**  
Many medications have similar packaging and/or similar names (generic or trade). You MUST carefully and thoroughly read the name on the vial and be certain you have selected the correct drug  
**\*\*\*ALWAYS LABEL SYRINGE BEFORE DRAWING THE DRUG**
    - ii. Prior to placing vial back on cart, verify again that name on syringe matches name on vial
  - c. Save vials on the cart until the end of the case
  - d. If an unexpected reaction occurs, immediately consider that the wrong medication was given and check the empty vial

**Supervision**

The ratio of students to instructors in the clinical area is based on the student's knowledge and ability, the physical status of the patient, the complexity of the anesthetic and/or surgical procedure, and the experience of the instructor. At no time will the ratio of student to instructor exceed 2:1 (students:instructor).

The program restricts clinical supervision in non-anesthetizing areas to credentialed experts who are authorized to assume responsibility for the student.

**Vacation Time**

Students will have the benefit of regularly scheduled vacation periods as determined by Boston College during the first 4 semesters of the program. During the last 15 months (Nurse Anesthesia III through Nurse Anesthesia V) students will be given a total of 2 weeks of vacation. Program administration reserves the right to assign/approve vacations in order to insure that all students obtain necessary clinical experiences.