



BOSTON COLLEGE

Connell School of Nursing

Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Student Handbook Addendum 2024-2025

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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 Program in Nurse Anesthesia is to prepare graduates to excel as doctorly prepared 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

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.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Doctor Nursing Practice program objectives can be found on page 33 of the [CSON Graduate Student Handbook](#).

NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct a thorough pre-anesthesia assessment synthesizing data obtained through patient history and physical examination together with that available through facility information systems.
2. Create a patient-specific and evidence-based plan of anesthesia care incorporating the requirements of the planned surgical procedure.
3. Actualize a plan of anesthesia care incorporating various techniques according to established guidelines and current research.
4. Demonstrate leadership with regard to patient safety standards in all aspects of anesthesia care.

5. Critically analyze patient response to anesthesia and surgery and modify the plan accordingly.
6. Discriminate among various anesthetic techniques, selecting the best approach for all patients across the lifespan.
7. Evaluate the need for and interpret information from various monitoring modalities for each individual patient.
8. Formulate and implement a strategy for maintaining perioperative homeostasis through the use of adjunctive medications, fluid replacement, and thermoregulation.
9. Provide anesthesia care across the perioperative continuum insuring safety, comfort, and consultation for other professionals.
10. Engage in self-reflection as a basis for professional growth and improved patient care.
11. Utilize current evidence from the literature as a basis for clinical decision-making.
12. Integrate professional, legal and ethical standards of care acknowledging personal accountability for decision-making in nurse anesthesia practice.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE WITH NURSE ANESTHESIA SPECIALTY

[See Link to DNP curriculum](#)

ACCREDITATION

The DNP 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 DNP 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 May 2022)

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. If a student does not meet the minimum of a B- (80) in any graduate NURS course (s)he will be required to retake the course before advancing in the curriculum. Additionally, the student will be placed on academic probation and will be unable to progress until the deficit is remediated. Graduate students may repeat a nursing course only once after withdrawing from it or not achieving a B-.

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 laboratory or clinical practice site will undergo review by the Graduate Academic Standards and Progressions Committee and may be dismissed from the program. Students may also be immediately removed from the clinical site, undergo review by the Undergraduate Academic Standards and Progressions Committee and/or be dismissed from the program under the following conditions:

1. Clinical performance endangering patient safety;
2. Use of drugs / alcohol rendering the student unfit for safe and competent clinical performance and endangering patient safety;
3. Physical health and/or mental health problems rendering the student unfit for safe and competent clinical performance and endangering patient safety;
4. Unprofessional behavior in the clinical setting; and /or
5. Behavior that violates the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

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 Faculty to insure completion of all required experiences. Although most clinical sites are commuting distance from Boston College, some clinical sites may require that the student secure housing nearer to the facility at their own expense. New clinical sites may be developed at any time to allow students to obtain required cases and 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

Participation in all classroom and clinical activities is essential to successful completion of the Nurse Anesthesia 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.

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

[D.N.P. in Nurse Anesthesia \(bc.edu\)](http://bc.edu)

Clinical Hours

Clinical time should not exceed 50 hours per week averaged over 4 weeks. Students are expected and encouraged to avail themselves of appropriate 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 the Doctor of Nursing Practice Committee. 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.

Costs

Additional costs for which the student is responsible include, but are not limited to: student nurse anesthetist malpractice insurance, Typhon Case Tracking System, BLS, ACLS, PALS recertification's, transportation and parking at Boston College and clinical sites, housing convenient to Boston College and clinical sites as assigned. Students must maintain RN licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New Hampshire. There is always the possibility that licensure in other states may be required.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Project

Group DNP projects and participants are assigned by the program faculty with student input in the Spring of year two. Faculty oversight of projects will include both core and anesthesia faculty and may include project leaders from organizational sponsors. Student groups may request three (3) additional project days per semester to facilitate project completion. Dissemination of completed projects will include a poster presentation as scheduled by faculty.

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 routine use of electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and smart phones in the operating room except as permitted by individual clinical sites for patient care purposes.

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 Formative 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 formative evaluation must be written by the preceptor. These evaluations will be kept on file program faculty offices. 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.

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
Patriots' Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth
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 **15 personal days** once the clinical portion of the program has begun which may be utilized for illness, weather, interviews, re-certifications, or other personal needs. It is advisable that where possible these days are not taken during a specialty rotation. ***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 15 days must be made up prior to the conclusion of the program as scheduled by program administration. 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) and Cheryl Walrod (walrodc@bc.edu) Program Assistant ***a minimum of 1 month 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 notify their clinical sites as directed by the clinical coordinator. They must also email both the Program Assistant for the Nurse Anesthesia Program and Susan Emery (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 Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Student Handbook Addendum* will be reviewed annually and 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

1. You are an accomplished professional with a license to practice nursing. Your nursing practice is now expanding as you assume the role of a Nurse Anesthetist.
 - 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. Routine use of 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
 - 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
4. Should a student become aware of a risk to patient safety, the student **MUST** **IMMEDIATELY** report this to his/her preceptor, the clinical coordinator, and program administration. There are **NO** exceptions to this policy.

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

*See link to [anesthesia program website](#) with specific year dates listed

- 1st Year: Students will follow the academic calendar for time off
- 2nd Year: Summer – week off following the conclusion of pre-clinical (usually falls the first week of July); August week off (week prior to start of Fall semester)
 Thanksgiving break – Thursday (Thanksgiving Day) & Friday (Day after holiday) off
 Christmas break – week after Fall semester ends & Christmas week (return to clinical week of January 2nd)
- 3rd Year: Summer – 2 weeks in August (prior to Fall semester)
 Christmas break – week after Fall semester ends & Christmas week (return to clinical week of January 2nd)

****Vacation time for academic year 2024-2025 will be announced when Boston College publishes the academic and summer calendar for that year.**