

DNP Nurse Anesthesia Minimum Technical Standards

To ensure applicants are prepared for both the nurse anesthesia program and the profession, they must demonstrate the ability to perform the essential functions and tasks required of a certified registered nurse anesthetist. These abilities are necessary for success in academic training and clinical practice.

Sensory

- Distinguish human responses to disease using visual, auditory, tactile, and other sensory cues.
- Identify changes in monitoring devices and alarms through visual and auditory senses.
- Possess vision, hearing, and tactile skills to observe patient condition and perform physical exams, including inspection, auscultation, and palpation.
- Demonstrate sufficient visual acuity, with or without correction, to accurately observe, assess, and monitor patients at both near and far distances; interpret patient responses and clinical findings; and safely read medication labels, monitors, diagnostic images, anesthesia equipment, and electronic health records.
- Demonstrate sufficient auditory acuity, with or without correction, to accurately perceive, interpret, and respond to verbal communication, monitor alarms, breath and heart sounds, and other clinically significant sounds necessary for the safe administration and monitoring of anesthesia care.

Motor

- Coordinate gross and fine motor skills and integrate touch and vision to safely provide general, regional, and monitored anesthesia care (MAC) anesthesia, while managing multiple patient needs.
- Perform tasks include inserting venous and arterial vascular access, administering regional anesthesia, managing airways, and promptly responding to emergencies.
- Have the physical strength for airway management and moving patients and equipment.
- Have the ability to maintain stamina to stand or sit for extended periods during procedures.
- Move safely in the operating room and other anesthetizing environments.
- Respond quickly to alarms and patient changes requiring physical intervention.

Cognitive

- Use reasoning, analysis, calculations, problem-solving, critical thinking, self-evaluation, and learning skills to understand and synthesize complex concepts
- Interpret auditory, written, and visual information to develop anesthetic management plans
- Apply theoretical knowledge to provide safe anesthesia care

Behavioral

- Exhibit ethical behavior, self-control, tact, sensitivity, compassion, honesty, integrity, empathy, and respect.
- Work effectively and adapt in stressful, fast-paced environments.
- Collaborate with the healthcare team to ensure a safe, therapeutic environment.
- Perform well under physically and mentally demanding workloads.
- Maintain stamina during mandatory rotations, including long hours, early mornings, evenings, on-call, and weekend shifts.
- Stand for extended periods during surgeries with limited opportunities for rests or breaks.

Communication:

- Demonstrate proficiency in verbal and non-verbal communication with patients, families, and healthcare professionals.
- Communicate clearly and effectively in English, both orally and in writing, with healthcare providers and patients of all ages.
- Be proficient in reading and writing English to meet academic and clinical documentation standards