

CM Program Code Master of Science in Anesthesia

Under Review | Fall 2023

Proposal Information

Workflow Status

In Progress

Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Rick Holmes

expand ▲

Proposal Information

Sponsoring faculty member ⓘ

Christopher Arndt, MD

Faculty email

carndt@salud.unm.edu

College

School of Medicine

Department

Anesthesiology and Critical
Care Medicine

Campus

Health Sciences Center
(Albuquerque)

Effective Term and Year

Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2023

Justification

Program Justification

Nationally, there are only fourteen accredited anesthesiologist assistant educational programs and five institutions that are currently seeking provisional accreditation (AAAEP, 2022). The CAA profession is continuing to grow rapidly causing a need for increased numbers of graduates from these programs each year. A 2021 study on anesthesiology supply and demand conducted by Merritt Hawkins displayed a need for anesthesia providers nationwide due to an aging population in providers and increased demand of anesthesia from delayed surgeries due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Merritt Hawkins, 2021). The need for anesthesiologist assistants is directly related to the shortages of physician anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). The excess of over 130 open anesthesia jobs within the State of New Mexico provides evidence of a dire need for increased anesthesia providers regionally (Gasworks, 2022). Due to the 28-month intense curriculum, a UNM AA program can aid in providing a quicker supply of competent anesthesia providers to fill the current and future gaps in anesthesia personnel within New Mexico and the Southwest region while also maximizing the abilities of the physician anesthesiologists on the anesthesia care team. CMS reimbursement for anesthesiologist assistants as non-physician anesthesia providers also allows for a greater pool of qualified anesthesia providers to be utilized while ensuring decreased costs in healthcare but maintained profits from surgical procedures (CMS, 2022).

Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs, AAAEP. (2022). Home page. <http://www.aaep.org/>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS. (March 2022). Advanced practice: Registered nurses, anesthesiologist assistants, & physician assistants. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1244981>

Merritt Hawkins. (2021). Anesthesiology: Supply, demand, and recruiting plans. <https://www.merritthawkins.com/uploadedFiles/anesthesiology-white-paper-merritt-hawkins-2021.pdf>

Associated Forms

Select any associated course forms that exist

ANES 500 - Introduction to Clinical Anesthesia (4) | **Under Review**

ANES 501 - Medical Terminology (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 503 - Introduction to Anesthesia Delivery Systems (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 502 - General Anatomy & Physiology (3) | **Under Review**

ANES 505 - Pharmacology for Anesthesia I (3) | **Under Review**

ANES 508 - Anesthesia Skills Lab & Simulation I (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 517 - Anesthesia Principles & Practice I (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 518 - Anesthesia Skills Lab & Simulation II (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 520 - Clinical Anesthesia Experience I (4) | **Under Review**

ANES 515 - Pharmacology for Anesthesia II (3) | **Under Review**

ANES 526 - Advanced Technical Skills & Patient Assessment (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 523 - Principles of Clinical Instrumentation & Patient Monitoring II (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 524 - Cardiac Electrophysiology (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 527 - Anesthesia Principles & Practice II (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 522 - Clinical Decision Making II (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 521 - Medical Spanish (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 528 - Anesthesia Skills Lab & Simulation III (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 532 - Regional Anesthesia (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 534 - Liver, Endocrine, & Renal Physiology (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 541 - Ethics, Law, & Diversity (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 537 - Anesthesia Principles & Practice III (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 538 - Anesthesia Skills Lab & Simulation IV (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 576 - Senior Seminar II (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 504 - Principles of Airways (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 506 - Basic Technical Skills & Patient Assessment (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 512 - Clinical Decision Making I (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 513 - Principles of Clinical Instrumentation & Patient Monitoring I (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 514 - Respiratory Physiology (2) | **Under Review**

ANES 530 - Clinical Anesthesia Experience II (3) | **Under Review**

ANES 540 - Clinical Anesthesia Experience III (6) | **Under Review**

ANES 546 - Medical Humanities & Sociology II (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 550 - Clinical Anesthesia IV (15) | **Under Review**

ANES 551 - Anesthesia Review I (1) | **Under Review**

ANES 560 - Clinical Anesthesia V (12) | **Under Review**

Select any associated program forms that exist

ANES 561 - Anesthesia Review II (1) | **Under Review**
ANES 566 - Senior Seminar I (1) | **Under Review**
ANES 570 - Clinical Anesthesia VI (15) | **Under Review**

Program Category and Level

Program Category Program	Program Level Graduate	Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name Master of Science in Anesthesia
New Graduate Program Yes	Dual Degree No	New Undergrad Degree/Certificate No

Catalog Information

Program Description

The Master of Science in Anesthesia degree is a 28-month didactic and clinical curriculum that prepares learners for certification as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants. This master's level program is meant to prepare competent entry-level anesthesiologist assistants in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains who will practice in the anesthesia care team model. Curriculum for this program includes 28 months of intensive didactic sessions complemented by clinical rotations. Students will learn to provide safe and efficacious anesthesia care to patients of all ages and degrees of illness for a complete range of surgical procedures and subspecialties including (but not limited to): cardiac, neurology, obstetrics, orthopedics, pediatrics, regional anesthesia, trauma, and vascular. The program curriculum and clinical requirements prepares students for the certification examination offered by the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

Admissions Requirements

- **Prior to matriculation, earned a Bachelor's degree in any area of study from an institution accredited by the Commission on Colleges of a Regional Accrediting Organization**
- **GPA**
 - Cumulative last 60 credit hours minimum 3.0
 - Will be calculated from all subject areas taken in the most recent 60 credits
 - Pre-reqs minimum 3.0, preferred 3.2
 - Total cumulative preferred 3.0

**Undergraduate and graduate coursework factors into GPAs. Only coursework completed at the time of application submissions will be factored into all GPAs. All attempts of courses that fall within the parameters of each GPA calculation are factored into GPAs for admission to the AA program, regardless of whether the course was repeated or the grade was "replaced."*

- **Required Prerequisite Courses** (must be completed within the past 7 years unless otherwise noted or must be completed by date of matriculation; courses must be taken at a regionally-accredited community college or university in the United States for a letter grade):
 - 1 year Biology with lab (minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours)
 - 1 year General Chemistry with lab (minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours)
 - 1 semester Organic Chemistry with lab, preferred 1 year of Organic Chemistry with lab (minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours)
 - 1 year Physics with lab (minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours)
 - 1 semester Biochemistry **completed within the past 5 years* (minimum 3 semester credit hours / 4 quarter hours)
 - 1 semester Statistics (minimum 3 semester credit hours / 4 quarter hours)
 - 1 semester of Human Anatomy & Physiology **completed within the past 5 years* (minimum 3 semester credit hours / 4 quarter hours)
 - preferred-1 semester of Cellular & Molecular Biology
 - preferred-1 semester of English
 - preferred- 1 semester of Psychology
- **AP courses** will be accepted if the applicant scored a 4 or higher on the AP exam and received at least a B or higher within the course
- **Foreign national applicants** who would like to be considered for admission are expected to have the equivalent of at least two years of full-time undergraduate or graduate studies at an accredited college or university in the United States, and to have all the same required course prerequisites.
- **Standardized Admissions Tests**
 - Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE): must be taken within three years of the application submission. When an applicant has taken the MCAT or GRE more than once, component scores will not be combined.
 - Casper: 60-90 minute online, open-response situational judgment test
 - Prior to application, all applicants are required to complete the online Casper assessment utilizing the Altus Suite
 - **Clinical Anesthesia Shadowing Experience**
 - Prior to application, applicants must complete at least eight hours of verified shadowing with either a Physician Anesthesiologist (MD or DO), Anesthesiologist Resident, Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) or ability to provide a statement in why hours could not be completed
 - If students are having trouble finding shadowing opportunities it is recommended that they contact the program office for advice and help in finding a location.
 - **Letters of Recommendation**
 - Submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's ability and personal character as they relate to the pursuit of graduate study and a career as an anesthesiologist assistant.

- Letters from family or friends will not be accepted.
- **Resume/CV**
 - Applicants are required to submit a current CV (curriculum vitae) or resume as part of their application.
- **Personal Statement**
 - Applicants are required to submit a personal statement. This document should focus on explaining your motivation for selecting a career in healthcare and, specifically, why you're interested in becoming a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant
- **Physical and Technical Requirements**
 - Each student must possess general abilities required of most healthcare practitioners, and specific abilities that relate more directly to the practice of anesthesia. Essential requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - motor skills: physical dexterity to master all technical and procedural aspects of patient care, and adequate motor capability to perform complex two-handed tasks.
 - sensory abilities: ability to gather all relevant information about a patient's physical and psychosocial status with all five senses, especially sight, hearing and touch.
 - intellectual abilities: must have sufficient powers of intellect to acquire, assimilate, integrate and apply information; must have the intellectual ability to solve problems.
 - communication skills: must have sufficient use of speech, hearing and vision to communicate effectively with patients, teachers and peers in both oral and written forms.
 - professionalism: must exhibit professional behavior, including the ability to place others' needs ahead of your own; display compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, responsibility and tolerance. Must possess the ability to exercise the requisite judgment in the practice of anesthesia.
 - physical health: must possess the physical health and stamina needed to carry out the program of AA education.
 - A disability does not preclude a student from admission, and the MSA Program makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. However, each enrolled student is expected to demonstrate, without unreasonable dependence on technology or intermediaries, the skills and attributes outlined in the program's Physical & Technical Requirements policy.
- **Interviews**
 - A portion of qualified applicants will be invited for an interview with the UNM AA Program admissions committee. Interviews will be offered on a rolling basis.

The UNM Anesthesiologist Assistant Program utilizes a holistic application review process. Overall qualities of all applicants will be reviewed and the highest consideration will be given to applicants who are:

- Residents of New Mexico and the Southwestern United States
- Demonstrate alignment with program mission and values
- Have an excellent academic record
- Have prior healthcare experience
- Provide qualified and compelling personal references
- Have demonstrated commitment to community through service work
- Have served in the United States Military

Graduation Requirements

- Satisfactorily complete all required coursework of the Master of Science in Anesthesia degree program
- Continued demonstration of ethical and moral behavior
- Adherence to all federal, state, and local laws
- Adherence to the rules, regulations, and university policies of the University of New Mexico
- Be in good standing at graduation

Program Information

Degree Type

Master of Science in Anesthesia

Program Type

Graduate

CIP Code ⓘ

51.0809

CIP Title ⓘ

Anesthesiologist Assistant

Plan Options

Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

Licensure Information

Pre-licensure

Professional credential or licensure description

To obtain professional certification as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant through the Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA), one must:

- Graduate from a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited anesthesiologist assistant program
- Successfully pass the Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants administered by National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)

File Uploads

Proposal File Upload

- Adams_J_UNMLetterSupport_SurgeonGeneral.pdf
- Bassi_R_UNMLetterSupport_IU_AAprogram.pdf
- Escudero_R_UNMLetterSupport_CommunityMD.pdf
- Garson_L_UNMLetterSupport_CommunityMD.pdf
- Hernandez_A_UNMSupportLetter_PS.pdf
- Holland_A_UNMLetterSupport_CU_AAprogram.pdf
- Hunt_L_UNMLetterSupport_CommunityMD.pdf
- Johnson_N_UNMSupportLetter_CommunityMD.pdf
- Khurshid_A_UNMLetter_NMSAA.pdf
- Koerper_K_UNMLetterSupport_CommunityMD.pdf
- Miller_C_UNMSupportLetter_PS.pdf
- NMAAA_UNMLetterSupport_State.pdf
- NMSA_UNMLetterSupport_State.pdf
- Ortiz_G_UNMLetter_NMCAA.pdf
- Rainosek_M_AASchoolLetter_CommunityMD.pdf
- SJRMC_UNMSupportLetter_CommunityAnesthesiaPractice.pdf
- Solove_G_UNMSupportLetter_CommunityMD.pdf
- Tindol_K_UNMLetterSupport_South_AAprogram.pdf
- Valencia_M_UNMLetter_NMCAA.pdf
- UNM_AAProgram_Proforma_Sep22.xlsx
- UNM_AA_graduate_progam_newhedO22.docx
- MSA Curriculum Delivery Plan_E.docx

Executive Summary Upload

- UNM_AAProgram_ExecutiveSummary_F.docx

Associate Provost

Memo

- Letter to HED 5.4.22.docx

Degree Information

Degree Hours

116

Minimum Major Hours

Professional Accrediting Bodies

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements

- Earned at least this many total credits: 116

Concentrations

Program Concentrations

Code

Title

Concentration Required

N/A

Emphases

Emphasis required ⓘ

N/A

Emphasis Hours**Emphasis Rules**

No Rules

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrates knowledge in medical sciences that are needed as a foundation for the clinical role of a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant. These sciences include anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, and pharmacology.
- Demonstrates competency in medical biophysics specific for anesthesia practice and patient care
- Demonstrates patient advocacy, appropriate preoperative preparation, and utilization of point of care testing to ensure focused patient care
- Provides communication, collaboration, and professional practice within an anesthesia care team
- Demonstrates preparedness in emergency anesthetic care