

## **FAQ's about the ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Program must meet the admission requirements for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Graduate School and the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

These requirements are:

- Applicants must hold an appropriate Baccalaureate Degree to be considered for admission to the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Degrees must be completed and final transcripts must be submitted by the April 1st deadline. Appropriate degrees include the areas of, nursing, biophysical, biological or behavioral sciences.

**The bachelor's degree does not have to be in nursing. You may have an associates degree in nursing and a bachelor's in one of the areas described above.**

- Overall GPA of 2.75 or higher.

**Because of the number of applicants, a GPA of 3.0 – 3.2 or higher in science and/or math courses is needed to be competitive. Please remember that you are applying to a Master of Science program. You need to demonstrate that you can manage the courses we offer. If your only science courses were taken with your associates degree, please consider taking additional bachelor's or master's level science and/or math coursework. Courses that will help you with your anesthesia degree include chemistry (organic or inorganic), biochemistry, physics, calculus, algebra, statistics or pharmacology. If you live in the area, we would welcome you to take courses in our BSN program if needed. The science/math GPA is evaluated by the GNA department.**

- Current licensure as a Professional Registered Nurse in the State of Minnesota, or eligible for reciprocity.

**Your nursing license must be un-encumbered, no restrictions or suspensions. You must be able to pass a MN criminal background study.**

- A minimum of one year of experience in a critical care setting.

**This experience may or may not be current. One to two years at the time of application to the nurse anesthesia program is the required minimum.**

**Critical care means adult, pediatric or neonatal intensive care or emergency department in a level one trauma center. The applicant must possess skills in hemodynamic monitoring, pharmacologic intervention with vasopressors, vasodilators, cardiac inotropes and cardiac and hemodynamic monitoring graphics interpretation, ventilator management**

**Recovery room, post-anesthesia care, non-trauma center ER, telemetry, dialysis, surgery, CV lab or step-down units are not acceptable types of experience.**

- Three completed professional reference statements.
  - a. One from current work supervisor
  - b. Two professional references

**References from peers who work with you are preferred.**

- A completed applicant file by the application deadline.

**The file must be complete and in the Admissions Office by the deadline. You will be given the information you need to follow-up on your application with the department, please do so. We cannot be responsible for materials that are not submitted by the deadline.**

- Successful completion of a personal interview.
- Physical examination and record of immunizations.

**This does not need to be submitted until the applicant is accepted in the program. There is a program form for health status and immunization. Please do not use the general university form as it does not provide enough information for our clinical sites.**

All students are required to have a physical examination prior to starting the Program. Documented immunity to communicable disease is also required prior to the student's involvement in hospital activities. Serum titers that are required include rubella, rubeola, varicella, hepatitis B and mumps. Vaccination will be required in non-immune students.

A TB test is also required each year. Students must have a negative TB test or have evidence that the she/he has received treatment for a positive test.

This policy meets or exceeds the Standards and Guidelines set by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Return the completed Application Form together with a non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 to:

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota / Admissions Department  
2500 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-4403

All applicable college and nursing school transcripts are to be sent directly to the address listed above. All application materials must be received by the program before April 1st for candidates to be considered for a personal interview. The program reviews applications once a year and accepts qualified applicants into the next available class.

If selected, attend a personal interview.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Since the class size is limited, candidates who meet the minimum admission requirement may not be selected. The admissions committee will select the most qualified applicants based on the following criteria:

- The completed application and supporting material.
- Previous academic performance.
- Demonstrated success as a professional Registered Nurse in a critical care area.
- The ability to perform all anticipated tasks relevant to the practice of Nurse Anesthesia.
- Successful completion of the interview process demonstrating personal traits indicative of success in the program.

Note: Applicants will be screened and the most qualified individuals will be invited for an interview.

**This is a competitive process. Many applications are submitted each year. (This varies year to year but generally 3-4 application for every slot we have to offer) You may meet the qualifications but not be accepted because the quality of the applications and/or interview of those who were accepted. If you are looking to improve your chances we suggest that you assess and improve your science/math GPA and/or submit evidence of:**

- certification in your nursing specialty (CCRN or TNCC)**
- taking and passing the CCRN or TNCC certification exam**
- current ACLS, ATLS, PALS, NALS, or NRP certification**
- community service work**

### **TRANSFER INTO THE PROGRAM**

Transfer into the Nurse Anesthesia Program is handled on an individual basis and credit for previous anesthesia education is not guaranteed.