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 associate's 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 3.1 – 3.3 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 associate's 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. The science/math GPA is evaluated by the GNA department.

- Official transcripts, issued to Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, from the school(s) that conferred your degree in nursing, your Bachelor's degree (if granted by a different institution), and the required chemistry prerequisite. Any transcript that you believe will enhance your application (i.e., additional science/math courses) will be accepted and included with your application.

- Current licensure as a Professional Registered Nurse in the State of Minnesota, or eligible for reciprocity. Proof of licensure is required within one month of acceptance into the program.

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 or pediatric 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, neo-natal ICU, dialysis, surgery, CV lab or step-down units are not acceptable types of experience.
- A transcript for an organic or inorganic chemistry course completed with a letter grade of “B” or better in the last 5 years. Entry level community or junior college level courses will not be accepted.

Please list this course in the Academic Evaluation form.

- A completed Academic Evaluation Form. All science and math coursework should be entered as directed. Each course must be supported by the transcripts that have been submitted.

- A completed electronic application by the application deadline (April 1st).

The electronic application must be complete and all transcripts in the Admissions Office by the deadline. You may check the status of your application through the electronic system. Materials that are not submitted by the deadline can only be considered for the following year’s application process.

- Physical examination and record of immunizations.

This does not need to be submitted until after you are accepted into 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 2 Step 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. See the student handbook for the procedure for students with positive TB tests.

T-Dap and annual flu immunization is required by clinic sites.

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

**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.

Note: Applicants will be screened and the most qualified individuals selected.

This is a competitive process. Many applications are submitted each year. (This varies year to year but generally 3-6 applications for every slot we have to offer) You may meet the qualifications but not be accepted because the quality of the other application files or qualifications of the others who applied. 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 additional science coursework in science beyond what was required for your nursing degree and beyond junior or community college

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.