

# Comparison: AA, CRNA Training/Practice

## Anesthesiologist Assistants

## Nurse Anesthetists

<b>Description of Practice</b>	Medically directed by a physician Anesthesiologist	Supervision by physician of unspecified specialty (excluding Opt-Out states)
<b>Model of Practice</b>	Anesthesia Care Team	Anesthesia Care Team, supervision by any physician, or independent practice without supervision (Opt Out states)
<b>Distribution of Providers</b>	1500+ Certified AAs in 18 states (plus District of Columbia) and Veteran's Administration system	36,000 CRNAs in all 50 states and Veteran's Administration system
<b>Programs</b>	10 (in 7 states, plus District of Columbia)	114 (in 37 states, plus DC and PR)
<b>Program Length</b>	24-28 months	24-36 months
<b>Type of Program</b>	Master's degree (specific degree title unique to each program)	Masters degree (specific degree title unique to each program)
<b>Certifying Body</b>	National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants; National Board of Medical Examiners	Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists
<b>National Organization</b>	American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) <a href="http://www.anesthetist.org">www.anesthetist.org</a>	American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
<b>Admission Requirements</b>	BS Degree Premedical curriculum GPA > 3.0 Completion of Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE), dependent on each program's individual requirements; Previous health care experience preferable; Personal interview	BN Degree Science curriculum for general practice nursing GPA 3.0 Licensure as a registered nurse Minimum 1 year of nursing experience in acute care setting Personal interview
<b>Program Requirements</b>	Academic faculty with medical school appointment; Medical Director is a board-certified physician Anesthesiologist; Programs located in academic facilities that meet anesthesia residency requirements for physicians	Faculty includes MDs, CRNAs, and graduate nurses; Program Director must possess a master's degree
<b>Program Accreditation</b>	Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Accreditation Review Committee for Anesthesiologist Assistants (ARC-AA)	Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs
<b>Didactic Education</b>	56-132 didactic hours (depends on program)	34-80 didactic hours (depends on program)
<b>Clinical Education</b>	Minimum of 2000 clinical hours (average > 2500 hrs)	Minimum of 550 cases (average ~1000+ hours)
<b>Clinical Rotations</b>	All sub-specialties of anesthesia	All sub-specialties of anesthesia
<b>Advanced Skills</b>	Regional anesthesia and invasive line placement	Regional anesthesia and invasive line placement
<b>Clinical Instructors</b>	AAs, CRNAs, Anesthesiologists, Anesthesiologist Residents in training	CRNAs and Anesthesiologists
<b>Recertification</b>	40 CMEs submitted biennially + sit for Continued Demonstration of Qualifications Exam (CDQ) every 6 years; Set by the National Board of Medical Examiners	40 CMEs submitted biannually (every 10 year recertification exam will commence in 2015)
<b>Graduation Requirements</b>	3.0 GPA or better; good class standing; All course semester and clinical requirements completed	All course semester and clinical requirements completed