

Career Information



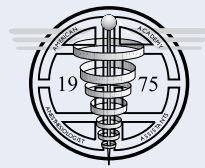
For Prospective Anesthesiologist Assistants

The profession maintains a typical work week with options for on-call, evening or weekend assignments. Salaries, scope of practice and job descriptions are identical to certified registered nurse anesthetists when working within the Anesthesia Care Team. Starting salaries vary by region but typically range from \$110,000 - \$120,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Pretesting and calibrating of anesthesia delivery systems and monitors
- Collecting preoperative data and performing physical examinations
- Inserting venous, arterial and other invasive catheters
- Any duties which encompass assistance of the implementation of the anesthetic plan as prescribed by the anesthesiologist
- Airway management including intubation, fiberoptics
- Making anesthetic adjustments using intraoperative monitoring modalities
- Providing safe transition from operating room to recovery area
- Performing functions in the intensive care unit and pain clinic
- Participating in administrative affairs, research and clinical instruction

See reverse for educational requirements



Courtesy of the

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants



Anesthesiologist Assistants are highly educated allied health professionals who work under the direction of licensed anesthesiologists to develop and implement anesthesia care plans. Anesthesiologist Assistants work exclusively within the Anesthesia Care Team environment as described by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). AAs are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as advanced patient monitoring techniques.

Anesthesiologist Assistant educational programs are based on the masters degree model and require at least two full academic years. Programs are required to be co-directed by board certified anesthesiologists. AA educational programs accept students who have prior education in the sciences that would qualify the student to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, or one of the basic medical sciences. Students are taught course work that enhances their basic science knowledge in physiology, pharmacology, anatomy, and biochemistry with special emphasis on the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, nervous, and neuromuscular systems. Clinical instruction educates students extensively in patient monitoring, anesthesia delivery systems, life support systems, and patient assessment as well and in the skills needed to provide compassionate, quality care.

Employment Outlook

- Multiple job offers before graduation
- Average 5 weeks vacation per year
- Generous sign on bonuses
- Pension and profit sharing
- Medical, dental, malpractice, disability, and life insurance
- Annual educational stipends possible



The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) is the national organization for Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA). AAAA representatives are available to answer questions you may have about AAs or the AA educational process.

Please feel free to contact us for further information.

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Education

- 24-28 month graduate programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
- Master of Science/Medical Science Degree
- Minimum 63 didactic hours and 2000 clinical training hours
- Clinical anesthesia experience in all of the surgical specialties including:

Cardiothoracic	Obstetrics
Vascular	Gynecology
Neurosurgery	Pediatrics
General	Orthopedics
Ambulatory	

- Certification examination administered by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA)
- 40 hours Continuing Medical Education Credits required every 2 years and Continued Demonstration of Qualifications Exam required every 6 years for re-certification.

Generic Admission Requirements

(Individual program-specific prerequisites vary. Visit each program's web site for details.)

- Baccalaureate degree with the following premedical curriculum requirements

Biochemistry	1 Semester
Biology	2 Semesters
Calculus	1 Semester*
Chemistry	2 Semesters
English.....	1 Semester
Organic Chemistry.....	2 Semesters*
Physics.....	2 Semesters
Statistics	1 Semester

**Required semester hours are program dependent and additional courses may be necessary.*

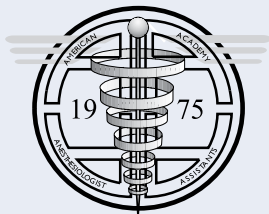
- GRE and/or MCAT scores within 3-5 years of application depending on program
- Average GPA of accepted applicants above 3.0

Application

- Deadlines for application are program dependent
- Classes start in June, August or January
- Non-refundable application and acceptance fees are program specific

Tuition

- Approximately \$28,000 - \$36,000 per year plus \$2,400 per year for books and supplies
- NCCAA Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants- \$1400
- Financial aid available



For information on Anesthesiologist Assistant programs, please see the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants' web site at

www.anesthetist.org