

A photograph of an anesthesiologist in a surgical setting. The anesthesiologist is wearing a blue surgical cap, a white face mask, and blue scrubs. They are holding a medical device, possibly a ventilator or a similar piece of equipment. In the background, other medical professionals in blue scrubs and surgical caps are visible, along with medical equipment and a clock on the wall. The text "Anesthesiologist Assistants" is overlaid in white on the image.

Anesthesiologist Assistants

Education and Practice

What is an
Anesthesiologist
Assistant?

A certified anesthesiologist assistant (AA-C) is a skilled person qualified by advanced academic and clinical education who has successfully completed a national certification exam to provide anesthetic care under the direction of a qualified anesthesiologist.

Practice Authorization

- Delegatory Authority
 - Allows licensed physicians to delegate tasks to allied health care providers. This authority usually resides within the Medical Practice Act or other Health Care statutes.
- Licensure/Statutory Authority
 - State authorizes practitioners under statutes as defined by state legislative process and regulated by state medical board



Patterns of Practice

- AAs may only work under medical direction of an Anesthesiologist
- Supervising Ratios
 - CMS
 - Anesthesiologist may supervise up to 4 anesthetizing locations
 - State/Local Options may alter this ratio

ASA Statement on AA Practice

"AAs and anesthesia nurses have identical patient care responsibilities and technical capabilities--a view in harmony with their equivalent treatment under the Medicare Program"

Excerpt from: STATEMENT COMPARING ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT AND NURSE ANESTHETIST EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Committee of Origin: Anesthesia Care Team

(Approved by the ASA House of Delegates on October 17, 2007, and last amended on October 17, 2012)

Pathway from Education to Practice



Certification

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a yellow pencil, pointing at a multiple-choice question on a test paper. The question is partially visible, showing options A, B, C, and D. The background is slightly blurred, showing other questions and options.

**National Commission for Certification
of Anesthesiologist Assistants**



Initial Certification

- Graduate from CAAHEP accredited AA educational program
- National Certification Exam
 - National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA)
 - Administered & scored by NBME

Continued Certification

- Continued Demonstration of Qualification Exam
 - Required to maintain certification
 - Every 6 years
- Minimum of 40 CME hours every 2 years

Education

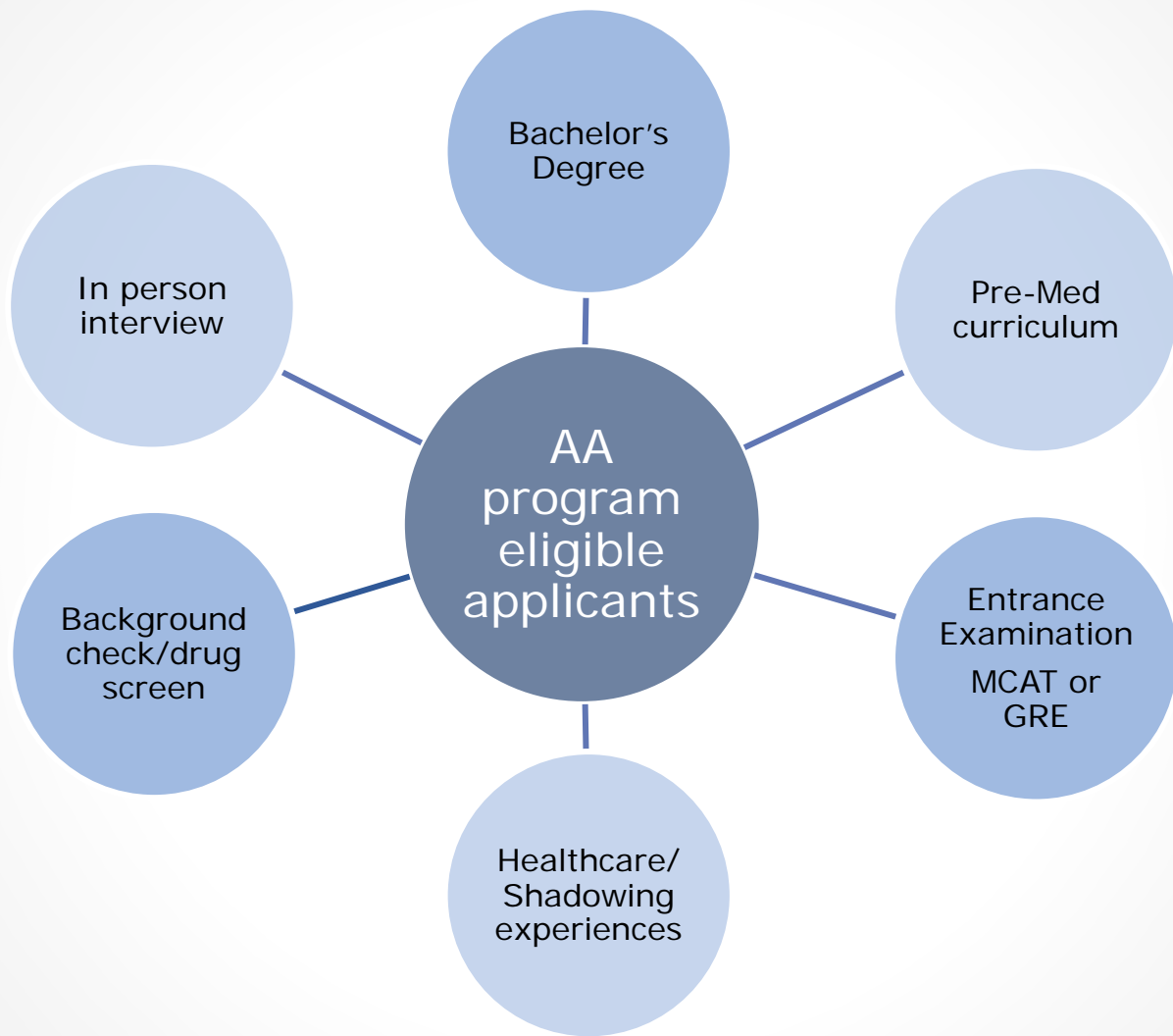


Program Design

- Affiliation with a medical school
- Administration
 - Medical Director
 - Board certified anesthesiologist
 - Program Director
 - AA-C

Accreditation & Length

- Programmatic accreditation awarded by Commission for the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
- Minimum 24 month duration and award a Master's degree



Didactic Curriculum Content

- Anatomy
- Applied Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Patient Monitoring and Instrumentation
- Pharmacology
- Clinical Anesthesia
- Physics of Anesthesia
- Pre-Anesthetic Evaluation

Simulation

- All AA Programs utilize high-fidelity patient simulation
 - Task Training
 - Full scenario/case management
 - Debriefing
 - Assessment tool











Clinical Education

- Minimum of 2000 clinical contact hours
- Clinical rotations during all phases of education
- Specialty rotations
 - Pediatrics
 - Cardiothoracic
 - Trauma
 - Obstetrics
 - ICU
 - Outpatient

Training Programs



Emory University



- Atlanta, GA



Case Western Reserve University

- Cleveland, OH
- Houston, TX
- Washington DC



Nova Southeastern University



- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Tampa, FL



Quinnipiac University



- North Haven, CT



South University



- Savannah, GA



University of Missouri Kansas City

 **UMKC School
of Medicine**

- Kansas City, MO



University of Colorado Denver



- Aurora, CO





www.anesthetist.org

AAAA 38th Annual Conference



April 12-15 , 2014

The Westin on Hilton Head Island, SC

