

## **Nurse Anesthesia Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Is the program full-time or part-time?**

The Nurse Anesthesia program is a full-time program. Students are required to attend both day and evening classes. It may be possible to work during the first couple of semesters in the program, but once a student begins clinicals, working is strongly discouraged.

### **2. When is the application deadline? Do you accept applications after the deadline?**

The application deadline for the Nurse Anesthesia program is June 1 for the following summer admission. All application items must be received by the deadline. We do not accept late applications.

### **3. What is the minimum GPA requirement for the program?**

When making admissions decisions, we review 3 different types of GPA calculations: Cumulative Bachelor's GPA, Nursing Course GPA, and Science Course GPA. Your Nursing Course GPA must be at least 3.0 in order to be considered for full admission. We prefer that your Cumulative GPA and your Science GPA are at least 3.0 as well.

### **4. Which physics and organic/biochemistry courses are acceptable as prerequisites for the CRNA program? Do I need to take labs with these courses?**

The appropriate prerequisite courses at SIUE are CHEM 120b and PHY 111. You do not need to take labs with these courses. If you need assistance determining if a course at another college or university is equivalent to CHEM 120b or PHY 111, please contact the Graduate Academic Advisor at 618-650-3930.

### **5. Do I need to take the GRE or another standardized test?**

No, we do not require any standardized tests for admission consideration.

### **6. Do I need to submit transcripts from every school I attended or just from the one at which I completed my Bachelor's degree?**

You must submit transcripts from EACH institution that you attended.

## **7. Can I take classes before I am officially admitted to the program?**

Sometimes students are able to take courses before they are officially admitted to one of the graduate specializations. Students who are interested in doing so should submit an Unclassified Graduate Application to the Office of Admissions. You will not have to pay an additional fee if you have already submitted an application to one of the graduate programs.

Please note that we are only able to accommodate unclassified graduate students in our classes AFTER our current students have enrolled. If we have space available in classes after current student enrollment, we will register unclassified students on a first-come, first-served basis.

To discuss taking courses as an unclassified graduate student, please contact the Graduate Academic Advisor at 618-650-3930.

## **8. What is the difference between a Master of Science degree and a Post-Master's Certificate?**

Students who have completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree should apply to the Master of Science (MS) program.

Students who have already completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree from an accredited program may apply to the Post-Master's Certificate program. Post-Master's students are reviewed individually to determine their program of study based upon equivalent MSN coursework.

## **9. Can I transfer courses taken at other universities to SIUE?**

A student is allowed to transfer up to 1/3 of the total required credit hours for a degree from unclassified status or from another university. Students who wish to transfer a course from another university will be required to submit a transcript showing successful completion of the course, as well as a course syllabus so we can determine equivalency. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to submit a syllabus for a potential transfer course PRIOR to taking it. Students must earn a grade of A or B in order for a course to be accepted from unclassified status or from another university.

## **10. What type of funding is available to graduate students?**

Prospective graduate students are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 618-650-3880 to discuss funding options. Any grant or scholarship opportunities that become available through the School of Nursing will be announced to students via email. Additional funding opportunities are available through the University Graduate School (<http://www.siu.edu/graduate/>).

**11. Can I meet with an advisor to discuss the graduate program in more detail?**

Prospective students are welcome to meet with the Graduate Academic Advisor to discuss the programs offered and the admission process. Please call 618-650-3930 to set up an appointment.

**12. What type of work experience is acceptable for admission eligibility for the Nurse Anesthesia program? Will experience other than ICU experience count? Do I have to have a full year's worth of experience before I apply to the program?**

Applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program should have at least one year of experience as a Registered Nurse in which the individual has had the opportunity to develop as an independent decision maker, and demonstrate psychomotor skills and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring techniques based on a knowledge of physiologic and pharmacological principles, such as in a critical care area. Further questions about work experience should be directed to the Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program at 618-650-3936 or the Coordinator of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at 618-650-2182.

**13. Do I have to complete my BSN degree before applying to the Nurse Anesthesia program?**

Applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program will preferably have completed their BSN prior to submitting an application to our program. However, questions regarding individual situations should be addressed by the Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program (618-650-3936) or the Coordinator of the Nurse Anesthesia Program (618-650-2182).

**14. Do I have to complete all the prerequisite courses (organic chemistry/biochemistry, physics, statistics, and undergraduate health assessment) before applying to the Nurse Anesthesia program?**

You do not have to complete the prerequisite courses by the time you apply to the Nurse Anesthesia program. However, all prerequisite courses must be completed before beginning coursework if you are admitted to the program.