



SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

Revised: 10/2012

Mission:

Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia is a graduate level institution that provides education in the art and science of nurse anesthesia. Our primary goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to develop as competent and safe quality anesthesia practitioners. We strive to assimilate new members into our profession through mentoring, serving as role models. We seek to provide quality experiences that enhance the learning experience through clinical hours as well as simulation experiences. We strive to produce the highest quality professionals to serve as future generations of nurse anesthetists

Philosophy--Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia

This educational program is designed to provide students with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to become proficient in the administration and management in the art of anesthesia.

We view the role of the anesthesia provider as one that recognizes the need to continually learn. We stress the importance of each individual providing optimal quality care as developed through the use of evidence-based practice findings. Students are expected to continually improve their knowledge and skill level to enhance their contribution to our profession.

The faculty members of Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia believe that each member is individually responsible for his/her own conduct. We expect that each student will exhibit professionalism, integrity, and compassion. We expect honesty from each student. We expect that the student functions to serve the patient as their first priority. We expect that safety and quality care are at the forefront of their actions. We expect that each student be motivated to use evidence-based practice in their daily activities. We expect that each student be accountable for their actions. And finally, we expect that each individual will continually build upon their knowledge and view learning as an ongoing process that will continually develop throughout their career.

Our primary goals are to:

1. Educate registered nurses in the theory, clinical practice, and art of anesthesia.
2. Educate these anesthetists to administer safe, effective quality anesthetics.
3. Instill in our students the need to be a team player in a multi-disciplinary health care arena.
4. Provide a desire in our graduates to continue to improve their skills by practice and further educational efforts.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Historical Aspects:

The School of Nurse Anesthesia, founded by the Dr. F. D. Edgar, Jr., Chief Anesthesiologist and Medical Director of Westmoreland Hospital, opened its doors in 1954 and graduated its first class of nurse anesthetists in 1955. During its history, the school has developed a comprehensive educational program supplemented by additional experience at Latrobe Hospital.

The affiliation with Latrobe began in 1965 under the coordination of Dr. U. W. Sipe, Chief Anesthesiologist and the school's name changed to Westmoreland-Latrobe Hospitals' School of Anesthesia.

In 1991, under the leadership of program director Howard F. Armour, CRNA, the school evolved into a graduate program resulting in a Masters of Health Science in Nurse Anesthesia. This degree was awarded from La Roche College in Pittsburgh, PA. The first class of Masters prepared nurse anesthetists graduated in 1993.

In 2006, Westmoreland, Frick, and Latrobe Hospitals formed a merger resulting in the Excelsa Health System. Once again the school's name changed to the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia. Also, in 2006, the school affiliated with Saint Vincent College, located in Latrobe, PA.

Over the years the enrollment in the program has dramatically increased from an initial class of 2 students to the 30 students we currently graduate annually.

The anesthesia school is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and Schools. Current accreditation: October, 2010 – October, 2018.

Currently the program has 20 clinical affiliates in a tri-state area available for student rotations:

The current staff of Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia includes: Director, Beverly J. Silvis, CRNA, MHS, MBA, DNP; Assistant Director, Michael DeBroeck, CRNA, MHS, DNP, Education Coordinator, Susan M. Tranchine, CRNA, MEd, PhD; and Jo Hursh, Administrative Assistant.

In 2013 the school plans to integrate a doctoral program with Saint Vincent College to award current Master's level CRNAs with a Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia.

Institution:

EXCELA HEALTH
532 West Pittsburgh Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Academic Affiliation:

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650

Policy for Transfer Students:

- It is our policy not to accept transfer students at this time.

Financial Aid

- Financial aid may be sought through various state and federal channels. The Financial Aid Office at Saint Vincent College can provide additional information. Please call (724) 805-2500.

Financial Obligations

- \$65.00 nonrefundable application fee (subject to change without notice).
- \$1600.00 matriculation fee upon acceptance (subject to change without notice).
- Tuition, books, and fees are approximately \$55,000.00 for 27 ½ months.
- Liability insurance is provided by the Hospital.
- The school does not provide hospitalization. However, hospitalization can be purchased through Saint Vincent College or the AANA.
- Students are required to become associate members of the AANA at the cost of \$200.00.
- Upon graduation, a fee is paid to the AANA Council on Certification to take the Certification Exam.

Outside Employment Policy

Students are permitted to apply for part-time employment, outside the scope of anesthesia practice, providing it does not interfere with the student's academic performance. Part-time employment is not guaranteed as part of school service. It is highly recommended that students do not work after the first semester.

Clinical Experience

Students will rotate between clinical sites, as assigned by the director. Students will gain experience in administration of general, regional, and IV sedation to patients of all acuities and ages.

Pre-Requisites:

- Registered Nurse
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, or related Bachelor's degree with RN associate degree or diploma
- **Minimum overall GPA of 3.00 or above;** based on a 4.00 scale
- Minimum of **one year critical care experience** prior to entrance to the school.
(CCU, ER, ICU, NICU, PACU, PICU, TICU, SICU)
- BLS certification (current)
- ACLS certification (current)
- Professional Resume
- Computer literacy; Microsoft Office, or equivalent, skills required.
- Three letters of professional reference; one must come from your current direct nurse manager.
- **GRE'S are required.** School DI Code: **0767**

ACADEMIC CALENDAR & CURRICULUM

27 ½ MONTH MASTER SCHEDULE

First semester students will follow the Saint Vincent College calendar. After the first semester the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia calendar will be followed until graduation.

First Year Students

Course 1 st Semester Credits Sept. - Dec.	Course 2 nd Semester Credits Jan. - May	Course 3 rd Semester Credits June - Aug.
HSC 500 Advanced Pharmacology 1 3	HSC 501 Advanced Pharmacology II 3	HSC 510 Methods of Research I 3
	HSC 504 Advanced Biochemistry 4	HSC 512 Medical Physics 4
HSC 503 Advanced Organic and Medicinal Chemistry 3	HSC 522 Advanced Human Anatomy Physiology and Pathophysiology II 5	HSC 530 Anesthesia Didactics Cardiac Pediatrics Neuro 6
HSC 505 Intro to Principles of Anesthesia 2	HSC 530 Anesthesia Didactics I Respiratory Digestive/Liver 0	Clinical Practicum
HSC 521 Advanced Human Anatomy Physiology and Pathophysiology I 5	Obstetrics	
HSC-001 Professional Aspects Of Anesthesia (14 contact hours) 0	Clinical Practicum	
HSC-515 Advanced Physical Assessment 2		

Second Year Students

Course 1 st Semester Credits Sept. - Dec.	Course 2 nd Semester Credits Jan. - May	Course 3 rd Semester Credits June - Dec.
HSC 612 Methods of Research II 3	HSC 655 Advanced Theory and Practice of Anesthesia 4	HSC 630 Anesthesia Didactics 6
HSC 630 Anesthesia Didactics Endocrine Excretory 0	HSC 710 Leadership & Management in Healthcare 3	Clinical Practicum
Clinical Practicum	HSC 630 Anesthesia Didactics 0	
	Clinical Practicum	

For further information, please feel free to contact:

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Director

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