



***MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

of

***EXCELA HEALTH SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA
813 LIGONIER STREET
LATROBE, PA 15650***

and

***SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE
300 FRASER PURCHASE ROAD
LATROBE, PA 15650***

Revised: 04/2010

Philosophy--Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia

Education is viewed as a continuing process that enables the individual to mature intellectually and culturally. Through the stimulation and guidance offered by the faculty, students are encouraged to develop qualities which enhance their contribution to their profession and society.

This 27 ½ month educational and scientific theory and the opportunity for clinical experience are supplemented by a sincere interest in helping each student develop the attitudes and motivation that will serve them well in their chosen career.

Our primary goals are to:

1. Educate registered nurses in the theory and clinical practice of anesthesia.
2. Educate these anesthetists to administer safe, effective anesthetics.
3. Provide a desire in our graduates to continue to improve their skills by practice and further educational efforts.

Philosophy of Graduate Education--Saint Vincent College

Saint Vincent College is committed to offering professional graduate education which will enable professional men and women to bring to their fields initiative, expertise in practice, a commitment to use their knowledge to effect improvements, and a desire to contribute to their fields of knowledge.

The central objective of graduate education at Saint Vincent College is to provide students with rigorous academic training designed 1) to prepare students to be advanced practitioners in professional fields; and 2) to provide students with a solid foundation for doctoral study.

To achieve these objectives, graduate programs at Saint Vincent will combine the teaching of advanced theory and advanced skills with the examination and application of theory and skills in practical situations. Case studies, simulations, clinicals, and internships will provide opportunities for practical experience.

Research is a critical component of graduate education. Graduate programs at Saint Vincent College will develop in students the ability to identify research problems as well as the ability to understand and apply methods to research problems in a given professional field. Saint Vincent graduate programs will provide students with opportunities to enhance their understanding of research and evidence-based practices.

Saint Vincent College's graduate programs will encourage the development of leadership in students as an important element in preparing contributing scholars and effective advanced practitioners in their respective fields. In all graduate programs, the meaning of leadership and the attendant skills will be examined as a part of the student's understanding of his or her professional role.

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, graduated its first class of nurse anesthetists in 1955. During its 53 year 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.

In 1991, the school established a Master of Science degree program for its students. The anesthesia school is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and Schools; current accreditation - October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2010.

CONTROLLING INSTITUTIONS:

Transition Chief Executive Officer: Excelsa health – Robert Rogalski, Esq.

EXCELA - Westmoreland Hospital

Ronald Ott - President

532 West Pittsburgh Street

Greensburg, PA 15601

JCAHO Approved

Member of the American Hospital Association

EXCELA - Latrobe Hospital

Peggy Hayden - President

121 West Second Street

Latrobe, PA 15650

President: Peggy Hayden

JCAHO Approved

Member of the American Hospital Association

EXCELA - Frick Hospital

Jeff Zewe - President

508 South Church Street

Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

President: Jeff Zewe

JCAHO Approved

Member of the American Hospital Association

AFFILIATING INSTUTIONS:

Members of the American Hospital Association

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL

320 East North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4772
Chief Executive Officer: Connie Cibrone

ALTOONA REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

620 Howard Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602
Chief Executive Officer: James W. Barner

CONEMAUGH VALLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1086 Franklin Street
Johnstown, PA 15905-4398
Chief Executive Officer: William Casey

DUBOIS REGINAL MEDICAL CENTER

P.O. Box 447
100 Hospital Avenue
DuBois, PA 15801
Chief Executive Officer: Raymond Graeca

FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL

Cleveland Clinic Health System
18101 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44111
Chief Executive Officer: Janice Murphy

HERITAGE VALLEY BEAVER HOSPITAL

100 Dutch Ridge Road
Beaver, PA 15009-9727
President and Chief Executive Officer: Norman F. Mitty

JEFFERSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

565 Coal Valley Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Chief Executive Officer: Tom Timcho

MONONGALIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

1200 J.D. Anderson Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505
Chief Executive Officer: Darryl Dunkin

AFFILIATING INSTUTIONS (Cont'd)

MONONGAHELA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Country Club Road
Monongahela, PA 15063-1095
Chief Executive Officer: Patrick J. Alberts

TRINITY HEALTH SYSTEM

400 Johnson Road
Steubenville, OH 43952
Chief Executive Officer and President: Fred B. Brower

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER

3 Hospital Plaza
Clarksburg, WV 26301
Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Carter

UNIONTOWN HOSPITAL

500 W. Berkeley Street
Uniontown, PA 15401-5596
Chief Executive Officer and President: Paul Bacharach

WEST PENN HOSPITAL

4800 Friendship Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15244
Chief Executive Officer: James Collins

WHEELING HOSPITAL

1 Medical Park
Wheeling, WV 26003
Chief Executive Officer: Ronald Violi

WPAH-FORBES REGIONAL

2570 Haymaker Road
Monroeville, PA 15146
Chief Executive Officer: Thomas Senker

WVU HEALTH SYSTEM – RUBY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Morgantown, WV 26506-9134
Chief Executive Officer: Fred Brower
President and Chief Executive Officer: Jeffery L. Neely

Academic Affiliation

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650

The Admission Requirements Shall Include the Following:

1. Current licensure as a registered professional nurse.
2. Minimum of one year of nursing experience in a critical care unit.
3. One of the following:
 - a. Baccalaureate degree in nursing.
 - b. Diploma or associate degree in nursing plus a baccalaureate degree other than a BSN, providing the program considers it appropriate.
4. Must have completed an undergraduate Statistics course within the past 10 years.
5. Must have completed an undergraduate General Chemistry, or Intro to Chemistry, within the past seven years.

Our students, because of the time spent in nursing, should presumably be more mature and, hence, capable of coping with the stresses inherent in the anesthesia situation. In addition to having the above requirements, applicants **must have an overall QPA of 3.0 or above** in their undergraduate degree. Applicant must be admitted to both the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia and Saint Vincent College.

Students will be selected on a Rolling Admission basis.. The students will complete 11 credits at Saint Vincent College from September to December prior to beginning instruction at Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia in January. The length of the anesthesia instruction at the hospital is 24 months. An additional 38 credits will be taken at during this 24-month period. Total length of this program is 27 ½ months.

Selection Criteria

As with any school of higher education, to be accepted and successfully complete the course, applicants should have a mature attitude, a pleasant personality, and good health. All applicants will be considered without regard to race, gender, color, ethnicity, creed, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, or any other factor protected by law.

An applicant must be interviewed by members of the Admissions Committee in order to be considered for admission. Selection will be made based on academic and clinical qualifications and recommendations of the admission interviewers.

Data For Student File

(to be sent directly to school)

- ☑ Anesthesia School Application (to include Summary, interest, and ability as requested on page 3 of application)
- ☑ Application Fee (\$65.00)
- ☑ Photocopy of current RN Licensure with expiration date (display portion for PA)
- ☑ Photocopy of current BLS card
- ☑ Photocopy of current ACLS card
- ☑ Photocopies of other professional certifications (PALS, CCRN, etc.)
- ☑ **Official** nursing school transcripts/college transcripts from **every** institution of higher learning attended
- ☑ Professional Resume
- ☑ Three (3) letters of reference from individuals able to evaluate clinical performance (**one reference must be from your current nurse manager**)

GRE's are not required.

Policy for Transfer Students

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

Maintenance and Time

- Room and board are not provided. Students are responsible for their own housing.
- The student is responsible for his/her own transportation to and from Saint Vincent and all clinical sites.
- Vacation, holidays, and sick time:
 - 13 Vacation days per year (includes sick time)
 - 7 Holidays per year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day
- Every student is given a free medical examination and drug screening to determine whether he/she is physically fit for the job. Admission will depend upon the passing of the physical examination and drug screening.
- A criminal background check will be done on all students admitted to the school.
- Leave of absence may be granted to students wishing to temporarily interrupt their academic program for personal reasons. A written request for leave must be made in advance or time away from school will be considered an unexcused absence.

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.

Time Commitment

At no time will the student's time commitment exceed 64 hours per week. This includes two hours study time at home for each hour of class. On-call experience (anytime after 3 p.m.) will be required during the latter half of the first year and the second year. The student will be allowed off the day following call.

Probation Policy

- Students are evaluated every three months to ensure adequate progress in the desired areas and to encourage improvement in particular aspects of education.
- After proper review, a student whose personality, health, conduct or level of achievement makes it inadvisable to continue the course, the student may be requested to withdraw. The student will be advised of his/her rights to appeal such a decision.

Liability Insurance

- Individual liability insurance coverage is provided to anesthesia students through AANA insurance during their schooling.

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.

Graduation Requirements

- The student will exceed the following minimum prior to graduation.
 - ☑ 465 didactic hours
 - ☑ 550 actual anesthetic cases administered
- Achieve an average of 80%, or 3.0 QPA, at the School of Anesthesia.
- Maintain a 3.0 average at Saint Vincent College.
- Deferral of graduation is the prerogative of the school when curriculum or clinical requirements have not been met. The student will be advised of his/her right to appeal.
- Clinical and didactic experience offered by Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia and Saint Vincent College exceeds the minimum requirements set by the Council on Accreditation.

Financial Obligations

- \$65.00 nonrefundable application fee (subject to change without notice).
- \$1200.00 matriculation fee upon acceptance (subject to change without notice).
- Tuition, books, and fees are approximately \$49,000.00 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 \$100.00.
- Upon graduation, a fee is paid to the AANA Council on Certification to take the Certification Exam.

***Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia and Saint Vincent College
Master of Science in Health Sciences
Curriculum***

<u>Supporting Courses:</u>	<u>Class List</u>	<u>Number of Credits</u>
HSC 510 Methods of Research I		3
HSC 612 Methods of Research II		3
 <u>Health Sciences Courses:</u>		
HSC 505 Intro to Principles of Anesthesia		2
HSC 001 Professional Aspects of Anesthesia		0
HSC 500 Pharmacology I	3	
HSC 501 Pharmacology II	3	
HSC 503 Organic and Medicinal Chemistry		4
HSC 504 Biochemistry		3
HSC 521 Human Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology I		5
HSC 522 Human Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology II		5
HSC 512 Medical Physics		4
HSC 655 Advanced Clinical Principles		4
HSC 530 Anesthesia Didactics I		6
HSC 630 Anesthesia Didactics II		6
HSC 710 Leadership and Management in Healthcare for Nurse Anesthetists		3

Student anesthetists may complete the Master's degree only if they remain in good standing at both the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia and Saint Vincent College. Dismissal or withdrawal from the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia or Saint Vincent College means automatic dismissal from the program.

List of Classes Taught at Anesthesia School

Professional Aspects of Anesthesia

1. History
2. Legal
3. Psychology
4. D.M.O.
5. Ethics
6. Prof. of Adjustments

Clinic II

1. Pediatrics
2. Obstetrics
3. Advanced Principles
4. Review
5. Perioperative Problems

Applied Chemistry of Anesthesia Seminars

Pharmacology Seminars

1. Anesthetics
2. Adjunctives

Clinic I

1. Broadfields
2. Basic Principles

Anesthesia and Disease Processes

1. Cardiac
2. Neuro
3. Respiratory
4. Endocrine
5. Renal
6. Cell

Conferences

1. Journal Club
2. Case Discussion
3. Anesthesia Safety

Minimum Clinical Experience Requirements

1. **Agents**
 - a. Intravenous induction agents 200 cases
 - b. Muscle relaxants 200 cases
 - c. Opioids 200 cases
 - d. Inhalation agents 200 cases

2. **Methods of Anesthesia**
 - a. General Anesthesia 350 cases
 - b. Endotracheal intubation 200 cases
 - c. Mask management 25 cases
 - d. Intravenous induction 200 cases
 - e. Regional administration 30 cases
 - f. Mechanical ventilation 200 cases
 - g. Inhalation induction 10 cases
 - h. LMA's 25 cases
 - i. TIVA 10 cases
 - j. Emergence from Anesthesia 200 cases

 - k. MAC 25 cases

3. **Special Cases**
 - a. Emergency Surgery 30 cases
 - b. Geriatrics (65 years or older) 50 cases
 - c. Pediatrics
 - (1) Under 2 years of age 10 cases
 - (2) 2 to 12 years of age 25 cases
 - d. Physical Status III and IV (combined) 100 cases
 - e. Ambulatory outpatient 100 cases

4. **Surgical Anatomical Categories**
 - a. Head
 - (1) Intracranial 5 cases
 - (2) Extracranial 15 cases
 - (3) Oropharyngeal 20 cases
 - b. Neck 5 cases
 - c. Intrathoracic 15 cases
 - d. Extrathoracic 15 cases
 - e. Intra abdominal 75 cases
 - f. Extremities 50 cases

4. **Surgical Anatomical Categories (cont'd)**

g.	Obstetrics	30 cases
h.	Perineal	15 cases
i.	Neuroskeletal	20 cases
j.	Vascular	10 cases

5. **Position Categories**

a.	Prone position	20 cases
b.	Lithotomy position	25 cases
c.	Lateral position	5 cases
d.	Sitting position	

Required anesthesia cases = 550

Clinical Evaluation Periods - Year 1

Term I: January, February, March

Term II: April, May June

Term III: July, August, September

Term IV: October, November, December

Evaluation Periods - Year 2

Term V: January, February, March

Term VI: April, May, June

Term VII: July, August, September

Term VIII: October, November, December

Each evaluation period is equal to 3 months/13 weeks except for Term VIII which is equal to 4 months/18 weeks. Total class time for two years is approximately 966 hours. Total clinical practicum or two years is approximately 1,000 hours. There are seven holidays off per year in corresponding terms. (See vacation, holidays, and sick leave, on page 7, for specifics.)

Students must complete all required hours prior to graduation.

Criteria For The Levels of Achievement

The following criterion for the levels of achievement may be applied to any student with consideration as to the length of time in the school and what objectives are being fulfilled at that level. This may apply to clinical or didactic evaluation.

- 4 = A Excellent in all areas, proficient in technical skills as well as being able to correlate theoretical knowledge to the clinical aspect of anesthesia.
- 3 = B Above average in all areas but requires improvement in specific areas.
- 2 = C Average in all areas, adjustment to anesthesia, and adept for length of time in training.
- 1 = D Below average in all areas and in need of remedial help. If seriously consistent in this category, review factors involved. If after remedial and recycling the evaluation is still below average, dismissal may be considered pending faculty discussion (regardless as to the length in program).
- NA Not accountable, not observed, not experienced, or too soon to judge/comment, or anecdotal notation required.

Academic Honesty

We assume that all students come for a serious purpose and expect them to be responsible individuals who demand of themselves high standards of honesty and personal conduct. Therefore, it is our policy to have a few rules and regulations as are consistent with faculty and general student welfare.

Fundamental to the principle of independent learning and professional growth is the requirement of honesty and integrity in the performance of academic assignments, both in the classroom and outside, and in the conduct of personal life. Accordingly, we hold our students to the highest standards of intellectual integrity and, thus, any use of plagiarism or cheating on examinations is regarded as a serious offense. In any case of dishonesty, the instructor and the director, who confers with the student, will decide upon the appropriate sanction. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense, possibilities are:

1. Failure of assignment and reassignment.
2. Failure of the course, suspension, and appropriate make-up time calculated.
3. Expulsion from the program.

Academic Warning System

1. The first six months of the clinical rotations are set aside as a probation period.
2. Students are evaluated clinically and didactically every three months throughout the program.
3. The Anesthesia school requires each student to maintain at least 80%, or 3.0 QPA and perform accordingly, clinically in his/her level of education.
4. If the students fail to attain this average, the director will issue a letter of academic warning with a copy to the anesthesiologist in charge of each hospital placing the student on academic probation.
5. A student who receives an academic warning is required to consult with the director concerning the following points of interest:
 - a. Educational motivation: didactic and/or clinical
 - b. Study plans
 - c. Student and faculty evaluation of program in question
 - d. Creation of a remedial program
 - e. Assessment of extracurricular activities
 - f. Formalization of assigned extracurricular activities

Academic Warning System (Cont'd)

6. Academic probation will not exceed a three-month period.
7. During this three-month period, if it becomes evident that satisfactory achievement is not occurring, a second letter of warning will be issued.
8. In the case of unsatisfactory achievement at the end of the three-month probation period, the student will be dismissed.

Policy Toward Alcohol and Drugs

It is recognized that a healthy attitude concerning alcoholic beverages is pertinent to the development of every student. We do not grant, nor can we grant, immunity to civil law when students create breaches simply because they are our students. We consider any use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs and/or narcotics (including, but not limited to, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, opiates, and marijuana) to be a matter of great concern. Students should be totally aware of the legal implications and consequences when associated with illegal drug use. If the well being of the individual or co-worker becomes involved in matters of such nature to endanger the well-being of patients and fellow employees, resultant action, up to and including expulsion, will be entirely the decision of the school and hospital in accordance to school policies.

While it is to be expected that most learning experiences are enjoyable, it must also be realized that the practice of anesthesia is full of responsibility and has minimum margin for error. Vigilance, observation, and a sense of responsibility must be instinctive. The correlation of theory and practice must be routine. An open mind and an interest in learning must be present in all students. Anesthesia is never an end in itself, and the ability to function as a team member is essential.

Patients undergoing surgery are often in a critical emotional state so that sympathy, tact, and understanding should be part of the emotional makeup of a nurse anesthetist.

Therefore, behavior of students must be in conformity with the above considerations. While recognizing the right of students to individuality, there are certain extremes of behavior which are incompatible with the practice of anesthesia and, if sufficiently gross, would constitute grounds for a status of probation and, if repeated, expulsion from the school.

Behavior, which will result in probationary status, is as follows:

1. Lack of interest in learning
2. Laziness
3. Lack of punctuality
4. Excessive unexcused absenteeism
5. Unethical behavior (e.g. dishonesty)

Standards of Conduct (Cont'd)

6. Instigation of disharmony
7. Careless regard for the patient's welfare or safety
8. Taking of illicit drugs or alcoholism
9. Gross deviations from appropriate standards of dress and grooming as determined by the director
10. Failure to follow specific recommended methods or techniques
11. Inadequate attendance at lectures
12. Failure to maintain 80%, or 3.0 QPA, or above

The executive faculty shall determine the status of probation. The executive faculty members shall consist of:

1. Director
2. Assistant Director
3. Administrative Anesthesiologists
4. Two Clinical Coordinators: one from Westmoreland Hospital and one from Latrobe Hospital

Student Conduct

Students should remember a school is often judged by the action of its students. Our school policies emphasize responsibility, maturity, and generosity which are expected to reflect in the behavior of its students. This is an adult graduate program and all students are expected to act accordingly.

Civil Law and the Student

In every disciplinary matter, each student will be considered as an individual and a person with rights and dignity. The school cannot give categorical statements that will be applicable or valid for all students and for all incidents. Our school upholds civil laws; the school does not grant immunity to students because they are students.

Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia realizes that in the process of learning mistakes will be made. The school faculty is prepared to minimize these mistakes through example, advice and, if necessary, penalty. We expect our students to live within the policies of the school.

Starting Date

Usually the last Thursday in August

Graduating Date

Second Friday of December

For further information, please feel free to contact:

Daniel Stairs, CRNA, MSN, MBA, DNP

Director

724-537-3986

Beverly Silvis CRNA, MS, MBA, DNP

Assistant Director

724-537-3879

Michael DeBroeck, CRNA, MHS

Education Coordinator 724-537-6210