



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Nurse Anesthetist

Nurse anesthesia is an advanced clinical nursing specialty. (Anesthesia is the use of special drugs that temporarily block sensation in an area of the body or enable a patient to be kept unconscious and free of pain during a surgery.) A nurse anesthetist takes care of a patient's anesthesia needs before, during, and after surgery or the delivery of a baby. Because nurse anesthetists are licensed as nurses, they provide services in conjunction with a qualified physician, surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, or anesthesiologist.

Nurse anesthetists practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sector and in the US military, including traditional hospital operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics, and physician's offices. Some nurse anesthetists practice in conjunction with anesthesiologists, but in many states nurse anesthetists are independent practitioners. In most rural communities, they may be the only anesthesia providers.

Nurse Anesthetist Facts:

Where do nurse anesthetists work in Alaska?

In Alaska, nurse anesthetists typically work in hospitals and surgery centers.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English
- A Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing
- A license as a Registered Nurse
- A minimum of one year of acute care nursing experience
- A Masters in Nurse Anesthesiology (Programs include 24 to 36 months of graduate course work, including both classroom and clinical experience.)
- Nurses must pass a national certification exam to become a CRNA.
- Recertification is required every two years. The national certification board requires 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years. A few states or facilities require up to 10 hours more per year and some state require certain number of CE units for prescriptive authority.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$24.66-\$66.47 (Mean: 42.89)

*Based on Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

6-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There is no accredited school in Alaska, but there are currently 110 programs nationwide. For a list of these programs and other information about Nurse Anesthetists, go to <http://www.aana.com>.

State Contact:

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