

Pre-Anesthesiologist Assistant

The Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) is a skilled person qualified by advanced academic and clinical education to provide anesthetic care under the direction of a qualified anesthesiologist. The anesthesiologist who is responsible for the AA is available to prescribe and direct particular therapeutic interventions in the operating room and the intensive care setting.

By virtue of the basic science education and clinical practice experience, the AA is skilled in the use of contemporary state-of-the-art patient monitoring techniques in anesthesia care environments. The AA performs complementary and supplementary anesthetic care and monitoring tasks that allow the directing anesthesiologist to use his or her own skills more efficiently and effectively.

The Anesthesiologist Assistant is prepared to gather patient data, to assist in the evaluation of patients' physical and mental status, to record the surgical procedures planned, and to help the directing anesthesiologist administer the therapeutic plan that has been formulated for the anesthetic care of the patient. The tasks performed by AAs reflect regional variations in anesthesia practice and state regulatory factors.

Anesthesiologist assistants may be either licensed as AAs or practice under the license of an anesthesiologist under the principle of delegation. Along with other physicians, anesthesiologists may delegate those tasks or duties involved in the practice of anesthesiology to qualified individuals such as AAs as long as the anesthesiologist is immediately available in the operating room area and the anesthesiologist retains ultimate responsibility for the care of the patient. The exact details regarding delegation and licensing of AAs are different from state to state, and an anesthesiologist seeking to employ AAs should consult the board of medicine of the state in which he or she practices.

Certified AAs are currently capable of practicing in the following states: New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Ohio, Alabama, South Carolina, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, West Virginia, Colorado, Kentucky, North Carolina, District of Columbia, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Source: <http://prehealth.emory.edu/explore-healthcare/anesthesiology-assistant.html> and <http://www.anesthetist.org/faqs#AAspractice>

Job Outlook

Although employment is limited to fewer than 20 states within the U.S., certified AAs are highly regarded and pursued members for anesthesia care teams. When compared with certified registered nurse anesthetists, AAs are considered to be on “equal footing” in regards to the quality of anesthesia delivery and salary. From 1960 until 2004 only two medical universities have trained AAs, Emory and Case Western Reserve University. Recently three new AA programs have been developed at South University

(est. 2004), Nova Southeastern (est. 2006), and University of Missouri-Kansas City (est. 2008) to accommodate a field of study that has become increasingly popular.

Earnings

In 2017 Explore Health Careers.org reported the average salary range of \$95,000-\$180,000 yearly.

Above information was collected from Explore Health Carrers.org website: <https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/anesthesiologist-assistant/>

General Educational Requirements

Qualifying student applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree and complete all of the premedical course work required by the typical American medical school.

Generalized admission requirements for students seeking entrance into an AA program include:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a premedical sciences track
- Two semesters of biology with laboratory
- Two semesters of vertebrate anatomy and physiology (or other advanced biology) with laboratory
- Two semesters of general chemistry; 1 semester of organic chemistry; a second semester of organic chemistry or biochemistry with laboratory
- Two semesters of general physics with laboratory
- Two semesters of advanced college mathematics including calculus
- Either the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Graduate Records Admission Test (GRE)

Educational Programs

Currently, there are 10 institutions offering an Anesthesiologist Assistant program in the nation. Each is currently accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. For more information regarding admission requirements for the nearest programs use the contact information provided below:

[Case Western Reserve University](#)

Master of Science in Anesthesia Program
Department of Anesthesiology
University Hospitals of Cleveland
Lakeside 2532
11100 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-5007

www.anesthesiaprogram.com

Phone: 216-844-8077 | Fax: 216-844-7349
Email: info@anesthesiaprogram.com

[Emory University School of Medicine](#)

Master of Medical Science Program in Anesthesiology
Emory University School of Medicine
57 Executive Park South
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

www.emoryaaprogram.org

(404)727-5910 Fax: (404)727-3021

Nova Southeastern University

Master of Health Science program in Anesthesia
Terry Building 1263
3200 South University Drive
Davie, FL 33328-2018
(800) 356-0026
<http://www.nova.edu/mhs/anesthesia/>

Program Director and Assistant Professor
[Rob Wagner, AA-C](#)
Health Professions Division
and
College of Allied Health and Nursing
Terry Bldg 1263
3200 South University Drive
Davie, FL 33328-2018
(800) 356-0026 ext 1166

South University

[Anesthesiologist Assistant Program](#) (info)
School of Health Professions
South University
709 Mall Blvd
Savannah, GA 31406
<http://www.southuniversity.edu/nursing-and-health-professions-programs/anesthesiologist-assistant-programs/application-information.aspx>

[Sharon L. Fischer](#)
Program Coordinator
912-201-8083
912-201-8070

University of Missouri-Kansas City

University of Missouri-Kansas City
School of Medicine
Master of Science in Anesthesia
2411 Holmes Street
Kansas City, MO 64108-2792
<http://www.med.umkc.edu/MSA>

Richard W. Trullinger, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Medical Education
Associate Professor, Medical Education

Research
Phone: 816-235-5412
Fax: 816-235-6629