

Anesthesiologist Assistant Program

“Students should be aware that currently Connecticut Law does not permit the licensing or practice of anesthesiologist assistants in the State of Connecticut. Students will be required to do their clinical work in another state and upon graduation students will not be able to be employed as an anesthesiologist assistant in Connecticut. Students should contact the state board of medicine where they intend to practice or the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants for information on licensure prior to enrolling in the Anesthesiologist Assistant Program. Student can also review the webpage www.anesthetist.org/factsaboutaas/#statewithlicensure for a list of states that currently license anesthesiologist assistants.”

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Technical Standards

The Anesthesiologist Assistant Master of Medical Science degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of anesthesiology as a member of the anesthesia care team. It follows that the graduate must have the knowledge, skills and abilities to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to deliver anesthesia throughout a wide spectrum of surgical procedures, patient ages and all degrees of illness. It is essential for good patient care to require minimum standards for the education of the anesthesiologist assistant. In the education of anesthesiologist assistant students, the university must judge not only the scholastic accomplishments but also consider the student's current physical and emotional status, "medical condition(s)," and drug-induced impairments that may pose obstacles to the safe application of the student's knowledge and skills or prevent the delivery of optimum patient care during patient management in the perioperative period.

"Medical condition" includes physical, physiological, mental or psychological conditions or disorders, such as, but not limited to chronic and/or uncorrected orthopedic, visual, speech or hearing impairments, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis or other neuromuscular disorders, behavioral health illness, dementia, drug addiction/use and alcoholism.

In accordance with university policy and as delineated by federal and Connecticut law, the university does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs or employment against any individual on the basis of that individual's disability, so long as the disability does not preclude maintaining the highest standards of safe patient care. The university will make good faith efforts to provide reasonable accommodation as required so long as the student meets the technical standards for safe delivery of anesthesia care as outlined below.

Quinnipiac University anesthesiologist assistant students must possess the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data. They must have functional use of the senses of vision, hearing and equilibrium. Anesthesiologist assistant students must have sufficient motor function capabilities to meet the demands of the AA program and the demands of delivering safe and efficacious patient care.

To undertake and successfully complete the anesthesiologist assistant program, as well as to function successfully as an anesthetist after graduation, an individual must meet certain fundamental physical, cognitive and behavioral standards. The requisite technical skills include, but are not limited to the following:

- Effectively communicating verbally with patients and their family members and with other health care professionals in normal situations and times of stress.
- Reading and comprehending written parts of the medical record and other patient care documents in a timely manner in order to safely and effectively participate in the delivery of anesthesia care.
- Interacting with patients, including but not limited to: obtaining a preoperative history, reviewing the medical record, using appropriate instruments in the performance of a perioperative anesthesia related physical examination, and interpreting the findings in preparation for delivery of anesthesia care.

- Developing a comprehensive anesthesia medical record for the current anesthetic episode that will be useful to others who care for the patient both intraoperatively and postoperatively.
- Having sufficient motor skills, coordination and “fine” dexterity of both upper extremities to perform delicate manual operations required of diagnostic and therapeutic tasks; performing invasive procedures on patients in a timely manner so as to ensure the safety and well-being of the patients in the operating room and perioperative care environments. These tasks include but are not limited to peripheral and central venous catheterization, arterial puncture and cannulation, breathing bag-and-mask ventilation, placement of oral and nasal airways, laryngeal mask airway insertion and management, and endotracheal intubation.
- Participating in physical activities as required for patient care in the operating room, preop holding area, postoperative care unit and intensive care unit. Having sufficient strength, motor skill and coordination to lift, move and position patients as required for the type of anesthetic being delivered, surgical procedure being performed, or other specialized positioning such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Moving quickly and sure-footedly to assure patient safety and rapid application of emergency procedures as may arise during the course of an anesthetic episode.
- Recognizing colors of leads and other electronic signals found on the various types of monitoring equipment used in the preop holding area, operating room, postoperative care unit, and intensive care unit; demonstrating the ability to work with safety and accuracy in both "light" and "dark" conditions, and recognize details at both distant and close settings.
- Having the ability to multitask, which includes; hearing, processing, and interpreting multiple conversations, monitor signals, alarms, instructions, operation of the anesthesia delivery system, all while providing direct patient care in fast-paced patient care settings (e.g., operating room, intensive care unit, emergency room).
- Demonstrating characteristics that, by implication, suggest that the student has the ability to function in complex social and personal roles and in delicate interpersonal relationships; demonstrating the ability to manifest honesty, reliability, genuineness, warmth and empathy while controlling impulses and maintaining good judgment even under physically and emotionally exhausting conditions.
- Recognizing and differentiating colors of signals displayed on monitors; being able to work in both *light* and *dark* conditions as exist in patient care areas (e.g., operating room, radiology suite, endoscopy suite); being able to recognize details of objects both near and far.

- Having the ability to make measurements, calculations, reason, analyze and synthesize patient data and solve problems; comprehending three-dimensional relationships and understanding the spatial relationships of structures.
- Having the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationship with patients.
- Possessing sufficient emotional stability to withstand stress, display flexibility and function in the face of uncertainty inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
- Having no impairment that would preclude continuous performance of all of the above activities or any and all of the other activities that are an integral part of an anesthesiologist assistant's participation in the anesthesia care team.

The AA program welcomes questions or inquiries from individuals with disabilities regarding these standards and their application to each individual's unique situation. In each case, a determination can be made as to whether the individual is qualified for admission to the program and if reasonable accommodations can be made. While the program is prohibited by federal law from making inquiries about specific disabilities prior to admission, applicants who are selected for admission must be prepared to meet the performance standards in order to complete the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Personal risks associated with the practice of anesthesia — exposure to pathogens

Anesthesiologist assistants, physicians, nurses and other health care providers that have direct contact with patients are at risk for occupational exposure to pathogenic organisms. Exposure can occur via contact with blood and other body fluids and tissues; air-borne and droplet transmission; needle stick or other penetration of skin.

The AA program at the Quinnipiac University Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine promotes the safety and well-being of students as follows:

- The program provides mandatory training in universal precautions and other work-safety practices.
- All clinical training sites provide students on rotation with appropriate personal protective equipment and disposables.
- In the event of exposure to known or suspected pathogenic organisms, the student is entered into a protocol established by the clinical site at which the exposure occurred.

It is the responsibility of the student's medical insurance to pay for any treatment for exposure to Pathogens, such as needle stick and splash injuries that occur while the student is in clinical training.

The program provides for training on all current OSHA standards and universal precautions that must be undertaken by health care providers. These proven methods reduce the risk of exposure to pathogens while in the clinical environment. This training is provided by clinical affiliates and is documented in the student's file at the program office.

I understand the personal risks associated with the practice of anesthesia:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Substance Abuse:

Both anesthesiologists and anesthesiologists are at a greater risk for substance abuse than practitioners in other medical specialties or individuals in the general population. Handling and administering controlled substances occurs daily in the practice of anesthesia, and current literature suggests that individuals with a history of abuse of any kind are more likely to develop a drug abuse problem if they enter the field of anesthesiology. **If the student has a history of excessive alcohol use, a history of any form of drug abuse, or has other addictive behaviors, they should not consider a career in the field of anesthesiology.**

In the event that an abuse problem occurs, the anesthesiologist assistant program will assist the student in finding the appropriate help.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Background Check:

I understand that a criminal background check is required as part of the application process. Contact the program office at: AAprogram@qu.edu for additional details.

I certify that the information provided by me in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. While this application is active, I will inform the anesthesiologist assistant program of any changes in the facts indicated in this application. I understand that falsification, misrepresentations or omissions on this application may be grounds for denial, or if I am accepted for suspension or dismissal from school. I agree, if admitted, to abide by the rules and regulations of Quinnipiac University.

I hereby certify that I have disclosed to the anesthesiologist assistant program all prior arrests, if any, for offenses other than minor traffic violations. Furthermore, if I am accepted, I agree that while enrolled in the program, I will promptly disclose the anesthesiologist assistant program director my arrest for any offense other than minor traffic violations. I understand that these disclosures are required as conditions of my acceptance into and continued participation in the program, and that any failure to make these disclosures may result in my immediate removal from the program.

I certify and agree to the above statement:

Signature: _____ Date: _____