DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA) EDUCATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Army have partnered to educate interested and qualified VA nurses in the field of nurse anesthesia. The US Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN), U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas is where the initial first year of didactics is taught. The second and third year of training will be completed at the VA’s designated clinical site.

*Note, enrollment of VA students into the USAGPAN is based upon approval and funding by the VA which will be determined and announced at a later date. For VA nurses who are interested in applying to the program, the following information may help you to prepare while awaiting for official notification from the VA for the upcoming cycle.

**Enrollment into this program does not constitute enlistment into any sector or branch of the U.S. military**

The thirty-six month program is divided into two phases; didactic and clinical. Phase I (didactic) is one year long and is conducted at the US Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE) at San Antonio, TX (Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston). The Phase II (clinical) is currently at the VA Medical Center-Memphis, TN. Students will also rotate to other approved clinical sites (e.g. obstetric, pediatric, trauma rotations). Partnered with Baylor University, this program will grant a doctorate degree in nursing practice. Students will be responsible for their own living, moving, and travel expenses throughout the program.

NOTE: This is a multistep part process.

Part One:

Applicants must meet the admission standards of USAGPAN /Baylor University; A completed application and all supporting materials must be submitted via the online application no later than **AUGUST 1**, for consideration for JUNE admission of the following year. *Note: Please select the application for “Graduate Army-Baylor”, the Program of Study as “Army-Baylor” and the Degree Seeking as “DNP in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN)”

It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify the application process is complete through Baylor University’s Graduate School / Louise Herrington School of Nursing.
Part Two: Veterans Affairs

The VA’s Funding Selection Board will convene in the fall to select students for the following June class. Selected students will be notified shortly after the Board has made its decision.

Letters of Recommendation:

A letter of recommendation from your facility's Nurse Executive (i.e. the top Nursing leader) is required to verify their support of your upward mobility within the VA System.

Additionally, a minimum of three academic/professional references.

One is required to be your current critical care supervisor. This letter should attest to your competency in the required critical care clinical skills and personal attributes and reflect your potential to become an outstanding nurse anesthetist.

To become familiar with the role of the CRNA, you are required to "shadow" a CRNA at your VA hospital for 2-3 days. The second of the 3 professional reference letters must be a letter of recommendation from a CRNA that you have shadowed. More than one letter of recommendation from an anesthesia professional is encouraged.

Service Obligation / Mobility Agreement:

- Eligibility for and acceptance into the Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP) is required.
- EISP funding for this program requires a 3-year full-time employment commitment within the VA Health Care System after completion of the program.
- Your EISP application will need to be sponsored by a specific VA. However, recognizing that local requirements can change during the three years of your education, your commitment is to serve 3 years as a CRNA at whatever VA facility the Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health determines needs CRNA services. This might not be the EISP sponsoring facility.
- The service obligation agreement is a signed, legally binding contract between VA and the EISP participant and specifies the obligations of the Department and the employee
- If the EISP participant breaches or fails to honor the EISP contract, the EISP participant may be subject to payment of damages, penalties and interest as described in the EISP Handbook.

Link to the VA Nurse Anesthetist program announcement website:

https://www.patientcare.va.gov/CRNA_Education/Pages/Certified_Registered_Nurse_Anesthetists.asp

Link to the EISP Handbook (policy) for your review:


The admission application for the program through Baylor University’s website is available at:

https://www.baylor.edu/nursing/armydnp/
For questions regarding the Baylor application contact Baylor’s USAGPAN Program Coordinator Jana Johns at jana_johns@baylor.edu

COL Denise M. Beaumont, CRNA, is the USAGPAN’s Program Director for the MEDCoE at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Please contact Dr. Roberta Reedy with any VA specific questions.

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(Please title correspondence “VA CRNA Program”)