ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

Joseph M. Rifici, CAA, MEd
Executive Program Director

Jennifer Puin, PhD
Director of Admissions

info@anesthesiaprogram.com or 216.844.8077
http://case.edu/medicine/msa-program

The Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine medical division of University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center includes more than fifty attending anesthesiologists on staff supervising resident anesthesiologists and anesthetists to provide the best patient care.

The Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) program at Case Western Reserve University began in 1970 and originally awarded a baccalaureate degree, evolving into a professional postgraduate curriculum in 1987 and granting the Master of Science degree. Admission to the AA program requires a bachelor’s degree with prescribed prerequisites typical of premedical course work and successful completion of the MCAT. The application deadline for the CWRU program is October 1 of each year for admission into the class that starts at the end of May. The 24-month AA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and is based on the Standards for Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. Graduates must complete a curriculum that includes 68 credit hours (six semesters) of classroom and clinical instruction. The first three semesters integrate basic science and clinical instruction.

CWRU also oversees the Master of Science in Anesthesia Program’s Houston, Texas campus (http://case.edu/medicine/msa-program/locations/houston-tx) and Washington, DC campus (http://case.edu/medicine/msa-program/locations/washington-dc).

The program is led by Joseph M. Rifici, CAA, MEd, and Matthew P. Norcia, MD. More information can be obtained from Jennifer Puin (info@anesthesiaprogram.com), Director of Admissions.

Master of Science in Anesthesia Degree

The Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) Program mission is to graduate skilled and compassionate anesthesiologist assistants. The admission policy reflects this goal. Applicants are considered on a variety of parameters that measure academic ability, communication skills, clinical aptitude, and personality traits.

Application to the MSA Program requires that the following criteria are met:

A. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university

Documentation of each of the prerequisites listed below having been completed with a grade of B- or higher within five (5) years prior to the application deadline at an accredited American or Canadian institution of higher learning. For those courses that have been repeated, the highest grade will be used in the calculation.

- one semester of biochemistry
- one semester of human anatomy
- one semester of human physiology
- one semester of biology with laboratory
- one semester of human anatomy with laboratory
- one semester of human physiology
- one semester of organic chemistry with laboratory
- one semester of physics with laboratory
- one semester of calculus
- one semester of advanced statistics (preferably for the life sciences)
- one semester of English with expository writing

B. Medical College Admission Test

- minimum composite score of 493
- test must have been completed within 3 years of application deadline
- when the MCAT has been taken more than once, component scores from different exams may not be combined

Applicants with international undergraduate, graduate or advanced degrees must meet the standard admission requirements listed above. International application requirements also include the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and Education Credential Evaluation Reports for foreign transcripts.

All materials must be received by the deadline, October 1st. Candidates participate in interviews with members of the Admissions Committee, which is comprised of faculty and staff members of the MSA Program. All academic requirements must be completed satisfactorily before matriculation. Prospective candidates are permitted and encouraged to shadow an anesthetist in the OR. Prior approval for this visitation is required.

The 24-month program includes 68 credit hours (six semesters) of classroom and clinical instruction. The first three semesters integrate basic science and clinical instruction. During the remaining 3 semesters, students complete month-long rotations in all subspecialties of anesthesiology: ambulatory surgery, burns and trauma, cardiothoracic surgery, general surgery, neurosurgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, surgical intensive care unit. Clinical training focuses on all types of anesthesia including general, epidural, spinal and peripheral nerve blockade.

Instruction is also provided in advanced patient care monitoring techniques and pre-testing, calibration and operation of anesthesia delivery systems and monitors. At CWRU our personal approach and rigorous educational standards produce compassionate and highly skilled anesthesiologist assistants.

The MSA Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and is based on the Standards for Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. Graduates sit for the Certification Examination administered by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) and co-sponsored by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

Additional information may be found on the Master of Science in Anesthesia Program website (http://case.edu/medicine/msa-program).
## MS Anesthesiologist Assistant, Plan of Study

### Basic Science Year

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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Minimum Clinical Experience Required = 180 hours

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Minimum Clinical Experience Required = 260 hours

### Clinical Year

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Minimum Clinical Experience Required = 511 hours

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Minimum Clinical Experience Required = 516 hours

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Minimum Clinical Experience Required = 413 hours

Year Total: 11 11 6

Total Units in Sequence: 68

Total Clinical Hours Required (Basic Science Year) 560

Total Clinical Hours Required (Clinical Year) 1440

Total Units 2000

## Courses

**ANES 403. Cardiac Electrophysiology. 2 Units.**
In this course students will learn basic and advanced Electrocardiogram interpretation using simulators and electrocardiograms to understand an overview of heart anatomy, function, and neurophysiology.

**ANES 440. Patient Monitoring and Instrumentation I. 2 Units.**
Students are taught the proper balance between circuits and engineering concepts and the clinical application of anesthesia instrumentation. Monitors and devices used in the operating room are studied with respect to principles of operation, calibration, and interpretation of data. A hands-on laboratory is utilized to maximize direct contact to the instrumentation of the profession.

**ANES 441. Patient Monitoring and Instrumentation II. 2 Units.**
Continuation of ANES 440. Recommended preparation: ANES 440.

**ANES 456. Applied Physiology for Anesthesiologist Assistants I. 3 Units.**
Basic and applied human systems physiology with emphasis on topics and areas of special concern to the anesthetist.

**ANES 458. Applied Physiology for Anesthesiologist Assistants II. 3 Units.**
Continuation of ANES 456. Recommended preparation: ANES 403 and ANES 456.
ANES 460. Introduction to Anesthesia. 2 Units.
Introduction to basic concepts dealing with clinical anesthesia. Medical terminology, human anatomy, medical chart interpretation and drug dosage calculations.

ANES 461. Orientation to Clinical Experience. 3 Units.
Introduction to experience in the operating room with emphasis on the fundamental procedures and techniques used in administering an anesthetic. Preoperative assessment, IV placement techniques, airway management, intraoperative patient care and postoperative management are all emphasized in this course. BLS (basic life support) certification is required for course completion. Recommended preparation: Acceptance in the M.S.A. program.

ANES 462. Anesthesia Clinical Correlation I. 1 Unit.
A series of conferences presented by students that applies to anesthetic theory as it relates to the clinical experience. Specific anesthetic situations are emphasized. Recommended preparation: ANES 460.

ANES 463. Anesthesia Clinical Experience I. 3 Units.
A continuation of the preparation, observation, and hands-on learning format initiated in ANES 461. Patient management and technical skills are refined with close attention to the didactic course work. A comprehensive clinical examination is administered at the end of the semester. ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certification is required for course completion. Recommended preparation: ANES 461.

ANES 464. Anesthesia Clinical Correlation II. 1 Unit.
A spectrum of case presentation conferences presented by the students dealing with basic and major problems in anesthesia management. Medical and surgical history of individual patients and the outcomes of anesthesia and surgery are emphasized. Journal Club and Morbidity and Mortality conferences are included. Recommended preparation: ANES 462.

ANES 465. Anesthesia Clinical Experience II. 4 Units.
A continuation of ANES 463. A comprehensive clinical examination is administered at the end of the semester. PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) and ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certification is required for course completion. Recommended preparation: ANES 463, BLS Certification, ACLS Certification.

ANES 467. Anesthesia Clinical Experience III. 4 Units.
Extended exposure to all of the clinical subspecialties of anesthesiology (obstetrics, pediatrics, neurosurgery, cardiovascular, etc.). Students alternate through rotations at several area hospitals. Recommended preparation: ANES 465, ACLS certification and PALS.

ANES 468. Anesthesia Clinical Correlation III. 1 Unit.

ANES 469. Anesthesia Clinical Experience IV. 8 Units.
A continuation of ANES 467. A comprehensive clinical examination is administered at the end of the semester. Recommended preparation: ANES 467.

ANES 470. Anesthesia Clinical Correlation IV. 1 Unit.

ANES 471. Anesthesia Clinical Experience V. 8 Units.
A continuation of ANES 469. A comprehensive clinical examination is administered at the end of the semester. Recommended preparation: ANES 469.

ANES 475. Pharmacology for Anesthesiologist Assistants I. 3 Units.
Pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, uptake, distribution and action of the volatile and intravenous anesthetics, muscle relaxants, narcotics, hypnotics and other pharmaceuticals used in the administration of an anesthetic. Prereq: Consent of Department.

ANES 476. Pharmacology for Anesthesiologist Assistants II. 3 Units.
Continuation of ANES 475. Prereq: ANES 475.

ANES 477. Clinical Decision Making in Anesthesia. 2 Units.
An introduction to thinking about clinical situations and problems and coming to safe and effective solutions to these problems. This course focuses on common clinical situations where appropriate decision making is important to the outcome of the case. Numerous areas of medicine and anesthesiology will be covered to provide the student with a wide sampling of decisions made each day with patient care. This course supplements the other courses offered during the spring semester by integrating and applying basic science knowledge to the care of patients. Prereq: Consent of department.

ANES 480. Fundamentals of Anesthetic Sciences I. 1 Unit.
A continuum of courses over the fall and spring semesters that covers a series of topics in basic medical science with special emphasis on the effect of anesthetics on normal physiology. An examination is administered at the end of each semester.

ANES 481. Fundamentals of Anesthetic Sciences II. 1 Unit.
A series of topics in basic medical science with special emphasis on the effect of anesthetics on normal physiology. An examination is administered at the end of the semester. Prereq: ANES 480.

ANES 485. Introduction to Physiological Model-Based Simulation. 1 Unit.
Introduction to physiological model-based simulation using on-screen computer simulation and mannequins. Emphasis is placed on improving appropriate anesthesia-related basic science knowledge, manual skills in anesthesia machine checkout, drug and equipment setup, safety inspections, and performing anesthesia for uncomplicated surgical cases.

ANES 486. Physiological Model-Based Simulation I. 1 Unit.
An extension of ANES 485 with emphasis on improving or exercising knowledge of anesthesia-appropriate basic science, the use of more advanced equipment and techniques for uncomplicated surgical cases with an introduction to crisis management. Recommended preparation: ANES 485.

ANES 487. Physiological Model-Based Simulation II. 1 Unit.
An extension of ANES 486 emphasizing the physical techniques aspects of crisis management, team work and rescue in anesthesia, including support for and review of training in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. Recommended preparation: ANES 486.

ANES 488. Anesthesia Non-Technical Skills Lab 1 Unit.
In this course the student will learn anesthesia non-technical skills, which are used integrally with medical knowledge and clinical techniques. They encompass both interpersonal skills (e.g. communication, team working, leadership) and cognitive skills (e.g. situation awareness, decision making). This course uses modified Crew Resource Management techniques taught in the aviation industry and considers the limitations of human performance and the nature of human error. The goals are to train individuals to avoid, capture and mitigate against the consequences of error. During the course, behaviors shown to minimize errors and maximize patient safety are highlighted and then practiced, with feedback being given to students on their performance.
ANES 490. Ethics, Law and Diversity for Anesthesiologist Assistants. 2 Units.
This course will focus on three topics. First, a discussion of legal practice as it applies to health care including basics of medical jurisprudence, negligence, and how to avoid a lawsuit. Second, a discussion of ethical theory including the principles of medical ethics, do not resuscitate, truth telling, and assessment of competence. Last, a discussion on diversity that will focus on the differences and similarities among people and how these factors influence patient care. The final grade will be based on an essay and a multiple choice exam.

ANES 499. Clinical Remediation. 1 - 10 Units.
(Credit as arranged.) Course offered to the student one time during the program of study which remediates "C" or below work in a clinical course.

ANES 580. Fundamentals of Anesthetic Sciences III. 1 Unit.
The second-year equivalent of ANES 480 and ANES 481. An examination is administered at the end of the semester. Recommended preparation: ANES 480 and ANES 481.

ANES 581. Fundamentals of Anesthetic Sciences IV. 1 Unit.
The second year equivalent of ANES 481. An examination is administered at the end of the semester. Prereq: ANES 580.

ANES 584. Physiological Model-Based Simulation III. 1 Unit.
An extension of ANES 487 emphasizing the physical techniques and aspects of crisis management, team work, and rescue in anesthesia. Prereq: ANES 487.

ANES 585. Physiological Model-Based Simulation IV. 1 Unit.
Extension of ANES 584 emphasizing the physical techniques and aspects of crisis management, team work, and rescue in anesthesia. Prereq: ANES 584.

ANES 599. Clinical Remediation. 1 - 10 Units.
(Credit as arranged.) Course offered to the student one time during the program of study which remediates "C" or below work in a clinical course.