

# Comparison of AAs and CRNAs Education & Practice

(Provided by the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants)

Updated: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

	Anesthesiologist Assistants	CRNA
<b>Description of Practice</b>	Supervision by an anesthesiologist	Supervision by physician of unspecified specialty (excluding Opt-Out states)
<b>Model of Practice</b>	Anesthesia Care Team	Anesthesia Care Team, supervision by any physician, or independent practice without supervision (Opt Out states)
<b>Distribution of Providers</b>	1000 AAs in 18 states (plus District of Columbia) and Veteran's Administration system	24,000 CRNAs in all 50 states and Veteran's Administration system
<b>Number of Programs</b>	6 (in 4 states)	108 (in 35 states)
<b>Length of Program</b>	24-28 months	24-33 months
<b>Type of Program</b>	Masters degree (specific degree title unique to each program)	Masters degree (specific degree title unique to each program)
<b>Certifying Body</b>	National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants National Board of Medical Examiners	Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists
<b>National Organization</b>	American Academy of Anesthesiologists Assistants (AAAA)	American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
<b>Admission Requirements</b>	BS Degree Premedical curriculum GPA > 3.0 Completion of Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE), dependent on each program's individual requirements Previous health care experience preferable Personal interview	BN Degree Science curriculum for general practice nursing GPA 3.0 Licensure as a registered nurse Minimum 1 year of nursing experience in acute care setting Personal interview
<b>Program Requirements</b>	Academic faculty with medical school appointments Medical Director is a board-certified anesthesiologist Programs located in academic facilities that meet anesthesia residency requirements for physicians	Faculty include MDs, CRNAs, and graduate nurses Program Director must possess a Master's degree
<b>Program Accreditation</b>	Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Accreditation Review Committee for Anesthesiologist Assistants (ARC-AA)	Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs
<b>Didactic Education</b>	56-132 didactic hours (depending on program)	34-80 didactic hours (depending on program)
<b>Clinical Education</b>	Minimum of 2000 clinical hours (average ~2500+ hours)	Minimum of 550 cases (average ~1000+ hours)
<b>Clinical Rotations</b>	All sub-specialties of anesthesia	All sub-specialties of anesthesia
<b>Advanced Skills</b>	Regional anesthesia and invasive line placement	Regional anesthesia and invasive line placement
<b>Clinical Instructors</b>	AAs, CRNAs, Anesthesiologists, Anesthesiology Residents in training	CRNAs and Anesthesiologists
<b>Recertification</b>	40 CMEs submitted biannually + sit for Continued Demonstration of Qualifications Exam (CDQ) every 6 years administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners	40 CMEs submitted biannually (no recertification by exam)
<b>Graduation Requirements</b>	3.0 GPA or better and in good class standing All course semester and clinical requirements completed	All course semester and clinical requirements completed