

Time Commitment (Student)

Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled didactic and clinical activities during the 36-month BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program. The number of credit and contact hours varies from semester to semester throughout the program.

- **Didactic:** One credit hour equals 15 contact hours per semester plus 30 hours of study time per semester.
- **Clinical:** In the BSN-DNP program, 12 total credit hours are dedicated to clinical practicum courses. A minimum of 2,000 clinical hours are required to graduate from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. In the program's Clinical Phase II, students no longer follow the college calendar but follow a clinical schedule where the clinical anesthesia practicums immediately follow each other in sequence. In addition to their clinical practicum hours, students must prepare for the next day, write care plans, study independently, study for the National Certification Exam, and conduct scholarly activities. Call is an essential part of each student's clinical practicums. Every student will have assigned evening, night, and weekend call responsibilities, which may include holidays. Each clinical coordinator will determine when the student will begin taking call and their clinical schedule. Scheduled call assignments continue throughout the practicums.

Procedure

Clinical hours are placed in the online case tracking system and monitored by the faculty and program administration to ensure each individual student receives the learning opportunities required without over extending and jeopardizing patient and/or student safety.

- **Reasonable Time Commitment** - A reasonable number of hours to ensure patient safety and promote effective student learning should not exceed 64 hours per week. This time commitment includes the sum of the hours spent in class and all clinical hours averaged over four weeks. Students must have a 10 hour rest period between scheduled clinical duty periods (i.e. assigned continuous clinical hours). At no time may a student provide direct patient care for a period longer than 16 continuous hours.

See COA Standards Glossary: Reasonable Time Commitment

- **Clinical Hours** - Clinical hours include time spent in the actual administration of anesthesia (i.e., anesthesia time) and other time spent in the clinical area. Examples of other clinical time would include in-house call, pre-anesthesia assessment, post-anesthetic assessment, patient preparation, OR preparation, and time spent participating in clinical rounds. Total clinical hours are inclusive of total hours of anesthesia time; therefore, this number must be equal to or greater than the total number of hours of anesthesia time.

COA Standards Glossary: Clinical Hours

Clarkson College Policy SW-26 Attendance/Non-Attendance; AA-55 Credit-hour Definition;
COA MSN Standard V: Accountability E9; COA DNP Standard F9

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