

The background of the slide features a photograph of the University of South Mississippi (USM) Capitol building, a large neoclassical structure with a prominent dome and a portico supported by columns. In the foreground, there is a dense field of bright yellow sunflowers. The overall scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

# USM Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia Program

Qualities Valued for Admission &  
Application Procedure Update

# Holistic Application Review

- The Nurse Anesthesia Program subscribes to a holistic admissions review process that assesses an applicant's unique experiences alongside the traditional measures of academic achievement to select not only those who can succeed but those who can contribute to the diversity of the nurse anesthesia cohort and the nurse anesthesia profession.



# Admissions Criteria- Degree

---

- BSN or MSN from a fully-accredited, NLN or CCNE, program in the US.
  - BSN must be completed at time of application.
  - **Competitive GPA**
    - Required Cumulative GPA- 3.0
    - Competitive Cumulative GPA- 3.3-3.4
    - Competitive Science GPA- 3.5
    - Varies with applicant pool
  - **Why do we value GPA? Science GPA?**
    - GPA- indicator of well-rounded student and ability to balance academic load
    - Science GPA- indicator student success in science courses
- 



# Admissions Criteria- Standardized Testing

- GRE
  - Competitive Verbal Reasoning- 150
  - Competitive Quantitative Reasoning- 150
  - Competitive Analytical Writing- 3.5
  - Variable with applicant pool
- Why do we value GRE?
  - The GRE is geared to measure student potential and positively correlates with student success in graduate school.
  - Standardized metric for all students

The GRE logo is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. It is centered within a white circular area that has a thick, textured blue border. The letters 'GRE' are in a sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the 'E'.

**GRE**®



# Admissions Criteria- CCRN Certification

- Critical Care Nursing Certification
- Why do we value the CCRN?
  - Demonstrates knowledge of critical care nursing as candidates are tested against rigorous standards
  - Demonstrates direct care of critically ill patients
  - Demonstrates commitment to professional development and lifelong learning
  - Standardized metric for all students

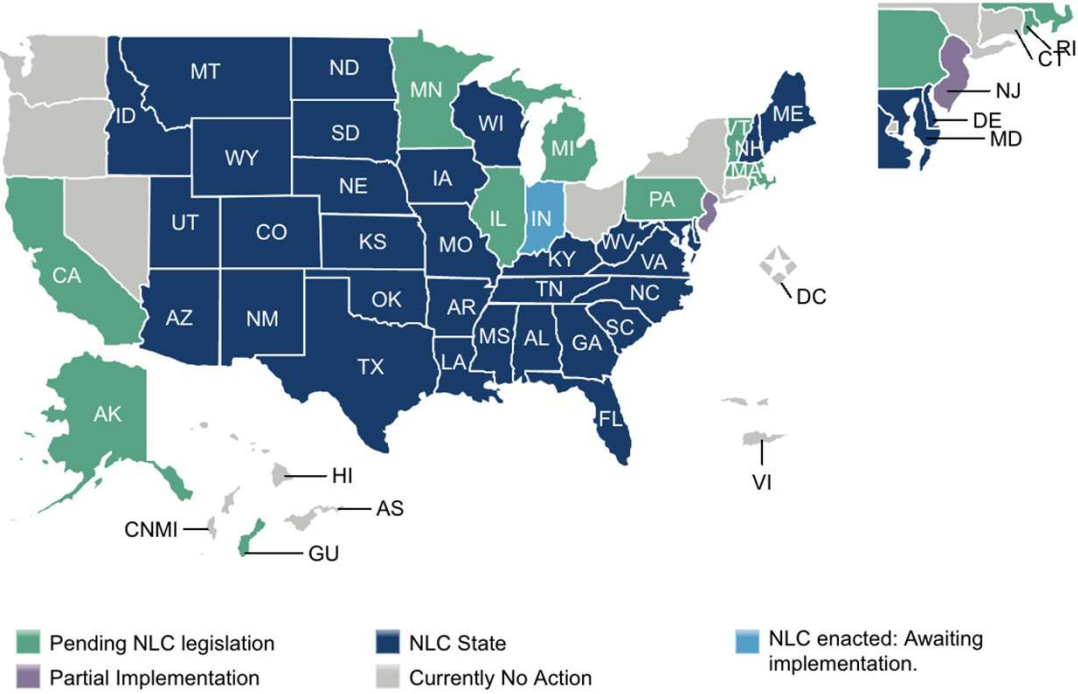




Admissions Criteria-  
BLS, ACLS, and PALS

---

# Current NLC States and Status



## Admissions Criteria- Nursing License

- A current, unencumbered registered nursing license in any state with eligibility for licensure in Mississippi.
- Mississippi licensure must be confirmed prior to start of program.
- Mississippi participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact.

# Admissions Criteria- Critical Care Nursing Experience

- Applicants must have experience in continuous ECG monitoring, invasive monitoring, vasoactive infusion management, and ventilator management.
- Why is this type critical care experience valued?
  - Students are better equipped to handle the demanding program of study.
  - Students build upon knowledge acquired as a critical care nurse.





# Details about Critical Care Experience

- Applicants must be currently working full time as a licensed registered nurse in an area of intensive care nursing for at least one year at the time of application. Two years are preferred.
- Level III neonatal and pediatric ICU experience are accepted; however, additional part-time adult experience is needed to supplement experience.
- Areas that do not **typically** meet ICU requirements
  - PACU
  - Surgery
  - Step-down units
  - Emergency Room
  - Individual consideration will be given to these areas that serve as an “overflow” unit for acutely ill patients requiring intensive care nursing.
- If in doubt, a good rule of thumb is to assess frequency of exposure to continuous ECG monitoring, mechanical ventilation, invasive monitoring, and vasoactive IV drips.

# Nurse Anesthesia Shadowing

- Shadow Log must include:
  - Date
  - Hours
  - Name of CRNA
  - Type of Procedure (if known)
- Recommended shadowing time- 24 hours
- Strive to observe general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, and monitored anesthesia care as you explore the profession.
- It is recommended to begin gaining shadowing experiences early in your career decision process.
- Why do we value shadowing?
  - Nurse anesthesia is a demanding profession that requires years of training.
  - Shadowing provides exposure to the profession, introduces realistic expectations of the profession, and aids in students making an educated decision to continue the pursuit of education in nurse anesthesia.
  - If shadowing is not possible, due to COVID, a CRNA interview may be submitted.





## Other Valued Experiences- Service

- **Include valuable experiences on resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Submit with application.**
  - Leadership
  - Community Service (Medical & Non-medical)
  - Military Experience
  - Research
  - Teaching or Tutoring
  - Collegiate Clubs
  - Collegiate Athletics
  - Honors/Awards/Recognitions
  - Board or Committee Service
  - Presentations/Publications
  - Extracurricular Activities
  - Artistic Endeavors
- **Why do we value service?**
  - We are seeking students who have rich and varied experiences outside the classroom.
  - Service demonstrates commitment and leadership skills that will likely lead to active involvement in education and the profession of nurse anesthesia.



# Graduate Statistics

- A graduate statistics course is required for admission to the USM Nurse Anesthesia Program.
- Completion of graduate statistics is **not** required for application. If admitted, the requirement must be completed by January 1, 2023.
- Graduate statistics may be taken online at USM in the fall prior to program start.
- If completing a graduate statistics course at another college or university, please email USM NAP program administration prior to registration to confirm that course meets program requirements.







## Statement of Purpose

- The personal statement is your best opportunity to introduce yourself to the admissions committee.
- The statement of purpose should include a cover letter and address the selection of nurse anesthesia as a career, personal and professional accomplishments, strengths and weakness, and short and long-range professional goals.
- Two-page limit, double-spaced.



## **DOMESTIC GRADUATE APPLICATION - SPRING 2023**

# Official Application Procedure

- Complete the online application.
- Application will ask for following documentation:
  - Official transcripts from each college/university attended.
  - Official GRE scores
  - Resume or Curriculum Vitae
  - Statement of Purpose
  - College of Nursing Application
  - Clinical Competency Checklist
  - Shadow Log and/or CRNA interview
  - Additional Applicant Information Sheet
  - Nursing License or Verification
  - Certifications: CCRN, ACLS, PALS, BLS
  - Contact information for 3 references



## Application Fees

- Graduate School Application Fee-
  - \$60
  - Invoice on USM electronic application
- Nurse Anesthesia Program Application fee
  - \$100 received by June 1st
  - Send payment to:  
USM College of Nursing and Health Professions  
ATTN: Sonia Adams, Student Services  
118 College Drive #5095  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
- Applications will not be processed without payments.

# Important Dates



June 1, 2022- Application Deadline



Late June/Early July- Anticipated dates for personal interviews of invited applicants



January 2023- Classes begin



# Information Sessions: Virtual & Face-to-Face

- Registration Link: <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-programs/nursing-nurse-anesthesia.php>
- This is an opportunity to learn about our program, ask questions about the application process, and hear from current students and faculty.

