AANA
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Safe and effective anesthesia
CARE
for every patient.

Comparison of CRNAs and AAs - Education

CRNAs	AAs
Number of Accredited Nurse Anesthesia Programs: 121	**Number of Accredited AA Programs: 12**
Number of Students: In 2018, approximately 2,500 students graduated from nurse anesthesia programs throughout the country.	**Number of Students**: AA programs collectively matriculate approximately 250 students total across all 12 programs.
Program Admissions Requirements: A baccalaureate; RN licensure; and at least one year of acute care experience as a professional RN during which the RN developed as an independent decision-maker capable of interpreting and using advanced monitoring techniques based on knowledge of physiological and pharmacological principles. Most applicants have acquired extensive clinical experience in areas such as coronary, respiratory, postanesthesia, and surgical intensive care units before they begin their nurse anesthesia programs.	**Program Admissions Requirements:** Baccalaureate degree in the arts or sciences from an accredited institution. No nursing, medical, anesthesia or healthcare education, experience, licensure, or certification required.
Didactic Education: Accreditation standards require numerous hours of didactic training in several courses.	**Didactic Education:** Accreditation standards and guidelines do not specify minimum hours for didactic education.
Clinical Education: CRNAs receive 7-8 ½ years of formal education and preparation, from the commencement of the professional education in nursing to the graduation from nurse anesthesia school, to prepare them for their careers in anesthesia. During the course of their education, CRNAs will typically have acquired, on average, *8,636 hours* of clinical patient care experience.	**Clinical Education**: Published descriptions of the AA programs' total clinical hours include experiences such as learning to do physicals, taking patient histories, training and certification processes for life support training, and other learning experiences that a licensed professional RN has already mastered prior to nurse anesthesia program entry. During their AA program, AAs students average 2600 hours of clinical anesthesia education.
Scope of Training: CRNAs are capable of high-level independent function and receive instruction in the administration of all types of	**Scope of Training:** The scope of training for AAs is severely limited. The AA curriculum is characterized by training that allows them to “assist”

anesthesia including general and regional anesthesia, local and conscious sedation, monitored anesthesia care, and pain management. They are trained to provide anesthesia to patients of all ages for all types of surgery, from simple to the most complex cases. The ability to make independent judgments and provide multiple anesthetic techniques is critical to meeting an array of patient and surgical needs.	the anesthesiologist in technical functions.

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