APN–A Education and Training

An Advanced Practice Nurse–Anesthesia (APN–A) is highly educated and trained to deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as anesthesiologists.

An APN–A has a minimum of **7 to 8½ years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology** before being licensed to practice anesthesia.

Baccalaureate prepared RN

Average 2.9 Years
Critical care nursing experience prior to entering nurse anesthesia program[1]

24 – 42 Months
Classroom and clinical education and training

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees

Master's or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program[2]

APN–A's obtain an average of

9,369 Clinical Hours

of training prior to graduation.

Constant Learners

An APN–A must pass a **National Certification Examination** for entry into practice and complete all requirements of the Continued Professional Certification Program every 4 years to remain current on anesthesia techniques and technologies. Anesthesiologists are recertified **every 10 years.**

Minimum **60 hours** of approved continuing education and **40 hours** professional development activities every 4 years

Documentation of substantial anesthesia practice

Maintenance of current state licensure

APN–A's

APN–A's are qualified to administer **every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting,** including pain management for acute or chronic pain.

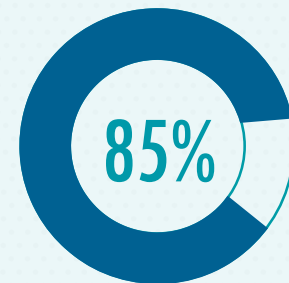Manage difficult cases

Use advanced monitoring equipment

Interpret diagnostic information

Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Research shows that APN–A's are

85%

less costly to educate and train than anesthesiologists.[3]

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of nurse anesthetists will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

1. Nurse anesthetists are the only anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.
2. Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
3. Update of Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers, Lewin Group Publications, May 2016

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New Jersey Association of **Nurse Anesthetists**