

**The University of Southern Mississippi Nurse Anesthesia Program  
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST**

Completed	REQUIREMENT
	BSN or MSN from a fully accredited, NLN or CCNE, program in the United States. BSN completed at time of application
	Completion of the Graduate Record Examination within the past 5 years. A minimum of an analytical score of 3.0 is required. <u>Preferred:</u> Quantitative + Qualitative = 300, Analytical 4.0 or higher.
	A current, unencumbered registered nursing license in any state with eligibility for licensure in Mississippi. (State compact accepted).
	Completion of official application materials and payment of application fees by stated deadline for the USM Graduate School.
	Completed USM College of Nursing and Health Professions application on the Graduate School portal.
	Criminal background check and drug screening upon matriculation into program.
	Pay \$100 check/money order nurse application program fee received prior to interview, to USM Nurse Anesthesia Program mail to: Sonia Adams, Student Services Director 118 College Drive #5095 Hattiesburg, MS 39406
	Must currently be working full time with at least one year, preferably two years, of experience in an area of intensive care nursing at the time of application. ICUs, CVRs, Trauma ICU, Burn ICU, PICU, NICU, Neuro ICU, Med/surg ICU are examples. Step down units, recovery room, and cath labs do not meet qualifications.
	Completed an approved advanced graduate-level statistics course, achieving a grade of B or higher within the past 5 years. (This may be taken after admission to the program from USM in the fall prior to starting program, spots are reserved for admitted NAP students)
	Proof of current certification of advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), pediatric advanced life support (PALS), basic life support (BLS), and critical care nurse (certification CCRN).
	Must submit a current curriculum vitae (CV) (professional resume): Includes address, education, work history including unit types and locations, personal hobbies, any leadership activities, community or volunteer service.
	Complete supplemental College of Nursing and Health professions application located on the Useful Forms on the USM Nurse Anesthesia Website: <a href="https://www.usm.edu/sites/default/files/groups/graduate-school/pdf/nursing_graduate_application_8-16-2017_0.pdf">https://www.usm.edu/sites/default/files/groups/graduate-school/pdf/nursing_graduate_application_8-16-2017_0.pdf</a>
	Submission of three (3) letters of reference from individuals (doctoral-level nursing preferred) familiar with the applicant's academic/professional background and experience in nursing practice, specifying in detail the applicant's capacity for doctoral study and clinical expertise. Immediate supervisor, a CRNA and one other person with knowledge of your ability is preferred.

	Submit a cover letter of introduction. It should include 1) Personal statement paragraph re: why you would like to be a CRNA, 2) Nursing area of special interest (Neuro, cardiac, pediatric, pharmacology, etc), and 3) A paragraph re: readiness to attend an anesthesia graduate program. LIMIT 2 pages.
	Participate in a personal interview with the Admissions Committee (if invited).
	Proof of recent health examination to include (a) proof of immunization against the Hepatitis B virus, (b) current tuberculosis (TB) skin test or quantiferon G test, (c) current Tdap immunization, (d) evidence of immunity to varicella, and (e) current MMR immunization.
	Must pass both a criminal background check and drug screening upon admission, this will be done in orientation to the program.
	Complete 2-page essay on prompted question <u>upon being granted an interview</u> .
	Shadow log or CRNA interview form uploaded to Graduate School Application system. You may submit both if you like. Both forms are located in the Useful Forms link on the USM Nurse Anesthesia website. See notes below **
	Complete and upload the clinical competency checklist – located under Useful Forms on the USM NAP website

\*Email reminders to complete your application are sent through the Graduate School system. It is up to the applicant to ensure their file is complete by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Graduate School houses the applications and documents, this is not done within the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Please do not contact the program or College student services to see if your application is complete. We will contact you at the email you provided in your application if we see a missing component during our application review period.

\*\*Shadow Log: Clinical shadowing is essential for prospective applicants considering a career in nurse anesthesia, allowing the opportunity to gauge and affirm interest in nurse anesthesia as a career. A shadowing experience provides an introduction to the profession and the day-to-day responsibilities.

Learning objectives that should serve as guidelines for the shadowing experience include determining the profession's fit, including aptitude, dedication, and attributes needed to pursue nurse anesthesia, and understanding the anesthesia roles on the health care team.

**Due to current restrictions in many surgical units, shadow experiences may be limited. If an applicant cannot meet the minimum required shadowing hours, he/she will be required to perform and submit a supplemental CRNA interview.**

To complete the interview:

- 1- Download the *Application Supplement-CRNA Interview Form* located on the USM NAP website under Useful Forms
- 2- Complete the form and submit with--or in place of/or along with --your Shadow Log to the electronic graduate school application.