



Position Statement on Authority to Accredit Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

The COA is nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as an accrediting agency for the “accreditation of institutions and programs of nurse anesthesia at the post-master’s certificate, master’s, or doctoral degree levels in the United States, and its territories, including programs offering distance education.” The COA is the sole agency with the authority to establish educational requirements for programs that prepare qualified registered nurses to become CRNAs, including clinical supervision of nurse anesthesia students.

The COA’s *Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs – Practice Doctorate* identify the didactic and clinical curriculum requirements that all nurse anesthesia educational programs must meet. The Standards also contain requirements pertaining to the conducting institution, faculty, students, graduates, clinical sites, policy, and evaluation. Included in the Standards are supervision requirements for nurse anesthesia students in clinical settings. Please refer to Standards F5, F7 and F8. (Refer *Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs – Practice Doctorate*, 2015, revised January 2022.)

The Standards for Accreditation are publicly available on the COA website at www.coacrna.org. Questions may be directed to the COA at accreditation@coacrna.org.