Position Statement on Student Titling

The COA recognizes nurse anesthesia programs use a variety of titles and descriptors for their students (e.g., student registered nurse anesthetist, nurse anesthesia student, graduate student nurse anesthetist, resident registered nurse anesthetist, etc.). The accreditation Standards and the Accreditation Policies and Procedures do not require programs to use specific titles or descriptors. The COA supports each program determining the title that works best for them. Programs must ensure the title being used is consistent with state rules and regulations. It is important to note Standard G.8 states, “The program forbids the employment of nurse anesthesia students as nurse anesthetists by title or function.” (Refer Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs – Practice Doctorate, 2015, revised January 2022.)

Questions concerning accreditation requirements regarding the titling of nurse anesthesia students should be directed to the COA at accreditation@coacrna.org.