Proposed Revisions to COA Practice Doctoral Standard E.2.1:

E. Curriculum Standards

*2. The curriculum is designed to prepare graduates for advanced practice and focus on the full scope of nurse anesthesia practice including:

2.1.1. Course(s): Three separate foundational, non-anesthesia focused courses[4], each a minimum of three semester hours or its equivalent, in:

- Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology that is comprehensive and across the lifespan *(see Glossary, "Advanced physiology and pathophysiology")*
- Advanced Pharmacology that is comprehensive and includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents *(see Glossary, "Advanced pharmacology")*
- Advanced Health Assessment that is comprehensive and across the lifespan *(see Glossary, "Advanced health assessment")*

2.1.2. Course(s): Separate specialty courses in:

- Basic Principles in Nurse Anesthesia
- Advanced Principles in Nurse Anesthesia

[4]To appropriately reflect the comprehensive course content, "anesthesia" cannot be included in the title.

Glossary:

New definition:

Advanced physiology and pathophysiology: A comprehensive course that must include 1) physiology across the lifespan including but not limited to cells, homeostasis, nerves, action potentials, muscle function, sensation, nervous system, endocrine, electrolytes, gastrointestinal, genetics, genomics, hepatic, bone, immunology, blood, cardiovascular, renal, respiratory; 2) pathophysiology across the lifespan including but not limited to inflammation, infection, and disease processes related to the following systems: neurological, endocrine, reproductive, hematologic, cardiovascular, lymphatic, pulmonary, renal, hepatic, urologic, digestive, musculoskeletal, integumentary.

New definition:

Advanced pharmacology: A comprehensive course that must include pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents. There must be evidence that broad general pharmacology is extensively covered, including but not limited to the following topic areas: autonomics, cardiovascular-renal (antihypertensives, vasodilators, heart failure, antidysrhythmics, diuretics), smooth muscle (histamine, serotonin, ergot alkaloids, eicosanoids, nitric oxide, reactive airway diseases, central nervous system (sedative-hypnotics, alcohols, general anesthetics, local anesthetics, skeletal muscle relaxants, antiseizure, movement disorders, antipsychotic, antidepressant, opioid agonist/antagonists, cannabinoids, drugs of abuse), blood-inflammation-gout (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, antirheumatic, anti-gout, nonopioid analgesics, blood diseases, hemostasis, dyslipidemia), gastrointestinal, endocrine drugs (hypothalamic, pituitary, thyroid, adrenal, gonadal, pancreatic, bone mineral homeostasis), chemotherapeutic (antibiotics, antivirals, antimycobacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial, antiprotozoal, anthelminthic, cancer chemotherapy, immunopharmacology), toxicology, others (perinatal, pediatric, geriatric, dermatologic, gastrointestinal, dietary supplements/herbals).

Revised definitions:

Advanced health assessment - A comprehensive course that must ~~in advanced health assessment~~ include~~s~~ assessment across the lifespan of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, diagnosis, concepts, and approaches. The course must introduce, develop, and refine the ***comprehensive history and physical assessment*** skills of the APRN as well as enhance their understanding, interpretation, and application of diagnostic tests including laboratory tests, imaging, and diagnostic procedures (e.g., ECG, colonoscopy, biopsy, etc.) *(see Glossary, "Comprehensive history and physical assessment").*

Comprehensive history and physical assessment - Comprehensive history and physical assessment includes the history, physical, and psychological assessment of signs and symptoms, pathophysiologic changes, and psychosocial variations of a patient. The assessment includes an evaluation of the body and its functions using inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation, and advanced assessment techniques, including but not limited to laboratory, radiologic, and other diagnostic studies (e.g., chest X-ray, 12-lead ECG, point-of-care ultrasound), as appropriate. A complete physical assessment incorporates cultural and developmental variations and needs of a patient. The results of a comprehensive history and physical assessment are used to establish a differential diagnosis based on assessment data and develop an effective and appropriate plan of care for a patient. ~~Specific assessment related to anesthesia should be stressed in the practical experience of nurse anesthesia students.~~