

Project Abstract

Project Director: John P. McDonough, CRNA, EdD, ARNP
Professor of Nursing
Director, Nurse Anesthetist Program
School of Nursing, Brooks College of Health
University of North Florida

Project Title: **University of North Florida Nurse Anesthetist
Traineeship Program FY 2020**

Applicant Name: University of North Florida

Address: 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224-2673

Project Director Phone: (904) 620-2628 or 620-1422

Project Director Fax: (904) 620-1832

Project Director Email: john.mcdonough@unf.edu

Web site: <http://www.unf.edu/brooks/nursing/>

The University of North Florida's School of Nursing graduate program houses the Nurse Anesthetist Program. Prior to 2015, UNF accepted students into a rigorous seven semester program of study for a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. Starting in January 2015, students are now accepted into a rigorous nine semester program of study culminating with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. With the support of Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship funds, Nurse Anesthetist Program (NAP) graduates will be prepared to provide anesthesia care across the life span for all types of surgical and diagnostic procedures. In addition, students will be especially well-prepared in the area of pain management and will be qualified to practice in rural and medically-underserved areas, where they may be the only anesthesia provider available to the community. Assistance is requested to help support 3rd year nurse anesthetist students to completion of this advanced nursing education program. The 2006-2007 academic year was the program's first year of operation, with 19 students graduating in 2008. An additional 17 students graduated in 2009. (All graduates supported by traineeship funds passed the National Certification Examination as first-time test takers with mean total scores exceeding the national average.) Since that time, 24 students graduated in 2010, 24 students graduated in 2011, 26 students graduated in 2012, 21 graduated in 2013, 25 graduated in 2014, and 21 graduated in 2015. A cohort of 23 students graduated in December 2016 as the final MSN cohort at UNF. The next year, 18 students in the inaugural DNP-CRNA cohort graduated. This cohort started in January 2015 with a December 2017 graduation date after 3 FULL years on campus. A cohort of 25 students graduated in Dec 2018 and a cohort of 25 graduated in 2019. Currently, the UNF Nurse Anesthetist Program includes 29 students with plans for a December 2020 graduation as well as 24 students in the 2021 cohort and 27 students in the 2022 cohort. A total of 80 full-time students are enrolled in Spring 2020.

A large percentage of NAP graduates are now working at least 50% of the time in rural, medically-underserved areas, or HPSA's (78% of 2016 graduates, 66% of Class of 2017 graduates, 44% of 2018 graduates, 53% of the 2019 graduates). Performance measures for evaluating project success in the coming year include: (1) The percentage of students underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds supported in FY 2020 will meet the goals from FY 2019; (2) the percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds supported in FY 2020 will maintain the gains from FY 2019; (3) All supported graduates will receive certification upon graduation; and (4) at least 50% of graduates supported through the HRSA NAT program will be employed at least 50% of their time in clinical practice sites benefiting medically-underserved or rural populations when averaging over a 3 cohorts of students.

The Project Director will serve as the principal evaluator.