

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC
March, 2026

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist



"It comes with great responsibility, but it is incredibly rewarding." -Phil Noble DNP, CRNA

Certified Registered Nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) administer anesthesia and provide care before, during, and after surgical, therapeutic, diagnostic, and obstetrical procedures. Anesthesia temporarily blocks pain and sensation during medical procedures from numbing small areas to inducing full unconsciousness. **CRNA's** may provide pain management and emergency services. Nurse anesthetists discuss with a patient any medications the patient is taking as well as any allergies or illnesses the patient may have to safely administer anesthesia. Nurse anesthetists then give a patient general anesthesia to put the patient to sleep so they feel no pain during surgery or administer a regional or local anesthesia to numb an area of the body. During the procedure, they monitor the patient's vital signs and adjust the anesthesia as necessary.

Average Annual Pay: \$212,650

How Do I Become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist?

**PROJECTED JOB
GROWTH RATE IS
38% BY 2032**

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist must obtain Bachelor's degree in nursing and obtain state licensure as a registered nurse. Two years of experience as a critical Care Nurse is then required. A doctorate degree in Nursing (DNP) is then required from an accredited anesthesia school. After completing a DNP program a graduate must pass the National Certification Examination (NCE) and obtain state licensure where intending to practice. Certification must be maintained.

What Does a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Do?

- ✓ Evaluate patients, review medical history and obtain informed consent
- ✓ Induce, maintain and emerge patients from anesthesia
- ✓ Continuously monitor patient vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels) and adjust medication levels in real-time.
- ✓ Manage patient airways and perform procedures like placing IVs, arterial lines, and epidurals.
- ✓ Identify and manage emergency situations, including performing CPR.
- ✓ Manage recovery, including pain management and, if needed, transfer to appropriate care units.



WNY R-AHEC, 20 Duncan St, Warsaw, NY 14569
585-786-6275 info@r-ahec.org
<https://www.r-ahec.org/>

Follow us on:



This organization is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC
March, 2026

A Professional Account

Phil Noble, DNP, CRNA at Wyoming County Community Hospital gives insight into a career as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

"Being there for patients during some of their most vulnerable moments in their lives i.e. trauma, emergencies, childbirth and critical procedures. Even though interactions are often brief, they're meaningful. You're often the last person a patient talks to before going under anesthesia. It comes with great responsibility, but it is incredibly rewarding."

What is the most challenging?

"Preventing your emotions from impacting your decision making. Controlling your emotions during critical situations is imperative. You are often put in situations where you must make rapid and decisive decisions and emotions can impede that process. The decisions you make when you're faced with a hemorrhaging trauma or a pediatric patient in respiratory failure can dictate whether they live or die. Being able to suppress your emotions in those situations allows you to think clearly but can be incredibly challenging."

What advice would you give to someone starting out in this field?

"If you are considering being an Anesthetist, I would encourage you to shadow one. If you are a brand-new Anesthetist, I would recommend that you stay humble and vigilant. Over confidence can quietly become dangerous. Humility in your skills and your experience can help prevent you from being humbled at the expense of a patient. Be prepared for any situation, never treat anything as routine."

Anything else you want to share?

"Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) are highly specialized nurses. To become a CRNA, you must have a Bachelor's in the Science of Nursing, a minimum of 2 years' experience as a critical care nurse, a Doctorate in Nursing from an accredited anesthesia school and maintain a national board certification in anesthesia. We can practice as independent providers and we provide most of the anesthesia in underserved and rural areas. Access to healthcare is one of the largest problems we face in America. The ability of CRNAs to practice independently plays a vital role in reducing healthcare disparities nationwide."



Click on the image for information on a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOTZqTeoiSY>



Click on the image for a day in the life of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUqvlpFOLlg>



For more information visit the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

<https://www.aana.com/about-us/about-crnas/become-a-crna/>

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

March, 2026

2026 WNY R-AHEC Health Career Scholarship
Apply for a \$1,000 Scholarship today!
Multiple Scholarships will be awarded

Deadline: March 23, 2026

Graduating High School Seniors Pursuing a Degree in Healthcare

Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors entering healthcare related programs after graduation. Students must be graduating from a high school AND attending a program within R-AHEC's region which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates county.

About Us
Western New York Rural AHEC improves the quality of healthcare in our region through workforce development, education, and resources.

bit.ly/HCScholarship2026

info@r-ahec.org | 585-786-6275
r-ahec.org **APPLY NOW**

Join Yes & Know: A Virtual Health and Wellness Study

The Yes & Know study is a nationwide virtual education program for 14- to 19-year-olds, combining live group-based education with an interactive website.

Earn up to \$300 in gift cards and learn about life skills while supporting research to improve health education.

Includes topics such as:

- Sexual Health Education
- Building Healthy Relationships
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating Tips
- Reaching Your Education and Career Goals

The study is entirely online. Attend 10 Zoom sessions, take 4 short surveys, and complete activities on a website to earn gift cards!

Is this you, or do you work with youth who meet these criteria?

- Age 14-19
- Can participate in English
- Live anywhere in the U.S. or U.S. territories

Questions?
Email yesandknow@etr.org
Phone 510-379-5399

Interested? Scan the QR code with your phone to answer a few screening questions.

yes & know
a project of **etr**

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS
A Complete Guide to Careers in Health

Career Resource Guide