

Nursing Education at Wake Forest

The School of Nursing began at North Carolina Baptist Hospital (now Wake Forest Baptist Health) in 1923. The school had enrollment as high as 190 students, but it closed in 1974. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is the first distance education degree program at the School of Medicine, and today's graduates are the inaugural class of that program. Today's DNP graduates represent nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse executives, and nurse practitioners who have endeavored to elevate their practice with new knowledge and skills to be change agents and leaders in their field.

The Nurse Anesthesia Program was established in 1942 as one of the professional schools of North Carolina Baptist Hospital and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Ranked among the top 10 programs in the country, the Wake Forest program is recognized for producing many national and international leaders in nurse anesthesia. Graduates receive the Master of Science degree in Nurse Anesthesia.

Faculty

*Michael Rieker, DNP, CRNA, FAAN, Chair and Program Director
Courtney Brown, PhD, CRNA, Associate Director for Didactic Education
Clifford Gonzales, PhD, CRNA, Associate Director for Clinical Education
Lisa Mileto, DNP, CRNA, Associate Director for Doctoral Education
Richard W. Flowers Jr., DNP, CRNA, Educational Innovator
Kellie Griggs, DNP, MSN-Ed, RNC-OB, Assistant Professor
Kristin Henderson, DNP, CRNA, Educational Innovator*

Regalia

The traditional academic vestments, or regalia, reflect a tradition originating in medieval universities in Europe. Faculty members are wearing robes with color and insignia particular to the university from which they graduated. Doctoral degree recipients wear gowns with velvet chevrons on the sleeves and have the option of wearing a velvet tam cap. Cords and medals signify honor societies and other academic honors. The colors of the hood signify one's major course of study; apricot for nursing (DNP), gold for science (CRNA), and royal blue for philosophy (Ph.D.) in any subject.



Department of Academic Nursing

Virtual Commencement

*Saturday, August 22, 2020
10:00 a.m.*

Program

Graduating Class of 2020

Invocation

Deborah Flaherty, MSN, CRNA

Welcome

Michael Rieker, DNP, CRNA, FAAN
Chair, Academic Nursing

Introduction of Speaker

Julie A. Freischlag, MD, FRCS, Ed (Hon)
Chief Executive Officer and Dean,
Wake Forest Baptist Health and Wake Forest School of
Medicine

Address to Graduates

Cathleen Wheatley, DNP, RN, CENP
President, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center &
System Chief Nurse Executive, Sr. Vice President of Clinical Operations

Presentation of Awards and Recognitions

Charles A. Maree Award of Excellence

Chelsea Felton, BSN, SRNA
Junior Class Representative

Agatha Hodgins Award

Courtney Brown, PhD, CRNA
Associate Director for Didactic Education

Challenge Coin Award

Kristin Henderson, DNAP, CRNA
Educational Innovator

DNP presentation & student award

Lisa Mileto, DNP, CRNA
Associate Director for Doctoral Education

Master of Science Remarks

Jeremy Blount, SRNA, BSN

Doctor of Nursing Practice Remarks

Elena Meadows, MSN, CRNA

In Memoriam, Katelyn Beardsley 1994 – 2020

Chair Remarks

Presentation of Candidates

Student Hooding

Conferral of Degrees

Benediction Kasey Gragg, SRNA

Scholarships

Faculty & Staff Farewell

Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia Graduates

Ruthie Barber, BSN, RN

Katelyn Beardsley, BSN, RN

Jeremy Paul Blount, BSN, RN

* Caitlin Clement, BSN, RN

Aniesha Dukkipati, MSN, RN

* #Mandy L. Engel, BSN, RN

Marianna "Mari" Furr, BSN, RN

Hannah R. Garcia, BSN, RN

Antonio S. Gervais, BSN, RN

* Kasey Taylor Gragg, BSN, RN

* Rebekah Marie Hardin, BSN, RN

Alex J. Holton, BSN, RN

Belma Seferovic, BSN, RN

Briana LaFuria, BSN, RN

* Luke Mellish, BSN, RN

#Audrea Nolan, BSN, RN

Kisan Hitesh Patel, BSN, RN

Nicholas A. Perri, BSN, RN

Marius Skarbauskas, MSN, RN

Todd A. Stevens, BSN, RN

Nicholas Tuttle, BSN, RN

* Lauren Vanderlip, BSN, RN

* Stephen David Williams, BSN, RN

* Kip Wharton, BSN, RN

Doctor of Nursing Practice Graduates

Graduate

Tracy Campbell, MSN, RN

Fran Charlton, MBA, MHA, RN

Deborah Joyce Flaherty, MSN, CRNA

Trixy M. Headden, MSN, AGNP

Amy Hensley, MSN, FNP

Elena N. Meadows, MSN, CRNA

Amy Milner, MSN, RN-BC

+ Luci L. New, MSN, CRNA

Libby Pearsall, MSN, RN

+ Briana Renee Sullivan, MSN, FNP

Kenneth Thompson, MS, CRNA

* Global Health Certificate + Leadership Certificate # Education Certificate earned

Project name

PROMIS for Lung Cancer Survivors

Transition to Practice Program for New Nurses

Enhancing Leadership Engagement through a
Doctoral Scholarship Program

Systems Improvement Project For An Employee
Wellness Department

PROMIS for Lung Cancer Survivors

Enhanced Recovery Protocols in Total Joint
Arthroplasty

Transition to Practice Program for New Nurses

Implementation of a Peer Support Program

Professional Peer Feedback

Systems Improvement Project for an Employee
Wellness Department

Implementation of best anesthesia practice for
breast cancer surgery.