Anesthesiologist Assistant

Brandon Ly

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Anesthesiologist assistants are commonly known as AA's among other medical workers. They are classified under the allied health professionals category, and they work alongside licensed anesthesiologists. Becoming an AA takes several years in school and is not for everyone. They are required to work in high-pressure situations, in which people may lose their lives. They also may work with patients during any stage of their care. They may prepare someone for a patient, monitor their vital signs during the surgery, or they could issue medication for after surgery pains. Many people look down upon AA's. These people include other doctors and nurses.

In order to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist assistant you must first receive your baccalaureate in general and organic chemistry. This normally takes four years in college. It is also recommended that you have classes pertaining to general and advanced biology, advanced math, and physics. Afterwards you must go to a specialized school that teaches mastery in anesthesiology assisting. The specialized schooling focuses on physiology, pharmacology, anatomy and biochemistry. During your advanced schooling you must complete a minimum of 600 hours of coursework, sixty-three didactic or training hours, and 2000 hours total of clinical training. At the conclusion of the schooling, each student must pass a six hour training exam to become certified. AA's are required to recertify every six years. In order to ensure assistants are keeping up to date, AA's must complete forty hours of continuing education every two years.

UNLV offers courses on both general and organic chemistry. In order to receive your bachelors you must take courses in general, organic, bio, and analytical chemistry. You must also take instrumental analysis classes. General chemistry contains most of the foundation courses for the next four years. Organic chemistry gives you in depth and hands on training with synthesis, chemical separations, measurement of chemical properties, and use of modern instrumentation. In biochemistry you will receive instruction on catabolic and metabolic mechanisms. Then you will learn about metabolic regulatory mechanisms. In analytical chemistry you will have a mixture of both lectures and laboratory training exercises. These provide foundational and in-depth courses emphasizing on chemical calculations, data analysis, and modeling. Instrumental analysis

also contains a mixture of lectures and experiments. You will learn mainly about analytical techniques, spectroscopy, electrochemical methods, thermal analysis, computational data analysis, and modeling.

This year one of our units focused on the body systems. As an AA you must know how the body absorbs the medication, why certain things happen, and how fast they are able to happen. This is why any extra knowledge of the cardiovascular, nervous, and respiratory systems is especially useful. For example, when you are administering pain medication, you need to know what the fastest way for the drugs to enter the bloodstream is. Also you need to know how the medication works, why it works, and what symptoms to look for if something has gone wrong. As another example most pain medications work by preventing prostaglandin from being released by your cells. This process takes time, and if you assume the medicine didn't work and you give them more, you could potentially kill your patient.

The average salary of an anesthesiologist assistant is between $95,000 and $125,000 a year. However, a licensed anesthesiologist makes between $365,000 and $400,000 a year. This seems to be a significant difference for people who do relatively the same job. The truth is an anesthesiologist does most of the work in the operating room. While an AA is capable of completing most of the same tasks, an anesthesiologist has received more extensive training. The demand for AA's is actually extremely high as of now. According to Joe Rifici, an AA instructor at Emory University, one hundred percent of his students have had job offers before graduating college. He has been teaching since 1991. The high demand can be attributed to a growing population and an increasing number of surgeries performed each year. On average students who graduate from Emory have ten job offers waiting for them by graduation, and students who complete their course in Ohio's university have three job offers waiting for them by graduation.

In order to be accepted into an anesthesiology assisting school a student must, have a bachelor in general and organic chemistry, a premedical curriculum, a 3.0 minimum GPA, and pass the medical college admissions test. There are only ten schools nationwide that provide an AA course. These schools can be found in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, and

Vermont. Though only eight states allow you to work. These states are Colorado, Michigan, District of Columbia, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. On a daily basis AA's can expect to operate the bedside monitoring systems and other support devices. An anesthesiologist assistant may also prepare the patient for the delivery of anesthesia. You would also have supervisory authority of laboratory functions regarding anesthesia manufacture and patient care.

There are many positive and negative aspects of becoming an anesthesiologist assistant. There are some major downsides including lower salary than a CRNA. You go to school for the same amount of time and receive considerably less money. There are also very few schools in America that allow you to take courses. There is also the fact that you may not work in every state, only a select few, and you must work under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist. However, there are some plus sides to being an AA. One of the most beneficial is that you receive a continuing education. You also will receive a very flexible work schedule from most employers. You can also be sure that you will have a job, as long as you remain in those select states. Another upside is that you work in a very important environment and you aren't liable for many things that could go wrong.

There are many interesting things about anesthesiology assisting. In the year 2012 seventy-seven percent of all people who received a degree in AA were female. Also none of the assisting schools are located on the west coast. This career is overall very rewarding and provides unique learning situations. You get the chance to see a surgeon and anesthesiologist working together in a very stressful situation. Not many people are able to participate in such important work. You also are able to continue learning about your career field and keep up to date on the newest technology. You just going to work and supervising the production of anesthesia rewards many people.

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