

AFSC 46S4, Staff
AFSC 46S3, Qualified
AFSC 46S1, Entry

★OPERATING ROOM NURSE
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary. Provides professional nursing care within scope of practice, established standards of care and federal and state laws. Assesses, plans, implements, and evaluates perioperative nursing care. Plans, directs, and coordinates activities of the Operating Room Department. Coordinates with and makes recommendations to staff agencies concerning applicable policies, plans and programs. Participates in cross-functional collaboration to improve patient care delivery. Supports research activities. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260503.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. Provides professional perioperative nursing care to patients undergoing surgery. Prepares and maintains operating room (OR) for surgical procedures. Ensures OR physical plan and equipment conform to national standards for patient and staff safety. Prepares operating suite with the type and quantity of material and special equipment needed for daily procedures and potential emergencies. Circulates and scrubs for surgical procedures. Responds to surgical emergencies such as cardiac, pulmonary, or respiratory failure and hemorrhage.
- 2.2. Maintains open intra- and inter-department communication to improve patient care delivery. Conducts preoperative and postoperative visits. Discusses operative procedures with patients. Consults with the operating surgeon and establishes priorities of care for each patient entering the operating suite. Coordinates with recovery room, intensive care, obstetrics, and nursing units, as needed for postoperative care of the patient.
- 2.3. Manages OR activities. Directs personnel in preparing, sterilizing, and maintaining operating room equipment and supplies. Supervises central sterile supply activities. Prepares concise and complete records and reports. Coordinates ongoing, in-service education program for OR nursing personnel.

3. ★Specialty Qualifications:

- 3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge of the perioperative process to include OR techniques and management is mandatory.
- 3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, meet entry level education requirements for appointment to the Nurse Corps for Active Duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Must be a graduate of a baccalaureate degree program in nursing (BSN) accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education. Registered nurses who are graduates of an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and do not have a BSN are not eligible for accession unless they also have a post-baccalaureate (master or doctorate) degree in nursing that is also nationally accredited and recognized by the US Department of Education <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>.
- 3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 46S1, completion of an AF/SG1N approved formal training program is required.
- 3.4. Experience. For award of 46S3, a minimum of 6 months in OR nursing required. Time spent in OR Nursing Course and civilian OR nursing experience is creditable. The 6 months experience in the specialty may be included in the total 12 months of experience required for the award of the 46N3 AFSC. For the AFR, 46S must be currently working in the clinical civilian setting of the suffix the AFR has assessed them into.
- 3.5. Other. For entry, award and retention of these AFSCs, the following are mandatory.
 - 3.5.1. ★Unrestricted practice (excludes temporary restrictions) IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations*.
 - 3.5.2. Approval by the Chief Nurse