

Anesthesiologist Assistant

■ Job Description

Anesthesiologist assistants function under the direction of a licensed and qualified anesthesiologist, principally in medical centers. They assist in collecting preoperative data such as taking an appropriate health history; perform various preoperative tasks such as the insertion of intravenous and arterial catheters as well as special catheters for central venous pressure monitoring; perform airway management and drug administration for induction and maintenance of anesthesia; administer supportive therapy, for example with intravenous fluids and cardiovascular drugs; adjust anesthetic levels on a minute to minute basis; perform intraoperative monitoring; provide recovery room care; perform other functions or tasks relating to care in an intensive care unit or pain clinic; and participate in administrative and educational activities.

■ Job Settings

Primarily in medical centers

■ Projected Need

As the population continues to grow and age, more medical procedures requiring anesthesia will be performed. Anesthesiologist assistants may become in greater demand for routine and administrative tasks as more anesthesiologists are hired to handle the increase.

■ Salaries

Starting salaries for anesthesiologist assistants range from \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year.

■ Related Careers

Respiratory therapists/technicians. Since these people have a typical premedical background and a baccalaureate degree with a major such as biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer sciences, or nursing, one might use this program as a stepping stone to medical school, hospital administration, and so on.

■ Differences in Training

The anesthesiologist assistant education program is essentially two years in length leading towards a master's degree. While there are no programs in Illinois, interested students might contact the AA programs at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, or Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Nurse Anesthetist](#)

■ Credentials

Individuals who have successfully completed an accredited anesthesiologist assistant educational program may take the national certification exam. Those who pass this exam are designated Anesthesiologist Assistants-Certified (AA-C).

■ Resources

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
P.O. Box 13978
Tallahassee, FL 32317
Phone: 850.656.8848
E-mail: info@anesthetist.org
<http://www.anesthetist.org>

National Commission for Certification of
Anesthesiologist Assistants
P.O. Box 15519
Atlanta, GA 30333-0519