



Professional Aspects & Ethics in Nurse Anesthesia
CRNA 7261
Fall 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: See Course Schedule

Instructor's Name: Douglas Massey II, DNP, CRNA

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Instructor's Name: Eric Roberts, DNAP, CRNA

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Course Description: This course delves into the diverse professional responsibilities of a nurse anesthesia practice across various healthcare environments. It encompasses the AANA Practice Standards and Code of Ethics, professional representation, legal prerequisites for practice, malpractice insurance, and third-party compensation for anesthesiology services. It will also scrutinize the fundamental ethical principles pertaining to healthcare and their appropriate application in the healthcare field. The course offers a comprehensive overview of fundamental moral principles and begins with an exploration of the philosophical underpinnings of applied and professional ethics, including ethical decision-making processes.

Prerequisites:

- Admission to the DNP-NA Program

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recall the AANA Practice Standards and Code of Ethics. [D.33]
2. Understand the diverse professional responsibilities of a nurse anesthesia practice across various healthcare environments.
3. Apply the fundamental ethical principles in various healthcare scenarios.
4. Analyze legal prerequisites for practice, malpractice insurance, and third-party compensation for anesthesiology services. [D.38]
5. Develop ethical decision-making processes based on the philosophical underpinnings of applied and professional ethics. [D.33, D.35]
6. Evaluate the professional representation of a nurse anesthesia practice in the context of healthcare environments.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

- **Primary Textbook:**
 - N/A
- **Additional Readings:**
 - N/A

Recommended Textbooks and Readings:

- N/A

Special Course Notes:

- 1) **Proctoring Notice:** Examinations in this course will be administered using Canvas' Respondus LockDown Browser and will be proctored by a faculty or staff member of The University of Texas at Tyler. Proctoring is required to ensure academic integrity and adherence to testing standards. Additional details regarding exam procedures, scheduling, and proctoring expectations will be provided in advance of each examination.
- 2) **Dress Code:** For non-lab/simulation activities, Nurse Anesthesia Residents (NARs) are expected to wear office or business casual attire. On days with lab/simulation activities, NARs may wear clean, solid-colored scrubs and must wear closed-toe shoes.
- 3) **Participation.** I invite you to engage, ask questions, and talk about the course content with your classmates. You can learn a great deal from discussing ideas and perspectives with your peers and professor. Participation can also help you articulate your thoughts and develop critical thinking skills.
- 4) **Time Management.** Try scheduling specific blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing additional time for any tech issues that arise.
- 5) **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to your instructor(s) for support.

- 6) **Evaluations:** Course and instructor evaluations are required by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. NARs must submit these evaluations at the end of each semester.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1. Assignments	50%
2. Quizzes	30%
3. Final Written Examination	20%

Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

A - 90-100

B - 80-89

C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). The simple average of all unit exam grades, including a final must be at or above 80% to pass the course. Once the student has achieved a simple unit exam average of 80% or higher, course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required course work. Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.

- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
 - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
 - a reduced or failing grade for the course
 - removal from the Nursing program
 - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: NARs are expected to complete assignments and arrive on time for quizzes, OSCEs, and examinations. If a situation arises that would preclude the NAR from completing an assignment or arriving on time for a quiz, OSCE, or examination, the NAR is expected to communicate with the instructor as early as possible to discuss alternate arrangements. Alternate arrangements are made at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to notify the instructor may result in a grade of zero (0%).

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Punctuality and participation are essential; make-up opportunities for missing or late course requirements are at the discretion of the instructor.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

- **Assignments:** There will be written assignments designed to enhance the learners understanding of the course content. The assignments will account for 50% of the course grade.
- **Quizzes:** There will be quizzes scheduled throughout the semester; quizzes will be in-person and will be proctored by a faculty member or their designee. *No books, notes, or online resources are allowed to be used during quizzes, OSCEs, or exams.* The quizzes will account for 30% of the course grade.
- **Final Written Reflection:** There will be one (1) final written reflection in the course; examinations will be in-person and will be proctored by a faculty member or their designee. *No books, notes, or online resources are allowed to be used.* The final written reflection will account for 20% of the course grade.

Please Note: Detailed information along with grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: August 28, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): September 10, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: November 4, 2026; Students please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Written Final Reflection: December 3, 2026

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates: Please see Canvas for most up-to-date information.

Course Schedule						
Week	Date	Time	Hours	Faculty	Content	Reading(s)
1	08/27/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	The History of Nurse Anesthesia I	See Canvas
2	09/03/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	The History of Nurse Anesthesia II	See Canvas
3	09/09/2026	1300-1500	2	Massey	TxANA	See Canvas
4	09/17/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	AANA Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, and Standards	See Canvas
5	09/24/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	COA & NBCRNA	See Canvas
6	10/02/2026	0800-1000	2	Massey	AANA Foundation	See Canvas
7	10/08/2026	0900-1100	2	Roberts	CRNAs in the Military	See Canvas
8	10/15/2026	1300-1500	2	Massey	Ethics in Anesthesiology	See Canvas
9	10/22/2026	0900-1100	2	Gridda	Social Media Presence and Professionalism	See Canvas
10	10/29/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	Medicolegal Considerations for the Nurse Anesthetist	See Canvas
11	11/06/2026	1000-1200	2	Massey	State & Federal Advocacy	See Canvas
12	11/12/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs	See Canvas
13	11/19/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	Business Practices and Workforce Considerations in Anesthesiology	See Canvas
14	11/26/2026	THANKSGIVING BREAK				
15	12/03/2026	0900-1100	2	Massey	FINAL WRITTEN REFLECTION	N/A

Required Syllabus Language:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgement is expected. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including helping you generate new ideas, identifying flaws in reasoning, and serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same; you must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.

- [Student Resources](#)
- [University Policy](#)