RN FIRST ASSISTANT IN SURGERY, CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY (NURR)

Effective: Fall 2017

The knowledge and technique necessary to assuming responsibilities of the RN First Assistant in Surgery (RNFA) are emphasized. The role of the first assistant is explored in its interdependent relationship, as the nurse works both with the physician and for the benefit of the patient. The nursing diagnosis is used as the defining guide in planning and implementing patient care. Expanded functions are stressed and elaborated as the nurse is prepared to assume responsibility in scrubbing, draping, retracting, exposing, clamping, ligating and suturing. Intellectual and manual dexterity are combined to prepare the nurse with the essential skills necessary to this expanded professional role.

To qualify of the RN First Assistant Program, students must be a perioperative registered nurse with two (2) years of perioperative nursing experience, have achieved certification in perioperative nursing (CNOR) or be eligible to take the CNOR Exam, or be a certified Nurse Practitioner, or certified Nurse Midwife.

An Associate in Applied Science will be awarded upon completion of the program with a 2.0 GPA and a "C" or better in all Allied Health and Nursing (AHN) courses.

Program Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Describe the historical role of the operating room nurse as it relates to RNFA practice.
- Describe essential principles underlying RNFA practice.
- Describe the principle nursing behaviors encompassed in RNFA practice.
- Apply knowledge of surgical anatomy and physiology to surgical first assisting.
- Analyze approaches used in operative procedures.
- Identify surgical hazards and their management.

Curriculum

The College will award a certificate of competency to students who complete an approved credit-bearing career program that requires less than 30 credits. General education courses may not be required for programs that have less than 30 credits. The student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. At least six credit hours must be in courses that are awarded grade points.

First Semester		**Hours**
NUS 207	RN First Assistant	3
	Hours	**3**
Second Semester		
NUS 208	RN First Assistant Internship	3
	Hours	**3**
	Total Hours	**6**

Accreditation

The College recognizes the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) position statement on the role of the RNFA. The certificate program meets AORN Education Standards and is acknowledged by the Competency and Credentialing Institute for Perioperative Nursing.

The program is approved for continuing education credits by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Inc. (http://www.aorn.org/), is an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (https://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/) and is acknowledged by the Competency and Credentialing Institute (https://www.cc-institute.org) as meeting the educational requirements to sit for the RNFA Certification Exam.

Career

Career Information for this Program

RN First Assistant in Surgery (Certificate)

Career Coach

Browse or search for careers and we will give you relevant data on wages, employment, and the training you need.

DCCC Career and Counseling Services

Faculty and staff in Career & Counseling Services are eager to help you become successful in college and in life. We offer services to assist you at any point in your academic journey and we tailor our approach to meet your individual needs.