



PROGRAM HISTORY

1950: Kansas City General Hospital School for Nurse Anesthetists began under the direction of Dr. Samuel Allen. It was one of three schools in the Kansas City, MO area.

1953: The non-degree, certificate program was accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

1964: Dr. Hugh Mathenson was named as Director. The program graduated 3-4 students per year.

1965: Dr. James Elam was named as Director

1966: Dr. Nina Beatty was named as Director

1976: The institution and program were renamed Truman Medical Center (TMC).

1978: The program affiliated with the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) School of Biological Sciences.

1980: The program offered optional Master of Arts in Biology degree simultaneous with the Certificate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice.

1997: The program required graduates to obtain the MA in Biology degree.

1984: Chandler Bowser, MA, CRNA was named as Director. Mr. Bowser established the first clinical affiliate site at St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. The program graduated 8-10 students per year.

1986: The program hosted the 1st Annual Fall Education Conference to provide continuing education for CRNAs.

2001: Mark Lipari, MA, CRNA was named as Director. During his tenure, he established six clinical affiliate sites, which are all still active today. He also increased the class size to 12-15 students per year.

2005: The program was awarded the maximum accreditation of ten years by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

2007: Gerard Dunham, MA, CRNA, Assistant Director of Education, established a dedicated, high-fidelity simulation laboratory at TMC Lakewood.

2008: The first TMC CRNAs earned post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees.

2013: The COA approved the program to transition to the DNP degree curriculum. The program affiliated with the UMKC School of Nursing and Health Studies.

2014: Amber Davies, DNP, CRNA was named as Director. Dr. Davies established one additional clinical affiliate site while leading the school through the transition to Doctoral education.

2015: The COA awarded the program the maximum 10-year accreditation for the new DNP degree program. This year also marked the final class of students graduating with a MA in Biology degree.

2016: The first cohort graduated with DNP degrees.

2017: The program established our new clinical affiliate sites, the first in Oklahoma. The COA approved the program to increase class size to 18 students per year.

2018: Kelli Pryor, DNP, CRNA was named as Director.

2019: The program name was changed to Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill School of Nurse Anesthesia. The program established two new clinical affiliations including Children's Mercy Kansas, the first in Kansas.

2020: The COVID-19 pandemic impacts program. Student clinical rotations were halted for seven weeks. The program established new clinical affiliations with six office-based anesthesia settings.

2021: The institution rebranded as University Health Truman Medical Center and the program name was changed to University Health Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia. The program established three new clinical affiliate sites, including University Hospital in Columbia, MO. The COA granted approval to increase class size to 20 students.

