

The History of the School of Nurse Anesthesia

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 named as Director. The program graduated 3-4 students per year

1965: Dr. James Elam named as Director

1966: Dr. Nina Beatty named as Director

1976: Institution and program name changed to Truman Medical Center

1978: Affiliation began with the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) School of Biological Sciences

1980: Students had option of completing a Master of Arts in Biology simultaneous with the Certificate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

1997: MA in Biology degree required for graduation

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

1986: TMC SoNA hosts the 1st Annual Fall Education Conference to provide continuing education for the recertifying CRNA

2001: Mark Lipari, DNP, CRNA named as Director. During Dr. Lipari's tenure, he established six additional clinical training sites, which are all still active today. He also increased the class size to 12-15 students per year

2005: Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia (TMC SoNA) was awarded the maximum accreditation approval of ten (10) years by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)

2007: Gerard Dunham, DNP, CRNA (Asst. Director of Education) opened a high-fidelity simulation laboratory to introduce skills and procedures and experience high-mortality, low-frequency situations in anesthesia practice

2013: TMC SoNA is the 1st nurse anesthesia program in MO approved to award a Doctorate degree. This new degree is offered in affiliation with the UMKC School of Nursing and Health Studies



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

2015: TMC SoNA was again awarded the maximum 10-year accreditation for the new Certificate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice and DNP degree program. This year also marked the final class of students graduating with a certificate and MA in Biology degree

2016: Inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree graduates

2017: New affiliations established with four additional clinical training sites. Approved to increase class size to 18 students per year

