



## **RNFA Program 6.1 APRN**

Program Syllabus  
(Does not include Workshop)

### **Description**

The RNFA 6.1 Certificate Program is intended to enhance the perioperative nurse knowledge base and skills necessary to pursue the position as a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA). The program consists of online didactic assignments as well as a hands-on clinical experience and is equivalent to 6 semester credit hours of formal, post-basic RN education. The RNFA program is based on the current RNFA Standards and Position Statement established by the AORN.

### **Program Length and Matriculation**

Students must complete the OR Fundamentals portion of the course before beginning Course 1. Both the OR Fundamentals and Course 1 must be completed within one year of program start date (This is the date you gain access to your online Ecampus learning platform). Successful completion of OR Fundamentals and Course 1 requires students to receive an 80% or higher on the required quizzes. Students must also address all other assignments and submit required, current documentation to matriculate into Course 2.

Course 2 must be completed within two years of program start date. To successfully complete Course 2, students must receive an 80% or higher on the Final Exam as well as pass the Procedure logs and submit all other course work as required.

### **Eligibility/ Required Documentation - APRN**

National certification must be submitted prior to program completion

Current unrestricted nursing license for state of practice/clinical

Hold and maintain current BLS and/or ACLS throughout course

Be able to provide 2 Letters of Recommendation prior to start of Clinical Internship

Provide Letters of Recommendation prior to completing Course 1

If the facility requires a training agreement, it must be in place prior to receiving a clinical internship start date

### **Course Faculty**

Dr Glenn Geelhoed MD, AB, BS, MA, DTMH, MPH, MA, MPhil, EdD, ScD, FACS

Kimberly Jones MSN-Ed, RN, CNOR, RNFA – Program Director College Division

Dean Parsons BSN, RN, CNOR, RNFA, CRNFA – Program Director SutureStar™ Workshop Division

John Russell DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CCRN, RNFA – APRN RNFA Program Director College Division

Stephanie Kefer RN, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CNOR, RNFA – Instructor

Nancy Foust – Director of Student Support

### **Required Textbooks**

Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery, 17th Edition by Jane Rothrock

AORN RNFA Core Curriculum 5th Edition

### **Strongly Recommended Textbooks**

AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice, current edition

### **Program Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate should be able to:

- Describe factors controlling scope of practice and procedures for obtaining privileges and practicing as a RNFA
- Identify surgical anatomy, physiology, and implications for the RNFA for multi-specialty surgical procedures
- Relate principles of asepsis, infection control, and wound healing to the practice as a RNFA

- Recognize surgical hazards and implement appropriate techniques to prevent patient injury and achieve optimal surgical outcome
- Integrate perioperative nursing and first assisting knowledge with demonstrable RNFA skills and behaviors, appropriate for surgical interventions
- Utilize the nursing process for the foundation of practice as a RNFA
- Utilize best practices for the RNFA
- Develop communication skills to be utilized throughout the perioperative period to facilitate optimal patient outcomes

## OR Fundamentals

The purpose of the OR Fundamentals course is to provide the basic foundation for perioperative practice. Within the course, you will be exposed to topics such as prepping, draping, gowning, gloving, and specimen handling among others. You are required to complete the OR Fundamentals course **before** advancing into the didactic portion of Course 1 and/or attending a workshop.

Included in OR Fundamentals is:

- NIFA Instructional Videos
- Supplemental reading
- Supplemental Power Point presentations
- OR Fundamentals quiz

Completion of Part A of the Pre-Clinical Skills Evaluation. The form must be completed by a CNOR, RNFA, or surgeon. The form can be found within the Pre-clinical skills tab of this course.

Once the OR Fundamentals quiz is completed with a passing score of 80% or better, and the Pre-Clinical Skills Evaluation Form Part A is submitted, you must click on the Notify Instructor of Course Completion assignment.

## Course 1

Involves Home-study instruction that is self-paced and addresses:

- Safe practice of pre -, intra -, and postoperative care within the RNFA scope of practice
- Operating room principles, practices, guidelines and standards
- Anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology are reviewed and supplemented by an in-depth study of those organs and structures that relate to multi-specialty surgeries through reading assignments
- Step-by-step surgical procedures are studied, along with related knowledge and skills to safely perform a variety of surgeries ensuring optimum patient outcomes.
- Pre -, intra -, and postoperative testing, procedures, complications and considerations
- Pharmacology, anesthesia, specialty equipment and pre-and postoperative routines
- Single and multi-layer wound closure concepts through online video instruction and home-study coursework using the home suture lab; students are required to achieve proficiency in 17 surgical skill sets, culminating with multi-layer wound closure

## Course 1 Didactic

- Reading assignments and study activities covering the practice as an RNFA as assigned in the required textbooks., supplemental PowerPoint presentations, and optional linked sources.
- Workbooks that include reading assignments, definition of terms, and study questions
- Quizzes covering multi-specialty surgery and all aspects of RNFA practice in perioperative practice
- Suture and Tying instructional online video lessons with provided home practice lab
- Pre-clinical skills evaluation

## Course 1 Competencies

Upon successful completion of Course 1, the RNFA Student will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper and safe Operating Room principles and practices
- Apply the knowledge of advanced anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology to surgical procedures

- Have a basic understanding of surgical procedures
- Verbalize an understanding of the importance of diagnostic studies and how they affect the surgical patient's care through the pre-, intra-, and post-operative phases
- Apply the knowledge of the effects of preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative surgical pharmacology and anesthesia to specific surgical procedures, to include proper use, administration techniques, indications and contraindications, to achieve optimal patient outcomes
- Verbalize a working knowledge of the RNFA role, limitations, legalities, ethical concerns, and interpersonal skills necessary for safe and efficient surgical progression
- Demonstrate proper suture techniques and their purpose in tissue layer closures

## Course 2

During Course 2, the student will be performing in the role of the RNFA student in the clinical setting which is chosen by the student. The student is expected to work in close collaboration with the entire perioperative team using effective communication techniques. Clinical preceptor(s) are obtained by the student. The preceptor must be a board-certified surgeon(s) and complete a preceptor form that students submit to the RNFA program.

The expanded intraoperative functions unique to the RNFA are emphasized and include:

- Providing exposure, tissue handling, suturing, providing hemostasis and using surgical instruments during surgical procedures
- Knowledge of surgical anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology related to focused patient assessments
- Pre-, intra-, and postoperative considerations are combined to prepare the qualified student with essential skills and knowledge necessary to function in the expanded role of RNFA
- Maintaining procedure logs
- Team communication and collaboration

## Course 2 Clinical Internship

Enrollment into Course 2 requires the successful completion of the home-study program with a grade of 80% or greater on Course 1 assignments

- Detailed clinical evaluation, including a summary statement of safe practice from all sponsoring surgeon(s)
- Student self-assessment of their own competency levels
- Procedure logs documenting 140 hours consisting of 130 intraoperative, 5 preoperative, and 5 postoperative clinical hours, with specifics of case, skills performed, learning progress, and surgeon intervention and teaching
- Recommendation for program completion signed by all sponsoring surgeons listed on the last 10 hours of the final procedure log
- Successfully complete the Final Examination with a minimum passing grade of 80%

## Course 2 Competencies

Upon successful completion Course 2, the RNFA Student will be able to:

- Utilize the nursing process and best practices while caring for patient's in the perioperative setting in the expanded role of the RNFA
- Demonstrate the skills and techniques necessary to proficiently perform multi-specialty surgical procedures, and appropriately and swiftly recognize and respond to emergent situations
- Apply advanced surgical knowledge and skills of operating room fundamentals, infection control, and wound healing to achieve optimal patient outcomes for healthy and special needs patients
- Apply in-depth knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology to achieve optimal patient outcomes in the perioperative care of patients
- Apply the knowledge and skills unique to the expanded role of the RNFA in the use of equipment, supplies and proper positioning in the surgical care of the patient

## Course Grading and Course Completion

### Grading Criteria

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 90%

F = below 80%

F = Incomplete Coursework

All quizzes and the final exam must be passed with an 80% or better in the 3 attempts allowed. If the student does not successfully pass a quiz or the final exam after the allotted 3 attempts, they must contact Kimberly Jones, RNFA Program Director, at NIFA for remediation. Procedure Logs 1 and 2 are graded as pass/revise and resubmit. All required documents are received/required.

To successfully, complete the course, all required coursework must be received, current, and reflect the passing grades. Recommendation for course completion, completed by the preceptor surgeon(s), are reviewed by the NIFA faculty before Certificate of Completion is awarded.

### Continuing Education Credit

Upon successful completion of the program 99 continuing education credits will be awarded. NIFA is a Licensed Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP11471.

### Internet and Software Requirements

The RNFA 6.1 Program is an online course. All quizzes and final exam must be completed online, and all assignments must be uploaded to the online learning system. Students must be able to open, scan and upload documents created in the Microsoft Office Suite.

### Optional Online Resources

Numerous online resources are provided that include online presentation of surgical procedures, and supplemental information regarding the procedures being studied.

### Education Department

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hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm and Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm MDT/MST

## **RNFA Program 6.1 APRN**

### **NIFA® Policies**

The Registered Nurse First Assist Program 6.0/6.1 is presented by the National Institute of First Assisting, Inc. NIFA® a for-profit Colorado Corporation all rights reserved.

#### **Re-enrollment/Extensions**

There are no extensions for Course 1. The assignment 'Notify NIFA of Course 1 completion' must be complete by the student prior to their deadline. If the deadline is not met, the student will receive a failing grade and will be required to re-enroll at their own expense at the discretion of the Program Director.

If the requirements of Course 2 are not met within two years of the program start date, a one-time extension may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director.

#### **Workshop Refresher/Cancellation**

NIFA® offers successful graduates a one-time workshop refresher class free of charge. Students are eligible for this offer after the 2 years following their successful completion of the NIFA® RNFA program. The decision is at the discretion of the Program Director and those accepted would be able to a 3-Day SutureStar™Xpress Workshop at no charge. NIFA® reserves the right to cancel this offer at any time. The student is responsible for travel and lodging, if applicable.

There will be a \$495.00 cancellation fee assessed if the student cancels the workshop within 45 days of the class.

#### **Clinical Internship**

Students must be solely acting in the first assistant role. The student must act solely in the role of the first surgical assistant, within their scope of practice and within state laws and hospital policies, during their clinical internship. Students must be listed on the operative report as the first assistant.

#### **Surgeon Sponsors**

The clinical sponsors must be board-certified, credentialed surgeons who sign the NIFA® Clinical Sponsor Form. This is an agreement between the clinical sponsor and NIFA®, in which the surgeon agrees to allow the student to function as an RNFA student, provide supervision and clinical direction to the student and perform a clinical evaluation on the student. The surgeon accepts full responsibility for the conduct of the student while under their supervision.

#### **Related Costs**

In addition to tuition, students are responsible for all other costs related to the NIFA Program, including, but not limited to:

- Textbooks
- Malpractice Insurance
- All health care costs to comply with the requirements of the program, including a physical exam, immunizations and all related testing
- Access to a computer, scanner, Microsoft Office Suite, and Internet and email service
- If a Training Agreement is needed NIFA® will cover the cost of the first agreement; additional training agreements will be \$500.00 each
- Travel, transportation, lodging and food for any SutureStar™ Workshop
- CNOR/APRN certification