



RNFA Program 6.0 RN

Program Syllabus

(Does not include Workshop)

Description

The RNFA 6.0 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.

Program Length

Course 1 must be completed within one year of enrollment date.

Course 2 must be completed within one year of clinical internship start date.

Eligibility

CNOR or CNOR eligible

Current unrestricted RN license

Currently working in perioperative nursing

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

Course 1

Involves Home-study instruction that addresses:

- Safe practice of preoperative through postoperative care within the RNFA scope of practice
- Operating room principals, 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
- 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 are taught through online video instruction and home-study coursework using the home suture lab; students are required to achieve proficiency in 22 surgical skill sets, culminating with multi-layer wound closure

Course 1 Didactic

- Reading assignments and study activities covering the practice as an RNFA
- Workbooks that include reading assignments, definition of terms and study questions
- Quizzes covering multi-specialty surgery and all aspects of RNFA practice
- Suture and Tying instructional online video lessons with a home practice lab
- Pre-clinical skills evaluation

Course 1 Competencies

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

- 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

Course 2

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

- Providing exposure, tissue handling, suturing, providing hemostasis and using surgical instruments.
- Manual dexterity of surgical skills and intellectual knowledge of surgical anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology
- 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

Course 2 Clinical Internship

- Successful completion of the home-study program with a grade of 80% or greater
- 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
- Pass 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

Testing

Course 1 Perioperative Quiz

Number of questions: 50

Time Limit: 2 hours

Maximum Number of Attempts: 3

Minimum Passing Grade: 80%

Course 1 Surgical Specialties Quiz

Number of questions: 50

Time Limit: 2 hours

Maximum Number of Attempts: 3

Minimum Passing Grade: 80%

Course 2 Final Exam

Number of questions: 200

Time Limit: 4 hours

Maximum Number of Attempts: 3

Minimum Passing Grade: 80%

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 at NIFA for remediation. Procedure Log 1 and 2 are pass/revise and resubmit and all required documents are received/required.

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 6.0 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.

Required Textbooks

Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery, 15th or 16th Edition by Jane Rothrock

AORN RNFA Core Curriculum 5th Edition

Strongly Recommended Textbooks

AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice, current edition

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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Centennial, Colorado 80111

email: studentsupport@nifa.com

phone: 800-922-7747

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

RNFA Program 6.0

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.

If the requirements of Course 2 are not met within one year of the given start date, a one-time extension may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director. The fee for Course 2 extension is \$300.00. If a student does not complete within the 1-year Extension, 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.

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 applies only to the 3-Day SutureStar™ Xpress Workshop. The student is responsible for travel and lodging, if applicable. NIFA® reserves the right to cancel this offer at any time.

There will be a \$395.00 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 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 certification

Student Conduct

Students must respect and protect the rights and welfare of fellow students, staff, employees, patients and fellow operating room team members. NIFA® reserves the right to suspend or dismiss students for failure to adhere to proper conduct, as expected and required by federal, state, local laws and NIFA® policies. All students are expected to act professionally and to respect staff and employees of NIFA®, clinical affiliates, surgeon sponsors, patients and all other colleagues. Students must also strictly adhere to their state laws regarding practicing in the RNFA role, as well as adhering to all the terms of the facility, training agreement (if applicable) and HIPAA Act.

Violations that may result in permanent dismissal from the program are, but not limited to:

- Possession of weapons
- Illegal drugs
- Drinking alcohol during clinical rotations
- Academic dishonesty
- Being grossly unprepared or erroneous progress through the program
- Training Agreement code of conduct violations

HIPAA Compliance

The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides federal protection of personal health information held by covered entities and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. At the same time, the Privacy Rule is balanced so that it permits the disclosure of personal health information needed for patient care and other important purposes.

Academic Integrity

Honesty is expected of all students. Acts of academic dishonesty, including such activities as plagiarism, cheating or submitting fraudulent documentation, are regarded by NIFA® as very serious offenses and could result in dismissal from the program, without a refund.

Workers Compensation

Though rare, if a student's facility requires they be under NIFA's Workman's Compensation, the student must pay all costs involved, or may withdraw from the program without a refund.

Discrimination

NIFA® will not discriminate against an individual based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, creed, veteran's status, religion, or political beliefs, based on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (*Title VII*).

Prior Learning Credits

Prior learning credit can only be awarded for accepted course extensions. See Re-enrollment/Extension policy.

Transfer Learning Credits

NIFA does not currently have any agreements in place with other academic institutions, and therefore, cannot transfer credit for previous education, nor grant credit for prior learning completed.

Certificate of Completion

Upon successful completion of all components of the RNFA 6.0/6.1 Program, the student will be awarded a Certificate of Completion along with 99 continuing education credits. NIFA® is a Licensed Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP11471.

Placement Assistance

NIFA® does not offer placement assistance to students or graduates, however, when received, NIFA may send valid job offers to students/graduates via email.