



# Perioperative Nurse Internship

Perioperative Learning Center Mission Statement:  
The mission of the Perioperative Learning Center is to provide excellence in the education and training of team members in an effort to deliver safe, competent patient care.

# Introduction

The Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Internship Program is focused on providing training and education to Registered Nurses (RNs) who are either new graduates or have been previously employed in non-OR (Operating Room) nursing positions. It is also for RNs with experience who have not worked in the intraoperative setting for five years or more.

This Internship program is designed to equip nurses with fundamental skills that are critical for providing patient care in the operating room.

# Course Description

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The Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship program consists of strategic and creative approaches to utilize live didactic, independent online study, lab demonstration and return demonstration, as well as subsequent clinical validation with a preceptor in the clinical setting.

The 12-week program addresses the foundational skills of perioperative nursing with a resulting validation of 26 specific fundamental skills in the clinical area essential for perioperative practice.





# Classroom Experience

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Interns spend 142 hours in a classroom setting with a format that is comprised of live didactic and independent online study utilizing the AORN Periop 101 program.

Periop 101 awards 41.7 hours of continuing education credits upon successful completion of the final exam.



# Lab Experience

Interns practice in a mock operating room lab setting to receive structured demonstration, return demonstration, and classroom validation of fundamental skills.



# Clinical Experience

Interns receive 272 clinical hours in the first 12 weeks under the guidance of a trained preceptor who validates their fundamental skills in the operating room setting.

The remainder of orientation, following the internship program, is spent in service-line focused orientation, concentrating on surgical procedures and equipment specific to the assigned specialty area.





# Role of the Circulating Nurse

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

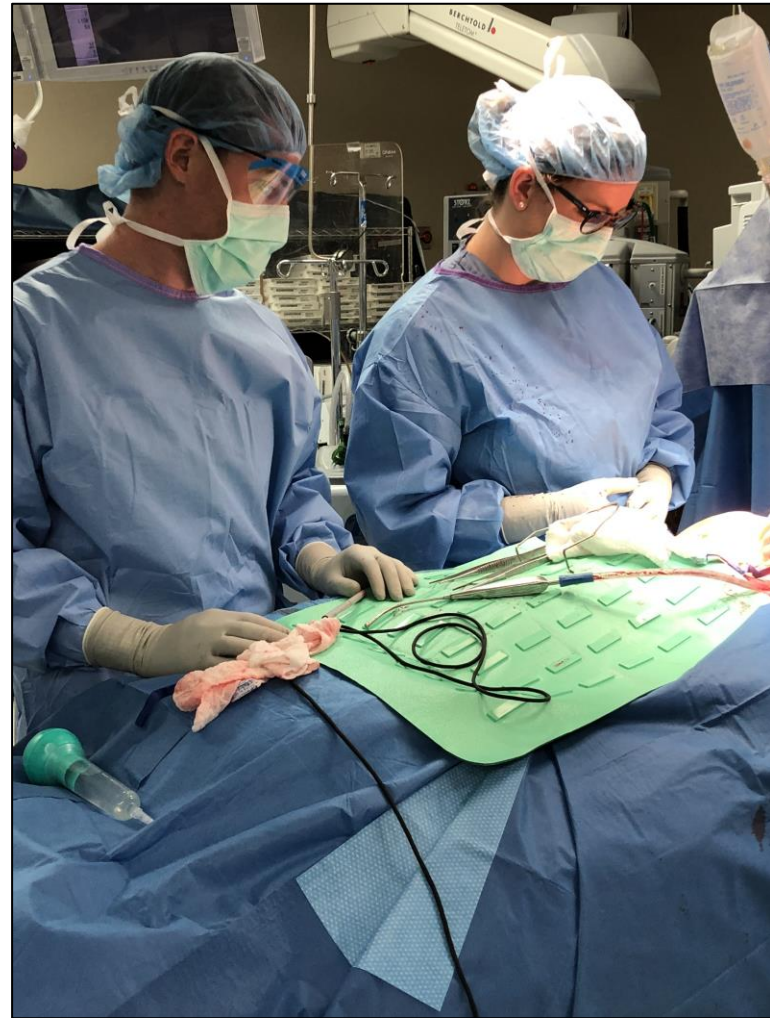
- Management of personnel, equipment, supplies, and environment during surgical procedure
- Patient care including assessment, assisting the anesthesia team, positioning, prepping, and documentation
- Manages flow of information as well as supplies to and from the surgical team members scrubbed at the field



# Role of the Scrub Nurse

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- Responsible for assisting the surgeon and assistants with instrumentation, set-ups, suture presentation, sponges, etc., while maintaining the sterility of the surgical field through aseptic practices.
- Role is based on knowledge of anatomy and the sequence of the surgical procedure to facilitate and anticipate the needs of the surgeon and the assistant.
- During the Internship program you will learn to scrub, gown, and glove, drape the equipment/patient, recognize and handle 100+ instruments, recognize and correct breaks in sterile technique.





# Characteristics of an OR Nurse

Becoming an OR Nurse is very rewarding and at the same time offers some challenges, including:

- Working in a stressful environment and possessing coping mechanisms to handle stressful situations
- Working in a physically challenging environment which includes standing for long periods of time, moving and lifting bulky or heavy equipment or instrument trays
- Working as a team member as part of the model of interdisciplinary collaboration to provide safe patient care
- Ability to concentrate and demonstrate effective communication skills
- Possessing problem solving and critical thinking skills



# Operating Room

The operating room provides many opportunities to work with specialized equipment and technology.



# Operating Room Bed

The OR Bed is an expensive, sometimes complex piece of equipment used for all surgical procedures.

There are several types of OR beds, some for general use and others specifically designed for surgical specialties.

OR personnel should be familiar with it's uses and safety precautions such as weight limits.





# The Back Table

The instrument back table, once draped, provides a set-up area for sterile supplies to be used during the procedure.

The table is on wheels for maximum positioning for the surgical procedure, yet should be placed at least 18 inches away from walls, cabinets, unsterile equipment, and paths of traffic.



# The Mayo Stand

The Mayo stand is draped with a sterile drape and then used to hold instruments that will be used frequently during the procedure.

It is placed directly over, but not in contact with, the patient once the drapes have been applied.

It is adjustable in height and moves on wheels.



# Electrosurgical Unit

The purpose of the Electro-Surgical Unit (Bovie) is to control bleeding through the application of heat, and to cut tissue.

A Bovie machine is an example of standard OR room equipment.





# Surgical Conscience

The Surgical Conscience involves ethical and honest behavior regarding the parameters of sterility in the surgical setting.

It involves constant surveillance of the sterile field.

All team members are responsible for the maintenance of the sterile field.

Observed breaks in techniques must be reported and corrected.



## **Surgical Conscience:**

“A personal commitment to adhere strictly to aseptic practice, and to report and correct any violation. Like integrity, a surgical conscience is what you do when no one is looking”.

Spry, 2016

# Summary

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The Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship Program is a comprehensive program to prepare RNs with the fundamental skills necessary to become efficient, competent members of the OR team.

Candidates for the program should have characteristics necessary to adapt to this exciting, yet demanding environment.

