

March 2019

HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



March's Healthcare Career Focus:

Anesthesiologist (or Assistant)

An anesthesiologist is a physician who assists in surgical procedures by regulating critical life functions while ensuring the patient is unable to detect pain. Outside of the operating room, an anesthesiologist may treat patients for pain management or infections.

What might I do as an Anesthesiologist?

Determine the right type and dose of anesthesia for an individual patient's medical procedure

Build relationships to understand how patients react to medical procedures

Monitor patient's vital signs during surgery

Take proactive and reactive steps to adjust anesthesia based on patient response, and communicate changes or risks to surgical team during procedure

Maintain patient confidentiality while delivering the best quality of care possible

Keep current in the field to identify new technologies and anesthetic drugs that may minimize risks and improve patient health

Work closely with patients in need of pain management to ensure that they, their family members, caregivers, and other medical professionals involved in their care are educated on available methods and medications, and what risks regarding side effects, abuse, or addiction accompany their use.



How do I become an Anesthesiologist?

- Complete a minimum of 60 hours of qualified undergraduate study
- Graduate from an accredited medical school program
- Complete four years of additional advanced training in anesthesiology (1 year internship)
- Take exams and attain medical license

Average Salary:
\$275,710

OR

Opt to train as an assistant: 4 years
+ 2 year masters program

Average Salary:
\$95,000-180,000

What is it really like to be an Anesthesiologist?

It is a hands-on profession in which you work with technologically advanced equipment while also working closely with patients.

Most anesthesiologists (91%) say that they feel their job is meaningful and makes the world a better place.

<https://www.owlguru.com/career/anesthesiologists/job-description/>

Meet Matt in this Owl Guru video: <https://youtu.be/1wumzgNlyCA?t=73>

Meet Erika in this article about being an anesthesiology assistant: https://www.cleveland.com/employment/plaindealer/index.ssf/2015/02/anesthesiologist_assistant_cares_for_patient_throughout_entire_surgical_process.html



“Anesthesiology is an excellent field. It is... a fast-paced specialty that requires me to think on my feet.”

“... every day I get to work as part of a team, with surgeons, nurses and technicians, as we bring patients safely through surgery and into recovery. ”

“I encourage students to spend time not only learning about different specialties, but also shadowing people in those fields and seeing what their whole lives are like.

Alex Cheng

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Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYS AHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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