

NURS 8900 - Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists 1

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 30289,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Sara Conner, DNP, CRNA, APNP

Professional Qualifications:

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, 2023

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Purdue University, 2017

Associate of Science in Nursing (ADN), College of Lake County, 2013

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), NBCRNA, 2023

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Course Description

8900. Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists 1. Provides an opportunity to focus on the advanced principles of anesthesia related to pharmacology. Presents in-depth material and includes discussions on the pharmacology of various classes of anesthetics and adjuvant therapeutics employed by nurse anesthetists, including anesthetic induction agents, benzodiazepines, opioid agonists/antagonists/agonist-antagonist, neuromuscular blocking agents, and local anesthetics. Prereq.: Admission and enrollment in the DNP Nurse Anesthesia program. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Stoelting's Pharmacology & Physiology in Anesthetic Practice, 6th Edition	Pamela Flood, James P. Rathmell, and Richard D. Urman	9781975126896

Week 1: Chapter 2-Basic Principles of Pharmacology

Week 2: Chapter 5-Intravenous Sedatives and Hypnotics

Week 3: Chapter 4-Inhaled Anesthetics

Week 4: Chapter 7-Opioid Agonists and Antagonists

Week 5: Chapters 8 and 9-Centrally Acting Nonopioid Analgesics, Peripherally Acting Analgesics

Week 6: Chapter 22-Diuretics

Week 7: Midterm

Week 8: Chapter 10-Local Anesthetics

Week 9: Chapter 12-Neuromuscular Blocking Drugs and Reversal Agents

Week 10: Chapter 18-Sympathomimetic Drugs

Week 11: Chapter 19-Sympatholytics

Week 12: Chapter 20-Vasodilators

Week 13: Chapter 34-Antiemetics

Week 14: Cumulative Final Exam

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Weekly Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
5/12	Chapter 2	Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics	SUGGESTED: Apex Unit 4: Pharmacology 1 Pharmacokinetics Tutorial, Pharmacodynamics Tutorial, and Pk/PD Exam
5/19	Chapter 5	IV Anesthetics	QUIZ #1 (covering lectures 1 and 2) Exam will open on 5/22 at Midnight and is due 5/24 by 11:59 PM EST Suggested: Apex Unit 4: Pharmacology 1 Intravenous Anesthetics Tutorial and Exam
5/26	Chapter 4	Inhaled Anesthetics	SUGGESTED: Apex Unit 4: Pharmacology 1 Inhaled Anesthetics 1 Tutorial, Inhaled Anesthetics 2 Tutorial, Inhaled Anesthetics Exam
6/2	Chapter 7	Opioid Agonists/Antagonists	QUIZ #2 (covering lectures 3) Exam will open on 6/5 at Midnight and is due 6/7 by 11:59 pm EST Suggested: Apex Unit 5 Pharmacology 2 Opioid and Nonopioid Analgesics Tutorial and Exam
6/9	Chapter 8, 9	Nonopioid Anesthetics	QUIZ #2 (covering lectures 3) Exam will open on 6/5 at Midnight and is due 6/7 by 11:59 pm EST Suggested: Apex Unit 5 Pharmacology 2 Opioid and Nonopioid Analgesics Tutorial and Exam
6/16	Chapter 22	Diuretics	QUIZ #3 (covering lectures 4 and 5) Exam will open on 6/19 at Midnight and is due 6/21 by 11:59 pm EST Suggested: Apex Unit 10 Kidney, Liver, and Endocrine Kidney Tutorial (module 9 Diuretics) and Diuretics Exam
6/23	N/A	Mid-Term Exam	Midterm Exam (Covering all lectures 1-6) Exam will open 6/26 at Midnight and is due 6/28 by 11:59 PM EST
6/30	Chapter 10	Local Anesthetics	Suggested: Apex Unit 5 Pharmacology 2 Local Anesthetics Tutorial and Exam
7/7	Chapter 12	Neuromuscular Blockers and Reversals	QUIZ #4 (covering lectures 7 and 8) Exam will open 7/10 at Midnight and is due 7/12 by 11:59 PM EST Suggested: Apex Unit 5 Pharmacology 2 Neuromuscular Blockers Tutorial and Exam, Neuromuscular Blocker Reversal Agents Tutorial and Exam
7/14	Chapter 18	Sympathomimetics	Suggested: Apex Unit 2 ANS ANS Pharmacology and Pathophysiology Tutorial and ANS Pharmacology Exam
7/21	Chapter 19	Sympatholytics	QUIZ #5 (covering lectures 9 and 10) Exam will open 7/24 at Midnight and is due 7/26 by 11:59 PM EST

7/28	Chapter 20	Vasodilators	
8/4	Chapter 34	Antiemetics	QUIZ #6 (covering lectures 11-12) Exam will open 8/7 at midnight and is due 8/9 by 11:59 PM
8/11	N/A	Cumulative Final Exam	Cumulative Final Exam (covering all 12 lectures)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.