

# VUMC Perioperative Services Intraoperative Internship Program



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL  
CENTER



**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

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.

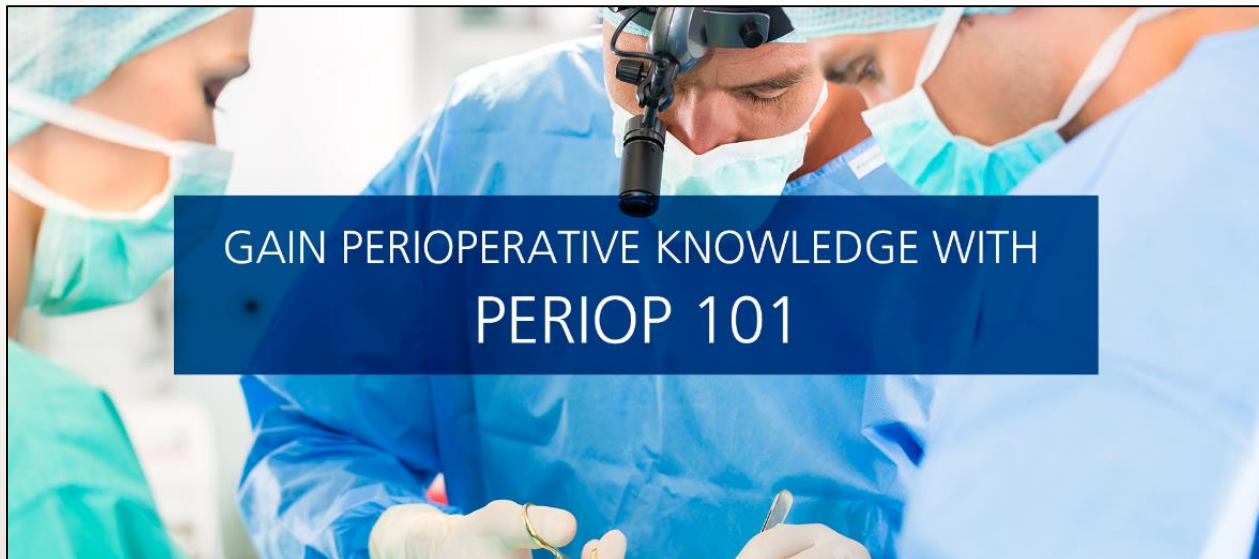
The traditional (12 week) and accelerated (10 week) program addresses the foundational skills of perioperative nursing with a resulting validation of 26 specific fundamental skills in the clinical area, essential for perioperative practice.



# Classroom Experience

---

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. The AORN program awards 41.7 hours of continuing education credits upon successful completion of the final exam.



# Lab Experience

Interns utilize 32 hours 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 specific surgical procedures and equipment, specific to the assigned specialty area.

The service specific orientation is evaluated on a week by week basis until successful completion of the orientation criteria.



# Documentation of Competency

Interns are responsible for a competency packet and case logs that validate demonstrated performance in the operating room.

These skills will be observed and validated by a preceptor and reviewed by the Educators and Managers until competent performance is achieved and documented.



# AORN Perioperative 101 Online Course Modules

---

Introduction to Quality & Safety Education  
for nurses

Anesthesia

Clinical Reasoning

Endoscopic and MIS

Environmental Sanitation and Terminal  
Cleaning

Hemostasis Sponges and Drains

Medications and Solutions

Patient and Family Education

Perianesthesia Nursing

Perioperative Assessment

Periop HC Info Management

Perioperative Safety Equipment Focus

Perioperative Safety Introduction

Perioperative Safety Patient Focus

Positioning the Surgical Patient

Preoperative Skin Antisepsis

Professionalism

Specimens

Safe Use of Surgical Energy

Scrubbing Gowning Gloving

Sterile Technique

Sterilization and Disinfection

Surgical Draping

Surgical Instruments

The Perioperative Environment

Transmissible Infection Prevention

Wound Closure

Wound Healing

**The AORN modules are supplemented with selected videos and live didactic on similar and extended topics via various instructors and speakers.**



# Surgical Environment- attire



- Surgical scrubs
  - provided by Vanderbilt
- Paper hat
  - covers all hair
- Masks
  - worn any time sterile supplies are present
- Fingernails
  - short, clean, and healthy
  - no artificial nails
- Shoes
  - comfortable and easily cleaned
  - closed toe

# Role of 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

---

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 and 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.

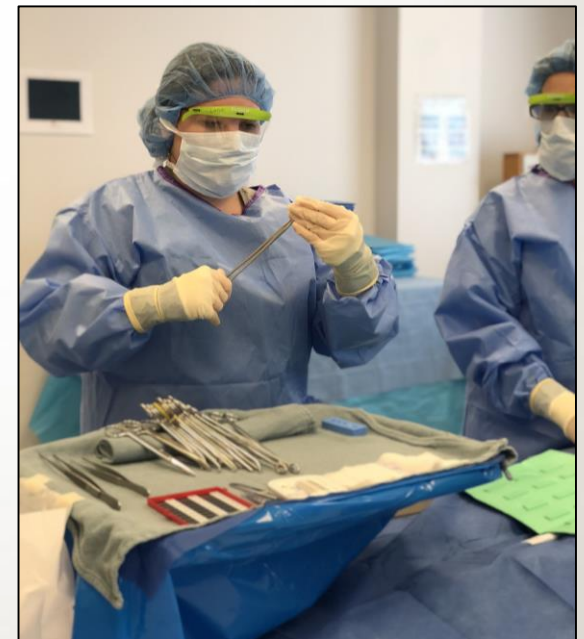


# The Mayo Stand

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.



# Additional Equipment

Lasers

Video towers

Robots

Monitoring devices

Positioning devices

Emergency 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.



# Summary

---

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

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

