

Emory Critical Care Center Nurse Practitioner Residency Program: Gaining Accreditation to Better Support Nurse Practitioners

The Emory Critical Care Center Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at Emory Healthcare attracts new graduates who seek a structured educational program to become experts and leaders in their field. For one year, nurse practitioners are trained alongside the interprofessional team to gain the skills necessary to provide safe, high-quality care to patients in the intensive care unit. The comprehensive, competency-based curriculum allows residents to experience hands-on learning in the clinical setting. The program is among the first in the country to earn accreditation from ANCC Practice Transition Accreditation Program™ (PTAP).

Heather Meissen, ACNP-BC, CCRN, Director of Emory's Nurse Practitioner Residency Program, shares highlights of the PTAP journey:

Emory Critical Care Center sought formal accreditation to validate our vision to provide education for acute care nurse practitioners that combines a strong didactic component with intense, practical clinical experience. Accreditation reinforces the core values that guide our daily actions in order to produce great outcomes for our patients and the nursing profession.

Prior to accreditation, we struggled to prove the program's value to key stakeholders who were in charge of financial support. ANCC accreditation provides a stamp of approval and validates to key stakeholders that the program is vital to train advanced practice providers in critical care. Because the program meets ANCC evidence-based standards, it helps ensure that trainees receive the highest caliber postgraduate education to support their transition to practice.

Our biggest reward has been watching residents evolve into competent bedside practitioners enthusiastically endorsed by the organization. Emory benefits from training our acute care nurse practitioners in an accredited and structured post-graduate program. We will retain these highly trained providers in our intensive care units, increasing the quality of care for our patients and receiving public recognition for employing highly qualified practitioners prepared through an ANCC-accredited program.

Graduate trainees employ the skills they learn in the residency program to contribute to increased patient care quality, patient safety, and patient outcomes. For example, all trainees complete a structured ultrasound course as part of their residency requirements. Our patients receive the benefit of minimally invasive diagnostic care from specially trained professionals.

Our advice to other organizations considering accrediting their nursing practice transition program through ANCC is to do it. There is no perfect time to begin the process. By pursuing accreditation, you take the next step to ensure nurses receive the highest quality education possible.

About Emory Healthcare

As the largest healthcare system in Georgia and the only health network in the state that brings together a full range of hospitals, clinics, and local practices, Emory Healthcare is committed to

providing patients and families with better, more collaborative care for all their medical needs. The Emory Healthcare Network encompasses teams of providers at our locations across Georgia, including Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory University Orthopedics & Spine Hospital, Emory Rehabilitation Hospital and the Wesley Woods Center, Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital and Emory Johns Creek Hospital, Emory Clinic, and the Emory Healthcare Network physicians, ranging from primary to specialty care providers. Through our integrated, collaborative care network, we are dedicated to providing the standard of care that our patients expect and deserve. emoryhealthcare.org

About the ANCC Accreditation Program

The ANCC Accreditation program recognizes the importance of high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE), skills-based competency, and nurse practice transition programs. Around the world, ANCC-accredited organizations provide nurses with the knowledge and skills to help improve care and patient outcomes.

Accreditation by ANCC validates that a nursing residency or fellowship program has been operationalized to meet ANCC standards, regardless of whether the curriculum is developed in-house or purchased from a provider. Use of any course/material/service does not imply eligibility for or successful performance in the submission of credential applications, nor is it a requirement to qualify for accreditation. ANCC does not endorse any products or services. nursecredentialing.org/accreditation