

## Becoming a Clinical Faculty Preceptor

The **mission** of the Master of Health Science in Anesthesia Program is to educate Anesthesiologist Assistants to provide comprehensive quality anesthesia care to all, to be respectful of patient values, to be committed to ethical principles and to be grounded in evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning. Graduates will contribute to the profession and their communities and be prepared to practice medicine in a variety of perioperative settings under the supervision of physician anesthesiologists. Graduates will be dedicated to service of the medically underserved communities and diverse patient populations.

Clinical Preceptors are faculty members within the Anesthesiologist Assistant Program overseen by the Division of Clinical Affairs. The Medical Directors of the Master of Health Science in Anesthesia Program help ensure the provision of a high caliber clinical education and are involved in the development and delivery of curriculum in both the Foundation and Integrative **phases**. In order to ensure a high quality, standardized clinical rotation curriculum, the Medical Directors work with the Program Faculty to develop clerkship objectives, required textbooks, clinical cases to enhance student learning, supplemental instructional videos, an online syllabus and the comprehensive exams during each block. This standardized curriculum ensures that all students, regardless of the geographic location of their clinical rotation, will have completed the same clinical objectives and didactic lessons. At primary core rotation facilities or geographic locations, additional support for clinical education is provided in the form of a Clinical Site Coordinator.

The academic and administrative support provided by the **MHSA** Program, coupled with a well-established didactic curriculum including objectives, reading assignments, online cases and standardized end of block comprehensive exams, ensures that all precepting clinical faculty are free to focus on perioperative clinical teaching rather than having to develop an individual curriculum or didactic components at their clinical site.

The Program Director and Medical Directors monitor the variety of cases the students are participating in through patient encounter and clinical procedure logs. The Director of Clinical Rotations, Assistant Program Director for Clinical Affairs and/or Medical Directors will meet with core clinical faculty annually to provide them with student feedback as well as to provide the clinical faculty member the opportunity to make suggestions to improve the curriculum, the rotation experience and the preparedness of students as a whole. **Clinical faculty complete student evaluations at the end of each rotation period. A standardized evaluation form simplifies this process and evaluates students on very specific components in areas of required core competencies.** These forms can be completed online to make the process even easier for faculty or in hard copy at the discretion and preference of the Preceptor.

## Benefits of Becoming a MHSA Clinical Faculty Member

In addition to the intrinsic rewards that come with student precepting, members of clinical faculty receive numerous additional benefits. All clinical faculty receive an academic appointment with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at an academic rank commensurate with experience, **access to the VCOM electronic library and its wide range of medical textbooks and thousands of**

online journals from home, office or anywhere with an internet connection, and a monetary stipend for precepting MHSAs on required clinical rotations (paid to you directly or through the medical education department of your hospital). The MHSAs Program will provide individual faculty development on campus, online, and in your site each year of which you may take advantage. CME opportunities exist each fall on the VCOM-Auburn campus and you will receive CME credit for precepting students as well.

## Faculty Classification

Preceptors at primary core rotations are appointed as Clinical Track Faculty, which may be granted to faculty who hold academic rank, as determined by the Appointment, Promotions and Tenure Committee of VCOM, and are contracted to further the Program's academic mission through teaching limited to the clinical setting and with less than ten hours of didactic teaching time dedicated to the education program.

## Temporary Appointment Status

Physicians/professionals who are seeking appointment in the clinical faculty may be issued a temporary faculty appointment by the Medical Directors for up to six months while they complete the application process. However, prior to being given this temporary status, an affiliation agreement must have been signed with the institution in which the anesthesia clinician practices, or with the individual practitioner, and a valid license must be confirmed. This temporary status allows the applicant to precept students while awaiting the completion of the appointment process.

## Reappointment Process

Appointed clinical faculty must complete a reappointment process every five (5) years. During the reappointment process preceptors must provide a current CV and updated board certification if applicable, and their license will be verified through the appropriate state licensing body.

## Becoming a Clinical Preceptor

Those interested in clinical faculty appointment must be referred to the MHSAs Program through either the appropriate faculty, the Medical Directors, current clinical faculty members, or the appropriate Clinical Site Coordinator.

Interested physicians or anesthesiologists are required to submit the following documents:

1. Clinical Faculty Application Cover letter (PDF)
2. Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. Copy of applicable Board Certification
4. Copy of Residency Completion Certificate (*physician only*)
5. Copy of Medical or applicable Graduate School Diploma
6. State License (Optional: VCOM can verify state licensure online, thus a copy of State License is not required)

*To expedite the process, please submit all documents together; **incomplete submissions cannot be processed.***