

**Oakland University-Beaumont  
Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia**

**Information Session**

**Andrea C. Bittinger, DNP, CRNA**

**Clinical & Admissions Coordinator  
Adjunct Faculty**

# Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

CRNAs provide anesthesia in collaboration with:

- Surgeons
- Anesthesiologists
- Dentists
- Podiatrists
- Other health care providers

CRNAs practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect

- High level of responsibility and they are compensated accordingly

# CRNA Profession

Providing anesthesia care to patients in the US for more than 150 years

- Nurses first provided anesthesia to wounded soldiers during the Civil War.
- The main providers of anesthesia to U.S. military on the front lines since WWI, including current conflicts in the Middle East.

Over 52,000 CRNAs administer approximately 43 million anesthetics each year in the US.

# CRNA Profession

CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in rural America, enabling healthcare facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services.

- In some states, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals.

Legislation passed by Congress in 1986 made nurse anesthetists the first nursing specialty to be accorded direct reimbursement rights under the Medicare Program

Managed care plans recognize CRNAs for providing equally safe, high quality anesthesia care with reduced expense to patients and insurance companies.

# Program History

1991 collaborative initiative

Address the nurse anesthesia shortage

Provide an exceptional educational environment

Class size ranges 7-31

- current class sizes: 23 - 25



# Program Mission

**“To provide the highest quality graduate educational program that prepares CRNA exemplars in clinical practice, education, research and leadership”**



# Faculty

**Dean of the OU School of Nursing: Christopher Coleman, PhD, RN**

**Anesthesia Program Director: Linda McDonald, DNAP, CRNA**

**Assistant Director: Anne Hranchook, DNP, CRNA**

**Clinical & Admissions Coordinator: Andrea Bittinger, DNP, CRNA**

**Clinical Coordinator: Holly Franson, DNP, CRNA**

**Simulation Coordinator: Lori Shannon, DNAP, CRNA**

**Program Faculty: Mary Golinski, PhD, CRNA**

**Program Secretary: Susan Davis**

**Graduate Advisor: Emily Stepanian - Bennett, MA**

# Program Statistics

Consistently exceeds the Council on Accreditation (COA) minimum standards

Each graduate:

- Provides anesthesia in over 800 cases (minimum 650)
  - Class of 2022 ~ 1,039 cases
- ~ 3,000 hours clinical anesthesia time (2,000 required)
- Over 30 clinical affiliate sites: Michigan and Ohio
- Received maximum accreditation - 10 years (COA 2022)





# Measures of Success



- ~ 4,000 ICU RN applicants over almost 30 years
- > 500 graduates
- In 2019 & 2021 - 91 % National Certification Exam First Time Pass Rate
  - 2022- 88%
  - National 1<sup>st</sup> time pass rate 85%
  - 100% on subsequent attempts
- 100% Job Placement
- Five year attrition: < 5%

Currently ranked 18th of all anesthesia programs in the nation by *US News and World Report's* special edition of America's Best Graduate Schools



## Our Challenge...



Keep all students up to date

Keep our equipment & curriculum current and adequate for learner needs

High tech teaching is required

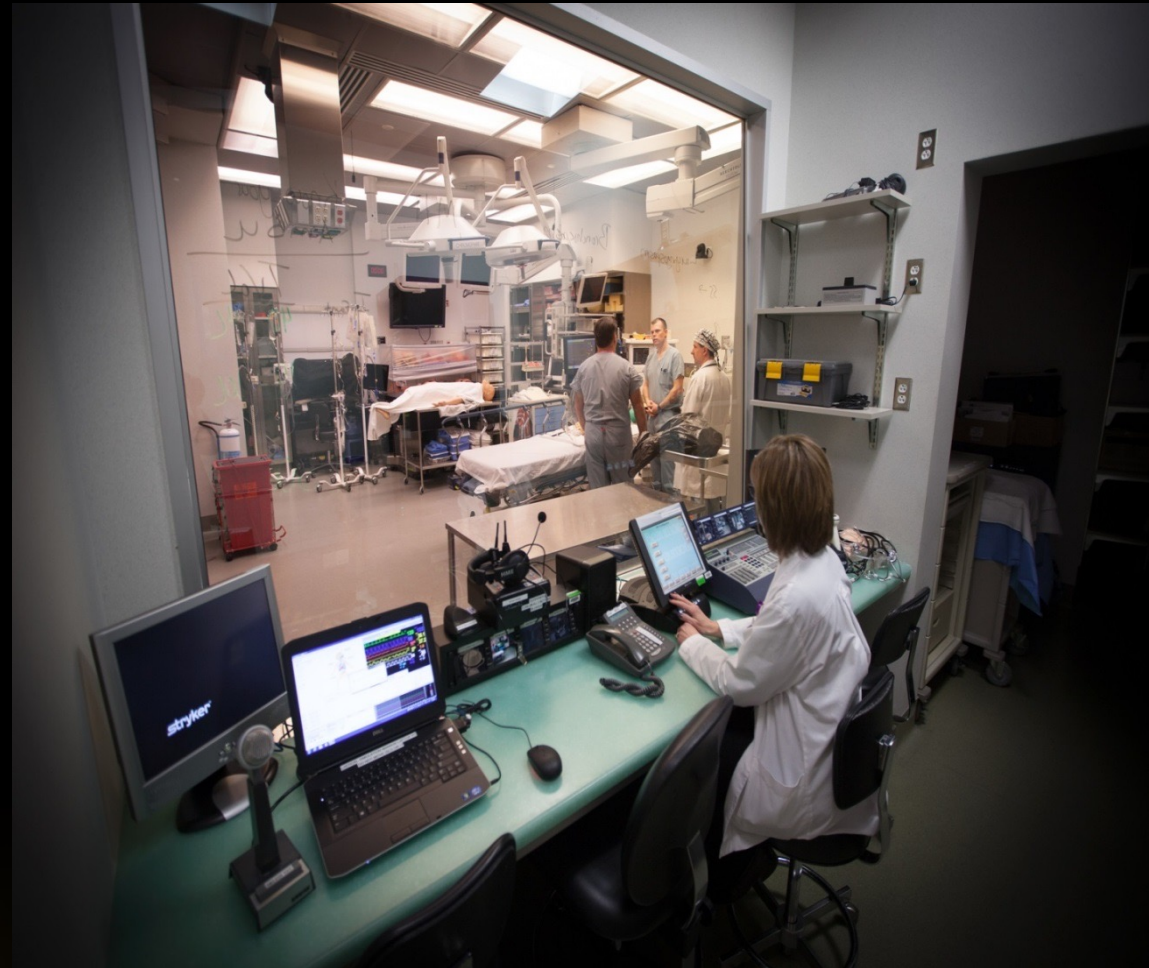
- Use of video, photo, Internet, distance ed
- Teaching the old and the new - both are in practice
- Surgical Procedures - minimally invasive vs. open procedures
- Current trends - Bariatrics, Robotics

# Current State of the Art Technology

Online Courses

Distance Education

Simulation Education



# Distance Education

## Online Courses

- All Nursing Foundation courses are on-line

## Distance Education

- Classes held in Kalamazoo and Marquette Michigan
  - Added Petoskey in 2021
- Started in 2002
  - Also have students in Toledo, Ohio (not distance capability)

Mock OR 1



# COA National Requirements

History of move to graduate education started in 1980s

- Exploring Doctoral Ed for decades

AANA Task Force - Report June 2007 entry level by 2022

All accredited programs must offer a doctoral degree for entry into practice by January 1, 2022.

**OU has DNP for many years**

- not anesthesia specific

Oakland University was granted approval by the COA to launch the DNP-NA starting in the fall of 2018

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE: NURSE ANESTHESIA (DNP)**  
**FULL TIME PLAN OF STUDY**



FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
<b>Students are required to take courses in the sequence listed on the POS</b>		
<b>Fall 2023</b> <b>Winter 2024</b> <b>Summer 2024</b>  NRS 7712 – Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice I (4cr.)  BIO 5600 – Advanced Phys. and Pathophysiology (3cr.)  NRS 8671 – Advanced Scientific Methods for Evidence Based Practice (4cr.)  NRS 6642 – Biophysics & Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia (2cr.)  BIO 5101 – Gross Anatomical Dissection (3cr.)	BIO 5602 – Adv. Phys. And Pathophysiology (3cr.)  NRS 6652 – Nurse Anesthesia Practice I (4cr.)  NRS 7722 – Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (3cr.)  NRS 8211 – Advanced Nursing Theory (3cr.)  NRS 7715 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship I (1cr.)	NRS 6662 – Nurse Anesthesia Practice II (4cr.)  NRS 7725 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship II (1cr.)  NRS 8241 – Nursing and Healthcare Informatics & Leadership (3cr.)
<b>Fall 2024</b> <b>Winter 2025</b> <b>Summer 2025</b>  NRS 6672 – Nurse Anesthesia Practice III (4cr.)  NRS 8712 – Theory and Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice (2cr.)  NRS 7735 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship III (1cr.)  NRS 8732 – Adv. <u>Prac Seminar</u> : Advanced Concepts in Perioperative Cardiac Care I (1cr.)	NRS 8998 – DNP Project (1cr.)  NRS 6682 – Regional Anesthesia & Pain Management (3cr.)  NRS 7611 – Adv. Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthesiology (3cr.)  NRS 7745 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship IV (1cr.)	NRS 7755 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship V (2cr.)  NRS 8221 – Health Systems Policy and Regulation (3cr.)  NRS 8998 – DNP Project (2 cr.)  NRS 8722 – Adv. <u>Prac Seminar</u> : Advanced Concepts in Respiratory and Pain Physiology (1cr.)
<b>Fall 2025</b> <b>Winter 2026</b> <b>Summer 2026</b>  NRS 8681 – Clinical Prevention and Population Health (3cr.)  NRS 8998 – DNP Project (1cr.)  NRS 7765 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship VI (2cr.)  NRS 8231 – Organizational & Systems Leadership (3 cr.)	NRS 7732 – Advanced Pharmacology for NA Practice III (3cr.)  NRS 8998 – DNP Project (2cr.)  NRS 8742 – <u>Adv Prac Seminar</u> : Approaches to Healthcare Education (1cr.)  NRS 7775 – Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Internship VII (2cr.)	NRS 8998 – DNP Project (2cr.)  NRS 8504 – <u>Interprofessional Role Development &amp; Ethics for Nurse Anesthesia</u> (2cr.)  NRS 7785 – Nurse <u>Anes.</u> Clinical Internship VIII (2cr.)  NRS 8762 – Cumulative Review (2cr.)



# Application Requirements

Applications opened January 2023

Go to: [www.nursingcas.org](http://www.nursingcas.org)

Deadlines:

August 1, 2023 - early admissions

January 1, 2024 – secondary admissions

Check website often for updates

- ❖ Don't wait until the last moment
- ❖ Apply early ~

# Application Requirements

- ❖ BSN from an institution accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- ❖ All official transcripts must be submitted through CAS
  - ❖ DO NOT SEND TRANSCRIPTS TO OU
- ❖ **International Students**
  - ❖ International students are encouraged to contact The Graduate School ([www.oakland.edu/grad](http://www.oakland.edu/grad)) to determine what additional documentation is required for admission eligibility.

# Application Requirements

- ❖ Undergraduate cumulative Nursing GPA must be a 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale).
- ❖ Undergraduate overall science GPA must be a 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale).
- ❖ Undergraduate required science courses:
  - ❖ Anatomy and physiology- 3 credits each course
    - ❖ If A & P is a combined course, must be no less than 5 credits
  - ❖ Pharmacology- 3 credits
  - ❖ Biochemistry OR Organic chemistry-3 credits

## Application Requirements

We no longer have completion deadlines

If you need to re-take a course for a better grade or take it because you never had the course, please contact either Andrea Bittinger at [bitting2@Oakland.edu](mailto:bitting2@Oakland.edu) or

Emily Stepanian - Bennett at [fox2@Oakland.edu](mailto:fox2@Oakland.edu)

Re-takes of courses will change your overall GPA only if you take the same course at the same college.

# Application Requirements

Critical care unit experience

1 year full-time at the time of application

Critical care experience must be obtained in a critical care area within the United States, its territories or a US military hospital outside of the United States. During this experience, the registered professional nurse has developed critical decision making and psychomotor skills, competency in patient assessment, and the ability to use and interpret advanced monitoring techniques.

A critical care area is defined as one where, on a routine basis, the registered professional nurse manages one or more of the following: invasive hemodynamic monitors (e.g., pulmonary artery, central venous pressure, and arterial catheters), cardiac assist devices, mechanical ventilation, and vasoactive infusions.

# Application Requirements

Examples of critical care units may include but are not limited to: surgical intensive care, cardiothoracic intensive care, coronary intensive care, medical intensive care, pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care. Those who have experience in other areas may be considered provided they can demonstrate competence with managing unstable patients, invasive monitoring, ventilators, and critical care pharmacology.

**Emergency room, recovery room and step-down units typically do not satisfy the ICU requirement.**

# Application Requirements

Eligible for a current unrestricted Registered Nurse license in the state of Michigan

Must have MI license by the start of the program

Two satisfactory evaluations

One must be from a current nurse manager / supervisor

- Other may come from any other person who can attest to your abilities as a critical care RN
  - Will enter their email address -> they will get evaluation through email & return it

# Application Requirements

ACLS, BLS , PALS & CCRN cards:

- scores / copies must be current
- must submit each of these
- will look at CCRN scores

Personal Statement

- 500 - 1,000 words
- Professional goals & contributions you plan to make



## Selection of Students - Cohort options

- Will be able to select top 2 cohort options
  - If you only want 1, then select it both times
- Kalamazoo
  - 4 students
    - Applicant pool varies: 10 - 20 / interview 8 - 12
- Toledo (must be licensed in Ohio & Michigan)
  - 2-4 students
  - Applicant pool varies / interview 10 - 12
- Marquette
  - 2-3 students
  - Applicant pool small / interview 3 - 5
- Petoskey
  - 1 - 2 students / small applicant pool

# Selection of Students

- From 2016 - 2022, the number of applicants has been between **130 - 364**
- We have interviewed **70 - 115** qualified candidates each year
- Admitted class sizes **25**

# Selection of Students

## ❖ Average BSN GPA

- ❑ Class of 2021: 3.7
- ❑ Class of 2022: 3.75
- ❑ Class of 2023: 3.79
- ❑ Class of 2024: 3.76
- ❑ Class of 2025: 3.73
- ❑ Class of 2026: 3.61

# Selection of Students

- ❖ Years of ICU experience (at time of application - in alignment with national averages)
  - ❑ Class of 2021: 2.36
  - ❑ Class of 2022: 2.83
  - ❑ Class of 2023: 2.36
  - ❑ Class of 2024: 2.76
  - ❑ Class of 2025: 2.52
  - ❑ Class of 2026: 3.44

## Selection of Students

□ Undergraduate pre-requisite science GPA

□ 3.68

□ CCRN score average

□ 98

## Selection of Students

Roughly 1 month before the deadline, we will start selecting candidates who will be asked to complete a video-taped interview through a third-party agency.

**\*\*This will be a \$53.00 fee.**

From these interview sessions, we will then select candidates to come to William Beaumont University Hospital (formerly known as Beaumont Royal Oak) for an in-person interview. Interview dates are as follows:

Early cycle – September 7, 8, 12, 15 (2023)

Standard cycle – February 5, 6, 7, 9 (2024)

# Selection of Students

## Interview

- Panel interview
  - Professional Involvement (Committees, Education, Certifications)
  - Shadow (not required)

Basic ICU assessment

Writing ability

GPA

Years of experience

Letters of Recommendation

# Selection of Students

Selection of class members multifaceted

- All aspects important

Select predetermined number for class

- 2 application & interview cycles
- If not admitted in fall, may be considered for winter
- Will not be able to interview twice in same cycle

Will select predetermined number of alternates



# Selection of Students

Once offers are made, commitment to the program is paramount.

Please be ethical with accepting & declining

Deposit (non-refundable) required to hold position

If you were not selected, do not give up

- What can you do differently?
- Contact soon

# Graduate Student Expectations

## Financial Information

- Tuition rate
  - \$11,139 per semester
    - Adjusted each year at OU by BOT
  - 9 semesters
  - 87 credits
  - 36 months

# Graduate Student Expectations

## Financial Information

- Incidental costs - (varies)
  - Books
  - Supplemental activities (POCUS / regional material)
  - Health Insurance
  - Certifications (ACLS, BLS, PALS)
  - Travel / lodging (\$ 8,500.00)
    - Rural and enrichment site rotations
      - Average of 6 months away from home where lodging required
      - Some will be in upper peninsula
      - Must afford housing & meals

# Graduate Student Expectations

- Why rural site requirement?
- Rural site offers autonomous anesthesia practice
  - High amounts of neuraxial / ultrasound guided nerve blocks
  - Several are CRNA only practices
  - Allows for full scope of anesthesia practice
  - Graduates able to go into independent practice right after program
  - **Increased marketability = employment security**

# Graduate Student Expectations

- Why rural site requirement?

*"While there may be an underlying stress regarding being away from loved ones while having to travel to distance sites for clinical rotations, the end result was totally worth it. Being exposed to independent practice provided me with an opportunity to learn new anesthesia techniques, hone in on my regional anesthesia skills, gain confidence in my anesthesia knowledge and establish myself as an independent provider. In my opinion, these experiences are invaluable whether or not you plan on practicing as an independent CRNA in the future."*

**Hassan Abbas, RN, BSN, SRNA - OU Class of 2023**

# Graduate Student Expectations

## Financial Information (cont.)

- Conferences - \$2,000.00
  - 1 in-state per year minimum
    - Others added at faculty discretion
- SEE Exam X 2 - \$265.00 each
- AANA membership - \$200.00
- Transportation to clinical sites
- **Approximate cost - \$115,000 (medical school at OU is double)**
  - Very low for graduate education, compared to other programs in state, & future earnings

# Graduate Student Expectations

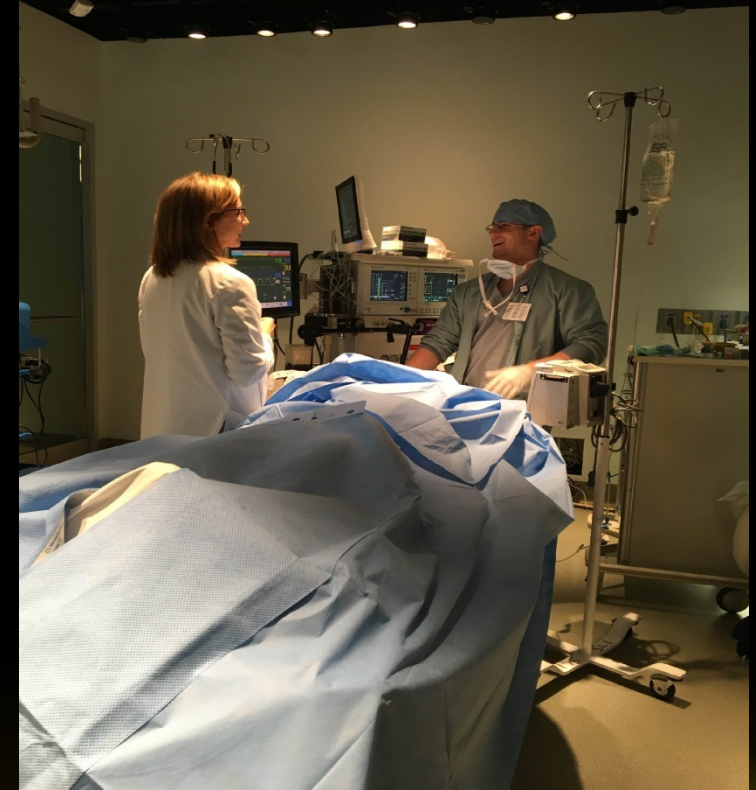
## Financial Support

- Tuition reimbursement from hospitals
- Scholarships
- Military: Army / Navy Nurse Corps
- Grant: Nurse Anesthesia Traineeship - Title VIII
- Other Loans - average \$93,000 (range 0 - \$120,000)
  - [finaid@oakland.edu](mailto:finaid@oakland.edu)
- Family support
  - savings / nest egg

# Graduate Student Expectations

## Commitment to the program

- Average of 64 hours a week, each week, throughout the 36 months
  - Class & clinical
  - Study time additional
- Alters your life
  - Must allow the change
- “I’ll do whatever it takes”
  - All applicants say this





# Graduate Student Expectations

Support systems in place:

- Family, spouse, children
- Finances
  - Cannot be burdens or excuses

Back-up plans in place

- Financial advisor

# Graduate Student Expectations

Health insurance coverage is required

Please plan accordingly

- Affordable Healthcare Act
- Medicaid
- Spouse / parent

Graham Health Center at OU available to all students

# Clinical Hours

Dependant upon assignment

- Allow time for set-up, morning report, patient assessment, line insertion

Specialty rotations contain longer days

Off shifts required

- Afternoons, midnights

Not “day shift” mentality

- Wake up a patient you put to sleep
- Finish case you prepared for



# Clinical Rotations

Unique to our program, you have the opportunity to rotate to many different clinical specialties

Allows student to become proficient and competent in each area

# Clinical Rotations

- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Rural / Independent Practice
  - Upper peninsula & others
- Afternoons
- Midnights
- Cardiovascular
- Thoracic
- Vascular
- Neuro-ENT
- Trauma
- NORA



# Current Affiliate Sites

- Ascension Borgess Allegan
- Ascension Borgess Kalamazoo
- Ascension Providence Novi
- Ascension Providence Rochester
- Ascension Providence Southfield
- Ascension - St. John Detroit
- Beaumont - Farmington Hills
- Beaumont - Grosse Pointe
- Beaumont - Troy
- Beaumont - Royal Oak
- Bronson Methodist Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Michigan
- Covenant Medical Center
- Dickinson County Healthcare
- Henry Ford Allegiance - Jackson
- Henry Ford - Macomb
- John D. Dingell - VA Medical Center
- Mackinac Straits
- Mercy Health St. Mary's
- McLaren - Bay Regional
- McLaren - Flint
- McLaren - Macomb
- McLaren - Northern (Petoskey)
- McLaren - Port Huron
- Munson Hospital - Traverse City
- Oaklawn Hospital
- Otsego Memorial
- Promedica Health - Toledo, OH
- Scheurer Medical Center - Pigeon
- Spectrum Health - Ludington
- Spectrum Health - Pennock
- Three Rivers Health
- UP Health System - Bell Hospital
- UP Health System - Marquette

# Graduate Student Expectations

## Doctoral Scholarly Project

- Spread over 5 semesters
- Can work with 1 other classmate
- Have a faculty mentor & at least 1 other committee member
- Should incorporate the 8 Doctor of Nursing Practice Essentials
- Disseminated before graduation; electronic database at OU

## E Portfolio

- Electronic storage of all DNP documentation related to project & meeting the Essentials
- Yours to keep after graduation

# Medical Missions

Philippines

Honduras

Korea

Haiti

Dominican Republic

Kenya





# Program Benefits

## Time Off

- Time off in between semesters (5 week days)
- Granted conferences, seminars, research days
- Wellness & E portfolio days
- Total of 6 days for emergency use
- Beyond this allotment, days must be made up in order to qualify for graduation
- Case totals does not mandate criteria for graduation

# Program Benefits

- ❖ All students have an upper-class student mentor before they start the program
  - ❖ All students will be a student mentor to an incoming student
- ❖ SRNA day to start each semester
- ❖ Oakland - Beaumont students have a wonderful reputation within the state.
  - ❖ Many sites comment on how well-prepared OU-Beaumont students are
  - ❖ Our students are recruited early on

# Questions

Applicants have the right to accurate information regarding the program. Any questions not answered by visiting the website can be directed to

Andrea Bittinger at [bitting2@oakland.edu](mailto:bitting2@oakland.edu)

Any general questions can be sent to

Andrea Bittinger at [bitting2@oakland.edu](mailto:bitting2@oakland.edu)

Emily Stepanian - Bennett, MA at [Fox2@oakland.edu](mailto:Fox2@oakland.edu)