Periop 101: A Core Curriculum™
Your Novice Nurse Education Solution

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Program Overview
Periop 101: A Core Curriculum™ is a comprehensive blended educational program developed by AORN’s expert perioperative nurse authors, based on the latest, evidence-based Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. This program combines a standardized evidence-based online curriculum and textbook readings with hands-on skills labs and a clinical practicum led by experienced perioperative nurses. AORN recommends Periop 101 for novice perioperative nurses including new graduates and nurses transitioning to the operating from other nursing specialties. There are three different learning plans to choose from: OR RN, OB RN Circulator, and Ambulatory Surgery RN.

1.2. Recruit, Develop, Retain & Reduce Costs
Over 2,500 hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers nationwide use Periop 101 to recruit, educate, and retain operating room nurses and achieve financial efficiency in their educational programs.

   a. **Recruit Perioperative Nurses:** Promote the Periop 101 to recruit new nurses and become the Employer-of-Choice in your area.

   b. **Develop your Perioperative Nurses:** Enhance knowledge, skills, and confidence in perioperative practice by developing your perioperative nurses.

   c. **Improve your Employee Retention:** Cultivate a team environment for perioperative excellence and improve retention, reduce turnover, and build staff morale.

   d. **Achieve Financial Efficiency:** Create financial efficiency and standardization in your education programs by having access to timely evidenced-based updates thus increasing the efficiency of your educator’s time and reducing orientation time.

1.3. AORN Recommends Blended Learning
In the standard educational model, blended learning often refers to the use of laboratory equipment or computers to complement the class sessions and strengthen the teaching process through practice and the application of theories learned in class. AORN recommends teaching Periop 101 using the blended learning method as outlined below:

**Integrated Online & Hands-on Approach**

   a. Classroom: Instructor-led weekly discussions and online modules

   b. Skills Labs: Set up recommended hands-on skills labs for demonstration and return demonstration

   c. Clinical Preceptorship: Provide learning plans and preceptor guidelines to structure an effective orientation for both the scrub and circulating roles

---

Periop 101: A Core Curriculum

“I would recommend AORN’s Periop 101 for OR nurses and for OB RN circulators—excellent resources! Since we have implemented Periop 101, our retention has increased due to the investment we make in our orientees.”

Cynthia Wyskiel, MS, RN, CNOR, OR Clinical Resource Nurse, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Dover, NH
1.4. **Periop 101 Course Features**

- User-friendly online Learning Management System (24/7 access)
- Based on the AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice
- Interactive modules with reality based eLearning scenarios and interactive games
- Guidelines at-a-glance quick links
- Educational video clips from our recommended videos
- Direct access to the resource center for administrators and students
- Post-test gauges student progress and summarizes content learned
- Comprehensive, randomized online final exam
- Check Your Understanding Questions to test for knowledge and retention

1.5. **Package (Included in Periop 101)**

a. **Access to AORN’s Learning Center and Periop 101 online course:**
   - Administrators – Two (2) year access
   - Students – Six (6) month access
   - Preceptors – Three (3) month access

b. **Nursing Contact Hours** (must receive 80% passing grade on final)
   - 41.7 CH for RN students
   - 35.6 CH for OB RN Circulator students
   - 43.25 CH for Ambulatory Surgery RN students

c. **Online Administrator Implementation Guide** for up to two (2) course administrators (a $730 value) per Periop 101 agreement. One administrator must complete and pass this course before students can start their course. Administrators earn 2.2 contact hours upon completing the course.

d. **Dedicated Periop 101 Resource Center** including reading assignments, study guides, sample course schedules, skills labs, case studies, and more. Access to monthly webinars for a live demonstration of the learning management system (LMS), learn the features and functionality, connect with other administrators, and Q&A session with AORN.

e. **Preparing the Preceptor Course** for up to four (4) preceptors (a $716 value) per Periop 101 agreement. The number of preceptor seats depends on the number of student seats purchased (includes 4.0 nursing contact hours).

f. **Facility Dashboard** for all Periop 101 administrators have access to a facility dashboard that shows updated seat usage. From the dashboard, administrators can easily assign students their learning plans once the student has registered in the AORN Learning Center, and also run transcripts and reports directly from the dashboard.

g. **1-year AORN member-at-large membership** for registered online students (a $160 value per student). Chapter membership dues not included. If students are already AORN members, they can extend their membership (member-at-large status) free for one year (AORN reserves the right to terminate this offer).

“The decision was to provide the best resources and programming to ensure that each orientee receives the same programming, standards, and guidelines—the gold standard for perioperative nursing care. Periop 101 reduces the time required to prepare a live class and test on the fundamentals of surgical care. Periop 101 has helped so much! Our initial competencies and policies (for 8 facilities) were built incorporating AORN guidelines for best practice. The first step to quality outcomes is to provide a quality orientation and learning program. Periop 101 and the video library are instrumental in the learner’s success.”

Jan Patterson, MSN, CNOR, CRNFA
Clinical Practice Specialist
Covenant Health Knoxville, TN