



Post-Graduate Track: Adult Cardiothoracic Acute Care and Surgery

The Cardiothoracic Acute Care and Surgery Postgraduate APP Training Program is a one-year, post-graduate experience designed for nurse practitioners (*AGNP, AGACNP, DNP*) and physician assistants in a nationally ranked health system. The Cardiovascular Surgery program at IU Health's Academic Health Center is a high-volume, comprehensive surgical service performing more than 700 cardiovascular procedures each year. The program offers the full spectrum of advanced surgical care, including endovascular and open aortic surgery, minimally invasive cardiac procedures, coronary artery bypass grafting, ventricular assist device implantation, and both heart and lung transplantation. IU Health is home to the largest lung transplant program in Indiana and operates one of the largest ECMO programs in the U.S., providing statewide and regional leadership in complex cardiothoracic care.

The program will offer an integrated design with rotations in surgical and critical care services. The trainee will have the opportunity to build on their graduate academic training by strengthening and developing skills in a variety of domains critical to advanced practice. The clinical sites will include predominantly inpatient experiences at the academic health center, as well as the cardiothoracic surgery outpatient clinics.

IU School of Medicine is the largest medical school in the U.S. with many residents, fellows, and other learners. IU Health promotes inter-disciplinary collaboration, however, APPs will primarily train under APP supervision. The APP program will ensure all trainees collaborate to promote respectful teamwork with clear expectations on roles, procedures, and scope of practice. This will help prepare APP trainees for their future work as a vital part of team-based care.

The program provides trainees with:

- A solid foundation to build their advanced practice career in a large academic health center
- Comprehensive experiences including:
 - Hands-On Learning in specialty and sub-specialty clinical areas
 - Didactic Sessions
 - Mentorship
 - Case-based learning

Clinical Experiences

- CV Critical Care
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Cardiac Medical Care
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease
- Cardiothoracic Transplant

Training Objectives

1. Build confidence in the APP and promote an understanding of the collaborative role they play within the cardiothoracic acute care and surgical care team to allow for a seamless transition to advanced practice
2. Acquire a comprehensive knowledge base of the wholistic care of the cardiothoracic patient across the spectrum of acute care to chronic disease management utilizing guideline directed, evidence-based care
3. Collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team in various care settings to promote professionalism and communication skills that are vital to function in a team-based care model