BOOST CRNA

CRNA Application Timeline

A month-by-month plan from building your candidacy to decision day — roughly 18 months, mapped.

CRNA admissions reward early, deliberate preparation. This is a general shape for a cycle; your exact dates depend on each program's own calendar. Apply early for a reason that holds everywhere: transcript verification takes weeks, and a file that is still incomplete at the deadline is not a file under review.

18-12 months out — Build the foundation

- Lock in high-acuity ICU experience. Of the 153 programs that publish a minimum, 152 ask for at least 12 months by application or start.
- Earn your CCRN. It is required by 82 of the 154 programs we list and preferred by 29 more, so for most applicants it is a gate rather than a bonus.
- Start shadowing CRNAs and log your hours; build the relationships your references will come from.
- Audit your GPA, cumulative and science. Retake or add fresh science coursework now if either is low.
- Begin researching programs: prerequisites, deadlines, entrance-exam policy, and culture.

12-9 months out — Target and prepare

- Finalize your program list and record every deadline and requirement.
- Line up three recommenders early; give them your resume, your goals, and real lead time.
- Draft your personal statement — lead with a specific, true reason for anesthesia.
- Settle your GRE plan. 29 of the 154 programs we list require it, 12 require it conditionally, and 37 state they do not; the remaining 76 do not publish a policy, so ask.
- Do not chase a number nobody set. Of the 29 that require the GRE, only 6 publish a minimum score at all — 21 publish none. Most figures you will see quoted are the program's idea of a competitive application, not a bar you have to clear.
- Keep strengthening candidacy: charge shifts, precepting, unit committees.

9-6 months out — Apply early

- NursingCAS typically opens for the cycle — create your account and start entering data.
- Request official transcripts from every school; verification can take weeks.
- Submit as early as you can manage it. 9 of the 154 programs we list state they review on a rolling basis and 4 state they do not, but most publish nothing either way — and an early file absorbs a missing transcript without missing a deadline.
- Polish your personal statement and tailor any program-specific essays.
- Confirm each application shows Complete or Verified, and clear any holds.

6-3 months out — Interview

- Respond to interview invitations promptly; schedule strategically.
- Practice out loud: behavioral (STAR), clinical reasoning, and your reason for anesthesia.
- Run mock interviews and get honest feedback; refine, do not memorize.
- Refresh med math and critical-care fundamentals before clinical questions.
- Prepare two or three real questions for each panel.

3-0 months out — Decide and plan

- Compare offers on cost, length, location, board pass rate, and fit.
- Plan finances early — understand loan options and the cost of lost income.
- Give notice and plan your transition; some students return to bedside ICU first.
- Handle logistics: housing, immunizations, background checks, onboarding.
- Breathe. You built this over a year — trust the work.

Take it further at boostcrna.com

This is the snapshot. The live program directory, your candidacy score, the planning tools and scored mock interviews with Ana are in the Pre-Op app, where your deadlines update themselves.

General guidance, not program-specific advice. Counts describe the 154 programs listed in the Boost CRNA directory on 2026-10-03, not every program that exists. Requirements change between cycles — confirm with each program and with NursingCAS.