



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 timeline — your exact dates depend on each program's cycle and deadlines (many review on a rolling basis, so earlier is almost always better). Confirm specifics with each program.

18-12 months out

Build the foundation

- Lock in high-acuity ICU experience (most programs want ≥ 1 year by application/start).
- Earn your CCRN — it signals critical-care mastery and strengthens every application.
- Start shadowing CRNAs and log your hours; build relationships for future references.
- Audit your GPA (cumulative + science). Retake or take fresh science courses now if they're low.
- Begin researching programs: prerequisites, deadlines, GRE requirements, and culture/fit.

12-9 months out

Target and prepare

- Finalize your program list and record every deadline and requirement.
- Line up 3 recommenders early; give them your resume, goals, and plenty of lead time.
- Draft your personal statement — lead with a specific, real reason for anesthesia.
- Take or retake the GRE if any target program requires it.
- Keep strengthening candidacy: leadership on your unit, charge/precepting, 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 applications EARLY — many programs review on a rolling basis.
- Polish your personal statement and tailor any program-specific essays.
- Confirm each application shows 'Complete'/'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 'why anesthesia.'
- Run mock interviews and get honest feedback; refine, don't memorize.
- Refresh med math and critical-care fundamentals before clinical questions.
- Prepare 2-3 thoughtful questions for each panel.

3-0 months out

Decide and plan

- Compare offers: 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, and onboarding.
- Breathe. You built this over a year — trust the work.

Take it further at boostcrna.com. This is the snapshot — the live, personalized version (program directory, fit & odds, GPA & candidacy tools, and adaptive mock interviews with Ana) lives in the Pre-Op app. Track your real per-program deadlines, candidacy, and next best action in the app.

A general guide, not program-specific advice. Always verify deadlines and requirements with each program and NursingCAS.
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