



Pre-Anesthesiologist Assistant

Quick Facts

Average
Matriculant
Numbers

Overall GPA: 3.7
Science: 3.7
GRE: 310 combined, 4.0 writing
MCAT (Optional): ~500

Typical Pre-Requisites

Biology - BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L
Chemistry - CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L
Organic Chemistry - CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L
Physics - PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212
Biochemistry - BCMB 3100 or 4010/4020
Calculus - MATH 2250
Anatomy & Physiology - CBIO 2200/L & 2210/L

General Information

Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) are highly trained allied health professionals who work exclusively under the supervision of anesthesiologists in ORs and pain clinics.

CRNAs can often work independently; AAs must work under an anesthesiologist.

- Use CASAA to apply (Centralized Application Service for AAs)
- Most schools require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) instead of the MCAT. Always check what your target school requires.

Programs in GA:

Emory University, South University

Professional Association:

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) -
<https://www.anesthetist.org/>

Recommended

Physiology - VPHY 3100 or 3107
Medical Terminology - CLAS 1030
Upper-level Statistics - STAT 3110 preferred
Upper-level Sciences - MBIO 3500, GENE 3200, etc.

Grade Trends

- Strong science and overall GPAs are essential.
- Positive grade trends matter
- Negative grade trends are cause for concern (repeated withdrawals, poor science grades, excessive science coursework outside UGA)

Show you can handle rigorous scientific content.



Clinical Experience

Patient interaction shows admissions committees that you understand the way the healthcare system works, and can communicate with patients from all different walks of life. In short, clinical experience is more than just checking a box.

It's best to have at least two different types of clinical experience on applications. Experience can be paid or unpaid (volunteer).

Volunteering and Extracurriculars

Focus on opportunities that show depth of commitment leadership in the community. You do not have to volunteer in a clinical setting! Look for causes that mean something important to you, and organizations that are underserved and people focused.

Pursuing undergraduate research is not required for admission into AA programs.

If you are interested in research, you should plan to start early and dedicate at least two semesters.

Shadowing

- Required: Minimum 8–10 hours shadowing in anesthesia settings
 - Can be with AA, anesthesiologist, or CRNA
 - Use program-specific Shadowing Verification Forms
- Recommended: Seek more than the minimum and across varied settings
- Always check what your target school requires. Shadowing requirements can vary among schools.

Letters of Evaluation

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect, so be intentional in building relationships with professors
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationships over a period of time for a strong letter

Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice

Most AA schools require three letters of evaluation. Requirements vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have the correct letters for their program of interest. Students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.

Generally, programs expect students to provide:

- Academic/Professional Reference – can speak to your academic or professional preparation and readiness for graduate-level study.
- Personal Reference – can speak to your personal character and integrity.
- Clinical Reference – Can speak to your interest in the clinical or healthcare field, and who can speak to your fit for the profession.

GRE or MCAT

Most AA schools require that applicants take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE consists of three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay section. Generally, it is recommended for you to take the GRE January–May as you head into the application cycle.

There are no specific courses that you need to take prior to the GRE, but you should plan to dedicate roughly six to eight weeks to exam preparation. The GRE is offered via University Testing Services on a regular basis. GRE scores are good for 5 years.

CASAA Application

Currently, all AA programs use CASAA. Opening dates and deadlines for applications vary. All applicants are encouraged to apply early. The application process may take a few weeks, so applying early helps to ensure that programs receive your applications as soon as possible.

Note that applying Early Decision and applying early are not the same. The former is a specific application process often with additional criteria while the latter simply means submitting your application as soon as you can.