



CAA Interview Prep Guide

The questions you'll face, what each panel is assessing, and how to answer.

CAA interviews test motivation, understanding of the role, and how you think under pressure - not trick questions. Below: the questions you'll most likely face, what each is really assessing, and a frame for answering.

Motivation & fit

Why programs ask: they want informed, durable motivation - not a backup plan.

- **Why do you want to be a CAA - and why not medicine, CRNA, or PA?**
- **What did you learn shadowing a CAA or anesthesia provider?**
- **Why this program specifically?**
- **Where do you see yourself practicing in five years?**

Understanding the role

Why programs ask: they want to see you grasp the anesthesia care team model.

- **Describe the anesthesia care team and the CAA's role in it.**
- **What does a CAA's typical day in the OR look like?**
- **How do you feel about always practicing under anesthesiologist medical direction?**
- **What do you understand about where CAAs can and cannot practice?**

Behavioral & pressure

Why programs ask: anesthesia is high-stakes - they want composure and accountability.

- **Tell me about a time you stayed calm under real pressure.**
- **Describe a mistake you made and what you changed afterward.**
- **Tell me about a time you worked on a team through conflict.**
- **How do you handle critical feedback?**

Academics & rigor

Why programs ask: the curriculum is intense and continuous - they want evidence you can carry it.

- **Walk me through a weakness in your academic record.**
- **How will you handle a program with no summers off?**
- **What's your study approach for dense science material?**

A frame for answering

Motivation questions: anchor to a specific, true moment (often shadowing) - what you saw, what it made you feel, what you did next.

Behavioral questions: use Situation - Action - Result. Keep the situation short; spend your words on what YOU did and what you learned.

Role questions: show you understand the care-team model and are genuinely comfortable in it - that comfort is part of what they're screening for.

Rehearse out loud with Alex. Boost CAA runs scored mock interviews with feedback and an honest read on your answers - at boostcaa.com.