



# CASAA Application Checklist

The CAA application, step by step - a printable checklist to work through.

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Every universal step of the CAA application, in order. CASAA is the centralized application service most accredited programs use — work top to bottom, and always confirm each program's specifics on its official page.

## Foundation (12-18 months out)

- Confirm a bachelor's degree (any major) is on track or complete.
- Map the prerequisite science core: general & organic chemistry, biology, physics, biochemistry, human anatomy & physiology, calculus, and statistics - most with labs.
- Check each target program's prerequisite list AND recency rule (many require science prereqs completed within ~5-10 years).
- Plan to retake or refresh any prereqs that are aging out or below a B.

## Entrance exam (8-12 months out)

- Confirm whether each program requires the GRE or the MCAT (a few accept the DAT).
- Register and schedule your exam with study runway (aim for an MCAT ~500+ or GRE near/above the 50th percentile).
- Send official scores to your programs.

## Experience & letters (6-12 months out)

- Shadow a CAA and/or anesthesiologist - some programs set a minimum (often ~8 documented hours); more is better.
- Build healthcare/patient-care or research experience that shows you understand the OR environment.
- Identify 3+ recommenders (science faculty, a CAA/physician you shadowed, a supervisor) and ask early.
- Give each recommender your resume, your 'why anesthesia,' and the deadline.

## CASAA application (the cycle opens ~spring)

- Create your CASAA account when the cycle opens.
- Request official transcripts from EVERY institution attended - send them to CASAA.
- Enter coursework accurately (this drives your verified GPA - double-check every entry).
- Add experiences, hours, and achievements.
- Draft, revise, and finalize your personal statement.

- Add recommenders and confirm letters are submitted.
- Submit to your programs - early, since many review on a rolling basis.
- Complete any program-specific supplemental applications or essays.

## Interview & decision

- Prepare for interviews (see the CAA Interview Prep Guide).
- Attend interviews; send thank-you notes.
- Compare offers on fit, cost, and location; submit your deposit by the deadline.
- Plan prerequisites, finances, and relocation for matriculation.

**Track all of this free in Boost CAA** - the prerequisite tracker (with expiration flags), a CASAA timeline, and an honest candidacy score live at [boostcaa.com](https://boostcaa.com).

General guidance - program requirements vary and change. Always confirm specifics on each program's official page and on CASAA.