

# CRNA Program

## *Interview Questions*

---

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Three sections: questions you'll be asked, questions you should ask the school, and clinical concepts programs expect you to know. Use this to identify your gaps — not to script your answers.

#### 0 1 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 
- 01 Tell me about yourself.
- 
- 02 Why do you want to become a CRNA?
- 
- 03 What kind of patients do you take care of?  
— *What's your favorite and why?*
- 
- 04 Tell us about a typical patient — what drips would they be on?
- 
- 05 Tell me about your work experience.
- 
- 06 How do you describe success?
- 
- 07 What does a CRNA do?
- 
- 08 How does your ICU role relate to the role and responsibilities of a CRNA?
- 
- 09 What would make you a successful CRNA?
- 
- 10 Do you foresee any barriers to your education?
- 
- 11 Tell me about a time when you had an ethical dilemma at work. What did you do?
- 
- 12 What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
-

- 13 Tell me one of your greatest accomplishments.

---
- 14 Give me an example of when you showed leadership. Teamwork?

---
- 15 Give an example of community service.

---
- 16 Give an example of problem solving.

---
- 17 What would your colleagues say about you?

---
- 18 How do you handle stress?

---
- 19 Tell me about a time when you were working with someone who had a different value system. How did you deal with this person?

---
- 20 Tell me about a time when you felt you were right and everyone else was wrong. What did you do?

---
- 21 Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

---
- 22 Why did you choose to apply to our program? Have you applied elsewhere?

---
- 23 If you saw a colleague using drugs or cheating, what would you do?

---
- 24 How do you feel about giving up a paying job for several years?

---
- 25 What do you know about our program?

---
- 26 What have you done to develop or change in the last few years?

---
- 27 How will you be an asset to this program?

---
- 28 What do you want written on your tombstone?

---
- 29 What will you do if you do not get into this program?

---
- 30 Describe any activities or courses you have taken to prepare for CRNA school.

---
- 31 Who has influenced you the most?

---
- 32 Who did you shadow? Tell me about that experience.

---
- 33 What is the difference between medically directed vs. medically supervised practice?

---
- 34 What do you feel is the biggest issue facing the profession today?

---

35 Tell us in 30 seconds why we should pick you over all other candidates.

---

36 How do you handle conflict or criticism?

---

37 How would you describe yourself in one word?

---

38 What don't you like about ICU nursing?

---

39 Tell me about a case you found challenging.

— *Why was it challenging? And how did you handle it?*

---

0  
2 QUESTIONS TO ASK THE SCHOOL

What do you look for in a potential student?

---

How does your program facilitate student research?

---

What support systems does your school provide for students?

---

What do you see as your school's strong points?

---

On average, how many intubations, arterial lines, and central lines do students graduate with?

---

How many clinical sites do I rotate through, and would I compete with residents?

---

Do you offer housing for away clinicals?

---

If accepted, what can I do before the program starts to adequately prepare?

---

Can you describe what the classes are like?

---

What type of regional experience does your typical graduate obtain?

---

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the program?

---

How is your simulation lab utilized?

---

How many students per class?

---

What are your attrition rates and board pass rates?

---

How do you ensure your students succeed?

— *What kind of board review prep do you provide?*

---

*These are not questions asked verbatim — they are concepts programs expect you to understand going in. Know the mechanism, indications, and clinical application.*

## MEDICATIONS – KNOW MECHANISM, DOSING &amp; CLINICAL USE

- Epinephrine
- Neosynephrine
- Norepinephrine (Levophed)
- Milrinone
- Vasopressin
- Dopamine
- Dobutamine
- Nitroprusside
- Nicardipine
- Nitroglycerin
- Esmolol
- Metoprolol
- Fentanyl
- Versed (Midazolam)
- Propofol
- Precedex (Dexmedetomidine)
- Atropine
- Digoxin
- Amiodarone
- Lidocaine
- Cardizem (Diltiazem)
- Heparin
- Paralytics

## HEMODYNAMICS &amp; MONITORING

- Swan-Ganz catheter — how to float, waveforms, pressures, CO/SVR calculations
- IABP — mechanics, timing, indications
- ECMO — circuit, indications, management
- Frank-Starling law
- Coronary blood flow

## AIRWAY &amp; VENTILATION

- Ventilator modes, PEEP, weaning, minute ventilation
- Dead space vs. shunt
- Drugs that can be given via ETT

## RHYTHM & RESUSCITATION

- EKG interpretation — heart blocks, arrhythmias
- ACLS/BLS — H's and T's
- Cardioversion vs. defibrillation

## PHARMACOLOGY

- Vasopressors vs. beta agonists — mechanism and clinical differences
- 5 basics of drug administration

## CRITICAL CONDITIONS

- All types of shock
- Sepsis — definitions and management
- PE and cardiac tamponade
- DKA, DI, and DIC
- ICP and what affects it
- Complications from blood transfusion

## LABS & INTERPRETATION

- ABG interpretation and treatments

## ICU SCENARIOS

- Scenarios based on your specific ICU experience  
— *Ex: recovering a cardiac surgery patient, liver transplant, surgical case and drips involved*

---

SYNAPSE STUDIO

*Go deeper with guided prep.*

To dive into the clinical concepts, more tips, and train with video, visit Synapse Studio at [studio.synapsefocus.com](https://studio.synapsefocus.com)

**Join the waitlist → [studio.synapsefocus.com](https://studio.synapsefocus.com)**