

Path to Anesthesiologist Assistant

Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA) are highly skilled medical professionals who work under the direction of licensed anesthesiologists as part of an anesthesia care team. Anesthesiologist Assistants serve patients before, during, and after anesthesia to ensure quality care has been given. They are also trained to assist in providing life-saving measures if emergencies occur. Presently, there are nineteen AA programs in the United States, one of which is housed at Auburn University.

Anesthesiologist Assistant programs are two-year programs resulting in a master's degree. Before applying to an AA program, students must complete the prerequisites specified by the program that interests them and earn a baccalaureate degree. Students may need to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Since admission requirements vary by school, students should research those relevant to the schools that interest them.

Applicants seeking admission to an AA program are assessed according to a variety of factors including academic ability, interpersonal skills, leadership experience, and professionalism. Therefore, students are encouraged to gain leadership experience, shadow professionals in the field, and participate in research activities to develop a competitive application.

Preparation Checklist

- Research programs that interest you.
- Shadow an AA or anesthesiologist.
- Volunteer with an organization that you like.
- Gain clinical experience.
- Develop core competencies.
- Get involved on campus.
- Take prerequisite courses.
- Maintain a strong overall and science GPA.
- Conduct undergraduate research.
- Take the GRE and/or MCAT.



Common Prerequisites

- English
- General Biology I & II with Labs
- General Chemistry I & II with Labs
- Organic Chemistry with Lab
- Biochemistry
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Calculus & Statistics
- Physics I & II with Labs



Metrics

- Minimum GPA: 3.1
- Average GPA: 3.4



Standardized Tests

- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)



Helpful Organizations

- American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA)
- American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)