

RN-APRN Networking Guide

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Networking at AANA events is an opportunity to learn, build confidence, and make professional connections. Use these tips to get the most out of your time with practicing and aspiring nurse anesthetologists.



Start with a relationship-building mindset

Casual networking is a great way to learn from real RRNA and CRNA experiences. A strong conversation often begins with a brief introduction, a thoughtful question, and genuine interest in the other person's perspective.



Prepare a short introduction

Be ready to share who you are in 30 seconds or less: your current role, your interest in nurse anesthesia, and what you hope to learn while you're at this event. Keep it conversational and friendly.



Attend sessions and poster presentations

If someone is presenting on a topic that interests you, attend their session or poster presentation and engage through thoughtful questions. This can be a natural way to start a conversation while showing genuine interest in their work.



Ask open-ended questions

Focus on questions that feel authentic to you and your personal situation. Some examples might be:

- How'd you know nurse anesthesia was the right path for you?
- Looking back, what experiences or resources best prepared you before you applied to CRNA school?
- What's something you wish you'd known before transitioning from RN to resident?
- What sessions or networking opportunities would you recommend?



Remember boundaries: No one is at work right now

Faculty and program leaders may be happy to speak generally about the profession, but an informal setting isn't the best place for them to review your application, discuss admissions decisions, or provide program-specific guidance.

- Offer your CV only if someone asks you to share it.
- Keep in mind that admissions committees only consider information submitted through the formal application process – not an informal conversation at an event.



Choose the right times (and places) to network

Hallways, networking events, receptions, and the exhibit hall are often the best settings for introductions. Read the situation: Is this person learning in an education session? Are they already engaged in a conversation? Wait for a better opportunity to connect.



Follow up thoughtfully

If someone offers to stay connected, send a brief thank-you message after the event. Mention what you appreciated from the conversation and, if appropriate, ask a follow-up question. Don't get discouraged if you get a late (or no) reply. Many professionals receive a high volume of inquiries, so a response may not always be possible.



Make the connection count

Be respectful, concise, prepared, and authentic. The goal is to leave people with the impression that you are curious, self-aware, and genuinely interested in discovering more about nurse anesthesiology. Every conversation is a stepping stone from which you can learn and develop in your professional journey. **Good luck, and have fun networking!**

