

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 approach conversations with curiosity, professionalism, and respect for others' time.



Start with a relationship-building mindset

Aim to learn from RRNA and CRNA experiences. A strong conversation often begins with a thoughtful question, a brief introduction, 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 at the event. Keep it conversational and authentic.



Attend sessions and poster presentations with intention

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 thoughtful, open-ended questions

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

- "What can help me decide whether nurse anesthesia is the right path?"
- "What professional experiences or resources are most effective in helping an applicant grow before applying to a program?"
- "What advice would you give someone preparing for the transition from RN to resident?"
- "Are there AANA sessions or networking opportunities you recommend for this career path?"



Respect boundaries

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 to faculty, program directors, or residents only if they invite you to share it.
- Keep in mind that admissions committees only consider information submitted through the application process.



Choose appropriate times and places to network

Hallways, networking events, receptions, and the exhibit hall are often the best settings for introductions. During educational sessions, or when someone is already engaged in a conversation, look for another 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. 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 learning more about the profession. Each conversation is a stepping stone from which you can learn and develop in your professional journey.

