Lesson 7: The CRNA Interview
CRNA Interview

- Types of Interviews
- Dress Code
- Travel Tips
- Questions to Prepare
- Answers to Prepare
- Follow Up
## Types of Interviews

### Phone Interviews
- Many programs avoid phone interviews
- They want to see how you carry yourself and how well you think critically
- If you refuse to travel for an interview, you may be not be considered for the program

### One-on-One Interviews
- You may have one interview with one panel member or 2+ interviews with separate members of the admissions committee
- They will convene later to discuss their opinion on your admission

### Panel Interviews
- Several members in a room with one candidate
- May be an organized question answer session or more of a rapid fire, spontaneous session
- May involve other students in the program or your own competitors
Dress Code

• Overdress, don’t underdress

• Women: Suit Jacket

• Men: Jacket and Tie

• Try to stand out without being over the top

• Bring professional accessories, e.g. a briefcase or a professional purse instead of a backpack

• It doesn’t have to be expensive, it just has to fit well. Use a professional shopper or a tailor to get a good fit that flatters your body type.
Travel Tips

• Plan a practice trip to the facility where your interview is being conducted, preferably one day to one week before your interview

• Eat a healthy meal before your interview

• Know where to park if you drive

• Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes earlier than the quoted arrival time

• Use the restroom before you arrive

• Bring reading materials for downtime

• Be friendly and smile!
Questions to Prepare

• The interviewee will likely ask you if you have any questions. Remember you are trying to figure out whether the program is a fit for you as well!

• Research the individual program online and take notes about important features, especially if one program offers something that another program doesn’t, e.g. a simulation lab

• Make sure you ask at least one question, with a goal of 2-3 questions that have short answers

• If you can’t think of a good question, ask a question you already know the answer to. This is better than saying you can’t think of anything.

• Example Q’s for an interviewer:
  
  ▶ What types of candidates are you looking for?
  
  ▶ Who makes the final decision regarding acceptance?
  
  ▶ When do you make your decision and notify the candidates?
  
  ▶ Do candidates often get hired by the clinical sites they precept in?
What are they going to ask me?
Answers to Prepare

- EKG, basic 6 second strip interpretation
- Vasopressor Mechanism of Action
- ABG Interpretation
- Dose Calculations (e.g. 1mg/kg)
- ACLS algorithms
- YOUR patient population: Sepsis, ARDS, VAD patients, ECMO
Follow Up

- It’s always considered good courtesy to send a *Thank You Letter* after you interview.

- Get a business card from those you wish to thank after the interview or obtain contact information from the scheduler.

- Email is better than nothing, but a handwritten letter trumps all.

- Thank the interviewers for their time and make sure they know you’re interested in the program.

- Include a personal comment about *why* you’re interested in the specific program or mention something that was discussed during the interview that may jog their memory of you.
Congratulations!
You have made it through Lessons 1-7

Check out CRNA Academy for Audio Interviews with CRNA’s, Student CRNA’s and other special guests!