



## Master of Science in Anesthesia: An Alternative to Medical School

Many of the aspects that inspire students to be physicians such as the ability to help people, job security, and good salaries are also present in the certified anesthesiologist assistant profession. With thousands of hours of anesthesia training, CAAs are highly skilled, collaborative advanced practice providers dedicated to patient-centered care. CAAs and anesthesiologists work together within the anesthesia care team model to provide anesthesia care.

### Many CAAs began as premedical undergraduates.

While the MSA Program does not require a specific undergraduate degree to be considered for admission, many of our alumni reported that they chose undergraduate majors designed to help them get into medical school. At some point in their journey, they began to consider alternatives to medical school for reasons such as length of school or residency, rising tuition costs, or work-life balance, but still wanted a career that would allow them to provide the same compassionate care in a surgical setting. As CAAs, our alumni offer high quality medical care to their patients while earning average annual starting salaries of \$150,000 and maintaining extraordinary work-life balances.

### CAAs have comprehensive training and education.

All CAAs possess a master's degree from an accredited anesthesia program. Our program is two years in length and requires a minimum of 2,000 clinical hours. As advanced practice professionals, CAAs are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of anesthesia as well as cutting edge patient monitoring techniques. Our curriculum provides in-depth study in physiology, pharmacology, and perioperative medicine, and examines how these topics relate to the nervous system, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, gastrointestinal and endocrine systems, and more. Many CWRU alumni choose to specialize within anesthesia, and work exclusively in areas such as cardiology, neurology, obstetrics, pediatrics, or trauma.

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## CAAs increase access to healthcare.

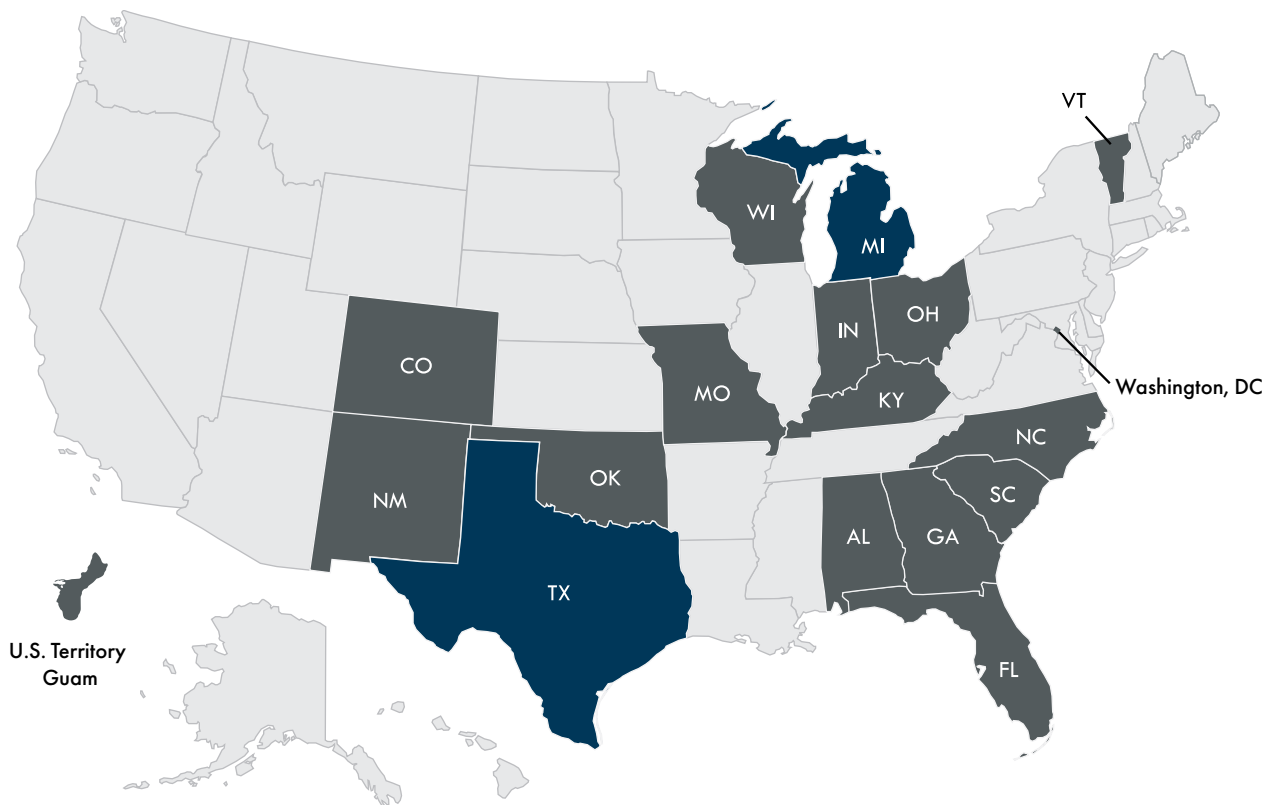
The United States is currently experiencing a shortage of anesthesia care professionals, which impacts patients' access to surgery. As key members of the anesthesia care team, CAAs are essential to addressing these shortages. CAAs provide pain-reducing treatments that allow for lifesaving procedures and enable anesthesiologists to manage multiple operating rooms simultaneously. There are over 2,000 CAAs practicing in 18 jurisdictions with the profession steadily growing as more states open.

## CWRU is committed to you.

CWRU offers the MSA Program in Cleveland, Ohio; Houston, Texas; and Washington, D.C. Our Program was one of the first in the nation. We lead the field in didactic and clinical innovation with strong annual graduate outcomes and a history of alumni achievement spanning the last 50 years.

Read up on each program location at: [case.edu/medicine/msa-program](https://case.edu/medicine/msa-program)

## Anesthesiologist Assistants Work States



**Regulatory States:** A law in this state defines the CAA scope of practice, sets standards for who can practice, and gives a regulatory board the authority to maintain those standards.

**Delegatory States:** The Medical Practice Act of this state is written in a way that allows an anesthesiologist to delegate anesthesia care to CAAs.



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