



November 21, 2022

TO: ARC-AA Sponsoring Organizations: American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

FROM: John Kimbell, CAA, Chair  
Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA, Executive Director

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – October 2022

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The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met October 21, 2022, in New Orleans. The highlights from the meetings:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed the accreditation record for one program seeking continuing accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Currently there are 15 CAAHEP Accredited Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. For the list of accredited programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>.

There are three programs seeking initial accreditation.

2. **Conversation with NCCAA Representatives.** In response to the letter the ARC-AA sent to the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) regarding three of the nine key policy changes the NCCAA announced in May 2022, the ARC-AA Board and the NCCAA Executive Committee met face-to-face. The purpose of the conversation was to learn about why and how the NCCAA arrived at its decisions. The ARC-AA desires to continue the communication between the boards.

3. **Projects in Process.**

- a. Reviewing current accreditation tools and identifying new tools to develop to support programs in the accreditation process. To assist with this, seeking feedback from programs that are active in the comprehensive review process.
- b. Designing Board Assessment Tool. Proposing a board assessment tool to gather feedback from individual board members and measures the collective performance of the board.
- c. Drafting Position Descriptions for Officers. Proposing position descriptions for the officers of the corporation.

4. **CAAHEP Standards Revision.** The *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the AA Programs* was last revised in 2016. The *Standards & Guidelines* must be reviewed at least every 10 years. The ARC-AA will embark on the revision process in late 2023 or early 2024 and will invite its stakeholders to participate in the review and possible revision.

5. **Fee increase.** The ARC-AA derives its income from the programs seeking and maintaining accreditation. There will be an increase to the annual fee from \$4,500 to \$6,000, the self-study report fee from \$3,000 to \$4,000, and the virtual site visit fee from \$1,000 to \$1,500 effective January 1, 2024. The last fee increase occurred in 2016.

6. **Next Meetings.** The ARC-AA board meets in January via web meeting, April at the AAAA Annual Meeting, July via web meeting, and October at the ASA Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, January 10	via web meeting
Saturday, April 1	Dallas
Tuesday, July 11	via web meeting
Friday, October 13	San Francisco

**Communication Protocols.** The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the work of the Board. The Board will continue to provide official updates via the Board Highlights to sponsors within 30 days of each Board meeting.

**The Purpose of ARC-AA:** Act under the auspices of CAAHEP<sup>1</sup> (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which is the national voluntary accreditation agency for the Anesthesiologist Assistants, assessment of educational outcomes, and recommendation to CAAHEP for accreditation of AA educational programs that meet the CAAHEP *Standards*.

**AAAA and ASA sponsor the ARC-AA:**

- a. each organization nominates individuals to the ARC-AA and the ARC-AA elects them.
- b. fiduciary responsibility of the directors of the board are to the ARC-AA and not the ASA or AAAA

**Board Members of the ARC-AA:**

John Kimbell, CAA (AAAA), Chair	Lindsey Amerson, CAA (AAAA)
Matt Pinegar, MD (ASA), Vice Chair	Mary Billstrand, MD (ASA)
Sam Gumbert, MD (ASA), Immediate Past Chair	John Scott, MD (ASA)
Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Treasurer	Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA)

<sup>1</sup> CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs