



February 10, 2023

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 – January 2023

The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met January 10, 2023, via web meeting. The highlights from the meetings:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed the accreditation record for two programs seeking initial 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>.

2. **Annual Reports.** Reviewed the 11 programs that had graduates in 2021. Each program is required to submit an annual report sharing its outcome data, specifically the program's retention, positive placement, and certifying exam pass rate.

The following collated data represents the **1-year outcomes** for the 11 programs who had graduates in 2021:

Average Retention:	91.8% (threshold is 90%)
Average Positive Placement:	100.0% (threshold is 90%)
Average Pass Rate on NCCAA Exam:	100.0% (threshold is 90%)

The following collated data represents the **3-year average** for the 11 programs who had graduates in 2021:

Average Retention:	94.0% (threshold is 90%)
Average Positive Placement:	99.8% (threshold is 90%)
Average Pass Rate on NCCAA Exam:	100.0% (threshold is 90%)

3. **Request to Sponsor the ARC-AA.** The ARC-AA was approached by an organization about it sponsoring the ARC-AA. When a national professional organization believes that its membership has legitimate concerns about, and responsibilities for, the quality of personnel prepared in Anesthesiologist Assistant educational programs accredited by CAAHEP, the organization may petition the ARC-AA for approval to join them as a sponsoring organization. If the CoA determines that it wishes to recommend this organization for sponsoring membership, it will convey that recommendation to CAAHEP for a vote by the full Commission. Such votes take place at the next Annual Meeting. Any organization wishing to sponsor the ARC-AA must also be approved as a sponsoring member of CAAHEP.

A working group was formed to explore the considerations of this request.

4. 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.

5. **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.

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.

Saturday, April 1

Dallas

Tuesday, July 11

via web meeting

Friday, October 13

San Francisco

The Purpose of ARC-AA: Act under the auspices of CAAHEP¹ (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)

¹ CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs