



The Accreditation Review Committee  
for the Anesthesiologist Assistant

May 13, 2024

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

FROM: Ty Townsend, CAA, Chair  
Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA, Executive Director

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – April 2024

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The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met on April 13, 30, 2024, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA). The highlights from the meeting follow:

1. **Programs.** Currently, there are 20 CAAHEP-accredited Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. For the list of accredited programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>.
2. **Program Actions.** Two programs were reviewed in response to the site visit findings or a progress report.
3. **Request to Sponsor the ARC-AA.** The Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs (AAAEP) is petitioning the ARC-AA to sponsor it, which would increase the number of organizations from two to three. 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 CAAHEP Commissioner Meeting. Any organization wishing to sponsor the ARC-AA must also be approved as a sponsoring member of CAAHEP.
4. **Fee for Re-evaluation.** The Board approved a new fee that will be assessed to programs when a self-study report is submitted and is grossly incomplete, requiring multiple reviews before the program is approved to move forward with the site visit.
5. **Website Design.** The ARC-AA is developing its own website. Currently, it has a page on the CAAHEP [website](#). The website will serve as a resource for emerging and developing programs, accredited programs, and the public.
6. **CAAHEP Report.** The relationship with CAAHEP is strong.
  - a. CAAHEP held a very successful Symposium joining in person and virtually January 19-20, 2024.
  - b. The next opportunity to attend in person will be July 19-20, 2025, in Austin, TX, for the Accreditation Workshop. A special CoA Day will be held on July 18 for the leaders and volunteers serving on the Committees on Accreditation and will include a tour of the Case Western Reserve Austin Anesthesiologist Assistant Program.



- c. At its February meeting, the CAAHEP Board reviewed and approved collecting comments on the new definition of an educational program. The new definition was posted on the CAAHEP website and was open for comments until April 1. The Board will review the submitted comments and a final definition will be posted.
- d. The CAAHEP Board approved the following new policies for inclusion in the next version of the Policies & Procedures - Program Name and Associate Member Statement.
- e. The CAAHEP Commission Business Meeting was held on April 26, 2024. Topics included the finance and audit report, nomination and election of new board members, review and vote on the acceptance of the Clinical Ethics profession in CAAHEP, review and vote on the acceptance of two new Associate Members and one new Sponsoring Organization and the President's and Executive Director's reports.

## 7. Next ARC-AA Board Meetings.

2024

Tuesday, July 16 @6-7:30 PM Eastern Time    web meeting

Thursday, October 17 @3-7 PM Eastern Time    @ASA, Philadelphia

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 is to the ARC-AA and not the ASA or AAAA

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA), Chair  
 Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Vice Chair  
 John Scott, DO (ASA), Treasurer  
 John Kimbell, CAA (AAAA), Past Chair

Lindsey Amerson, CAA (AAA)  
 Sam Gumbert, MD (ASA)  
 Gaurav Patel, MD (ASA)  
 Matthew Pinegar, MD (ASA)

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