



The Accreditation Review Committee
for the Anesthesiologist Assistant

August 19, 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 – July 2024

The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met on July 16, 2024, via web meeting. The highlights from the meeting follow:

- CAAHEP Standards & Guidelines.** In January 2025, the ARC-AA will embark on reviewing the CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines*. CAAHEP requires the *Standards* to be reviewed at least every 10 years. The review and revision process can take two years. The ARC-AA is creating a task force comprised of individuals representing the board, sponsors of AA programs, faculty, employers, and CAAs. Applications are being accepted to serve on the task force, and the due date is September 15, 2024. The application is available at www.caahep.org/arc-aa.
- National APP Week** is celebrated annually in the 4th week of September. This is a week to celebrate and recognize APPs across the nation synchronously, creating more awareness & highlighting the importance of a collaborative model for Advanced Practice. The ARC-AA is one of its sponsors.
- Strategic Plan.** The ARC-AA is entering into strategic planning this fall, which will be its first strategic plan.
- Expansion of Programs and the impact on clinical rotations.** The Board discussed the ARC-AA's role in clinical rotations. Concern has been expressed about the rapid expansion of programs and their impact on the availability of clinical rotations. Accreditation focuses on ensuring sufficient resources to support the program to graduate competent AAs to enter the workforce.
- CAAHEP Report.** The relationship with CAAHEP is strong.
 - Hosted the 2023 CAAHEP Accreditation Workshop in July in Austin, TX, which included a number of individuals from AA education programs. This CAAHEP event provides healthcare education programs with the latest news in higher education and updates in programmatic accreditation. Attendees can expect to gain a greater understanding of the role CAAHEP accreditation plays in assisting allied health programs to achieve excellence in health sciences education. **One highlight of the event was a tour of the Case Western Reserve Austin Anesthesiologist Assistant Program.**
 - At the April Annual Business Meeting, the CAAHEP Commissioners voted to elect four individuals to the Board of Directors. The terms for these new Board members begin July 1, 2024. Jennifer Stever from AAAA was elected to represent the sponsoring organization category.
 - At the Annual Business Meeting the Commission also approved adding Clinical Ethics as a new discipline under CAAHEP.



- d. Two new or revised CAAHEP policies, Policy 705 Reserve and Strategic Fund Policy and Policy 706 Investment Policy, went out for public comment.
- e. Starting in 2026, CAAHEP’s accreditation fees will increase by ten percent. The CAAHEP Board recognizes that institutional budgets are complex and require careful planning. The board decided to implement this fee policy change in 2024, providing program sponsors with two years' notice before the change takes effect.

6. Next ARC-AA Board Meetings.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2024 | |
| Thursday, October 17 @3-7 PM Eastern Time (@ASA) | Philadelphia |
| 2025 | |
| Tuesday, January 14 @ 6 pm Eastern Time | web-based |
| Saturday, March 29 @ 12 pm Eastern Time (@AAAA) | Charlotte, NC |
| Tuesday, July 15 @ 6 pm Eastern Time | web-based |
| Thursday, October 9 @ 3 pm Central Time (@ASA) | San Antonio, TX |

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

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA), Chair | Lindsey Amerson, CAA (AAA) |
| Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Vice Chair | Sam Gumbert, MD (ASA) |
| John Scott, DO (ASA), Treasurer | Gaurav Patel, MD (ASA) |
| John Kimbell, CAA (AAAA), Past Chair | Matthew Pinegar, MD (ASA) |

¹CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs