



May 11, 2026

TO: ARC-AA Sponsoring Organizations:
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
American Society of Anesthesiologists
Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs

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

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – April 11, 2026

The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met on April 11, 2026, in Denver, Colorado. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the Board's work. ARC-AA provides official updates to its sponsors via the Board Highlights. The highlights from the board meeting are below.

1. **Program Actions.** One program was reviewed for an accreditation recommendation or progress reports.
2. **Clinical Resources.** The Board approved a policy that explicitly links clinical capacity to students' ability to achieve required clinical experiences. The policy demonstrates that the ARC-AA/CAAHEP requires resources that ensure adequate student preparation and safeguard students' clinical learning environment.

ARC-AA Policy XI. Clinical Education Requirement

"Programs must have clinical resources sufficient for students to meet the clinical experience requirements, including minimum hours, cases, and procedures, for Anesthesiologist Assistant certification eligibility."

View the announcement [here](#).

3. **CAAHEP Standards & Guidelines.** The ARC-AA Board of Directors approved the initial draft of the *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Anesthesiologist Assistant during the meeting*. The revision includes a list of required clinical experiences, further strengthening the evaluation of the resources and experiences that programs must provide for students to become competent providers.

The CAAHEP Standards Committee is reviewing the draft, and the ARC-AA will engage in conversation with CAAHEP regarding any proposed modifications. Once an agreed-upon draft is available, a second Call for Comment period will be held.

For more information, click [here](#).

4. Next ARC-AA Board Meetings.

2026

Tuesday, July 14, @ 6 pm Eastern Time

Thursday, October 15, @ TBD Pacific Time (@ASA)

web-based

San Diego

2027

Tuesday, January 19, at 6 pm Eastern Time

Saturday, April 17, at 11 am Eastern Time (@AAAA)

Tuesday, July 20, at 6 pm Eastern Time

Thursday, October 14, @ TBD Eastern Time (@ASA)

web-based

Orlando

web-based

Boston

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*.

The AAAA, AAAEP, and ASA sponsor the ARC-AA.

- a. Each organization nominates individuals to the ARC-AA, and the ARC-AA elects them.
- b. The fiduciary responsibility of the board's directors is to the ARC-AA.

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

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

Sally Fortner, MD (AAAEP)
 Gaurav Patel, MD (ASA)
 Matthew Pinegar, MD (ASA)
 Kris Tindol, CAA (AAAEP)

¹ CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs