

Fiscal Year 2022
Army National Guard
Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP)
Announcement

References:

- A. DoDI 6000.13, Accession and Retention Policies, Programs, and Incentives for Military Health Professions Officers (HPOs), 30 December 2015 (Change 1, 3 May 2016).
 - B. DoDI 6130.03, Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction into the Military Services, 6 May 2018.
 - C. AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness, 27 June 2019.
 - D. AR 601- 20, The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program, 14 August 2009
 - E. AR 600-9, The Army Body Composition Program, 16 July 2019.
 - F. AR 135-100, Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Army, 1 September 1994.
 - G. AR 135-101, Appointment of Reserve Commissioned Officers for Assignment to Army Medical Department Branches, 15 February 1984.
 - H. AR 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development, 10 December 2017.
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1. This message will expire NLT 16 April 2022.

2. Purpose: This message is the fiscal year 2022 announcement of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) and solicits applications from Army National Guard (ARNG) enlisted, warrant officers, and commissioned officers.

a. This message solicits applications for IPAP classes to start in November 2022 (23-01), April 2023 (23-02), and August 2023 (23-03) at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence located at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam-Houston, Texas (JBSA).

b. Enlisted students selected for this program will arrive in an officer candidate status (09S) and will be accessed into the Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP) as commissioned officers upon successful completion of the program, including successful completion of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

c. Warrant officer students selected for this training will attend in their current grade held and will be accessed into the SP Corps as a commissioned officer upon successful completion of the program, including successful completion of the NCCPA.

d. Commissioned officer students selected for this training will report with their current branch and current rank held. Accession into the SP Corps, with an updated date of rank in accordance with (IAW) DODI 6000.13, will be processed by the State upon successful completion of the program.

- e. All commissioned and warrant officer applicants must have successfully completed their initial entry level training prior to the start of IPAP (i.e. BOLC complete).
- f. All enlisted applicants must complete Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training prior to application.
- g. Applicants from other services will not be accepted for the Army National Guard board.
- h. ROTC cadets, while in cadet status, are not eligible to apply for IPAP.
- i. Civilian personnel are not eligible to apply.

3. Responsibilities: (Clarification to AR 601-20 1-4)

Addition to AR 601-20 1-4d. Unit commanders and immediate supervisors will interview and provide specific recommendations on applicants under their control and/or supervision. An interview and letter of recommendation (LOR) from the State Surgeon and/or Deputy State Surgeon will also be required of all applicants. Recommending Physician Assistant (PA) (civilian or military) will interview and provide specific recommendations of applicants. PA recommendations must use USAREC Form 601-37.11 and include documentation of at least 80 hours of shadowing. Recommenders other than the shadowed PA should provide memorandum formatted LORs.

Note: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners are not acceptable substitutions for a PA. However, in special circumstances, applicants may request approval for shadowing hours with a health care professional, other than PA, by email to MAJ Zach Eason, ARNG IPAP Program Manager, at zachary.r.eason2.mil@mail.mil.

4. Program information

a. Ineligibility (Clarification to AR 601-20, 2-1):

(1) Applicants with over 10 years total active federal service (AFS) as of 1 March 2022 are not eligible to apply. An exception to policy may be requested by the State to MAJ Zach Eason, ARNG IPAP Program Manager, at zachary.r.eason2.mil@mail.mil.

(2) Enlisted applicants only: per AR 601-100 par. 1-9 an original appointment as a commissioned officer in the Army National Guard must occur prior to age 42. Age waivers will be considered on a case by case basis (age waivers may be requested by the State to ARNG-HRH).

(3) All applicants with P2 profile (except hearing and eyes) are ineligible to apply for IPAP. An exception to board may be requested for P2 in P, H, or E categories only. In order to request an exemption to board, recruiters **must** send ARNG-CSG approved medical waivers to MAJ Eason for submission to the IPAP Director. Waivers for program attendance will only be considered for P2 in the P, H, or E categories. No exceptions will be authorized for applicants with a P2 in the U, L, or S categories.

NOTE: ARNG-CSG medical waiver approvals are for commissioning (completed through MATS). They are not IPAP program attendance waivers. Applicants must first obtain the ARNG- CSG medical waiver for commission **and then** request the IPAP program attendance waiver through MAJ Zach Eason at zachary.r.eason2.mil@mail.mil.

(4) Applicants with a temporary profile are ineligible to board. An exception to policy may be requested by the State to the ARNG IPAP Manager, MAJ Zach Eason at zachary.r.eason2.mil@mail.mil.

b. Basic prerequisites: Updates can be found on the US Army Recruiting Command IPAP website at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.

(1) Soldiers in the ARNG will not request to transition to Regular Army (RA) prior to their ARNG obligation completion for attending IPAP.

(2) Change to AR 601-20 2-2.m (1): Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 and a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all science courses. The science GPA will include science courses completed within 10 years of the start of IPAP as determined by the IPAP affiliated university. Applicants must meet all GPA requirements by the UNICAS application deadline. Minimum GPA requirements are not waivable and must be met at time of application. An example of courses that will count towards the science GPA can be found under Additional Resources at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.

(3) Applicants must complete the following mandatory pre-requisite coursework either in-residence or online from a regionally accredited university or college:

- (a) 3 semester hours of Human Anatomy or Anatomy and Physiology I.
- (b) 3 semester hours of Human Physiology or Anatomy and Physiology II. If taking Anatomy and Physiology I, applicant must take Anatomy and Physiology II.
- (c) 3 semester hours of College Algebra or higher level math course. Statistics will not count.
- (d) 3 semester hours of Psychology. Introductory courses will count.
- (e) 6 semester hours of General Chemistry or higher level chemistry course. Introductory courses will not count.
- (f) 6 semester hours of English (must include 3 semester hours of composition or writing). The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) English Composition test will be considered for English I and II. Applicants must score above 50 in order to receive 6 semester hours of English.
- (g) 6 semester hours of Humanities.
- (h) 3 semester hours of Biochemistry.

(4) Applicants must complete all mandatory science courses (Anatomy, Physiology, General Chemistry, and Biochemistry) within 10 years of the start of IPAP, recommended within 5 years. Credit for MOS-related training are as follows: 68K (Lab Technicians) will receive 6 hours of Chemistry credit; 18D (Special Forces Medics), 68WM6/68C (Licensed Practical Nurses), 38BW4 (Special Operations Civil Affairs Medical Sergeants), and 68W with the W1 skill identifier will receive 3 hours of Human Anatomy credit. These applicants must have completed their training within 10 years of the start of IPAP to be accepted.

(5) The Medical Terminology course must be completed within 5 years of reporting to IPAP by either taking the military correspondence course or a college class. The military correspondence course can be found on ALMS by searching for Basic Medical Technology.

(6) It is highly recommend applicants take labs with mandatory science courses: Anatomy, Physiology, General Chemistry, and Biochemistry. Highly recommend applicants take labs with any additional science courses to include but not limited to: Biology, Microbiology, and Organic Chemistry. Also highly recommended is sociology.

(7) Applicants selected for IPAP must bring a copy of all transcripts and SAT scores with them when reporting to JBSA.

(8) Grade replacement is NOT accepted for applicants applying for the IPAP FY 22 board.

(9) For questions regarding academics that are not clear in the regulation or this announcement, the interested applicant must contact the University of Nebraska Medical Center registrar office or email cahpadmissions@unmc.edu.

(10) Tuition Assistance (TA) Memos. Individuals that are ineligible for TA should speak to their State Education Office. The State Education Office will require a TA Memo from UNMC in order to consider an ETP. Interested applicant must request his or her own memo via email to cahpadmissions@unmc.edu. UNMC will require all past transcripts during the request.

(11) Age, age in grade, and civil conviction waivers are processed through the State OPM to ARNG-HRH IAW AR 601-100, AR 135-100, AR 135-101, AR 40-501, NGR (AR) 600-100 and ARNG policy. **DODMERB and physical exams conducted at Medical Detachments will be conducted IAW PPOM 20-005.** Medical waivers are processed through MATS, once approved, a program attendance waiver must be obtained (see paragraph 4a(3) above).

(12) All applicants must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) within 5 years of application. Copies of SAT scores must be included in the packet for application. Applicants must score a minimum of 450 in both the reading and math section with a cumulative score of at least 1000. Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for the College Board to grade the examination; any applicant missing SAT scores will not be allowed to board. Do not use the school code for active duty processing, ARNG applicants must obtain a copy for their packet submission.

(13) All applicants must take the Physician Assistant College Admissions Test (PA-CAT). The PA-CAT needs to be taken early enough to ensure receipt of results by the document packet deadline of **1 February 2022**. Registration for the exam can be found at <https://www.pa-cat.com>. **Scores must be sent directly to USAREC by selecting US Army National Guard as the program during registration.** Results must be added to the final document packet submission as well (if unable to obtain results, notify MAJ Eason).

(14) All applicants must provide a memorandum signed by their unit security manager validating their secret clearance or interim clearance within their application. All applicants need a minimum of an interim clearance granted by the application deadline.

(15) All applicants must pass height and weight standards IAW AR 600-9 and their latest APFT IAW AR 350-1 and Army Directive 2020-06. Applications must pass height and weight standards and take a diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). A memo signed by the Company Commander or 1SG verifying the applicant has taken a diagnostic ACFT and passes height and weight standards must be included in the packet. *ACFT scores and pass/fail should not be included*

(16) No DA photo will be submitted in the application packet

c. Program description and service obligation

(1) Update to AR 601-20 2-4b (1): Didactic instruction (Phase 1) will be conducted at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence for a period of approximately 64 weeks.

(2) Update to AR 601-20 2-4b (2): Clinical training (Phase 2) will occur at selected military treatment facilities for a period of approximately 52 weeks.

(3) While attending IPAP, students will be assigned to B Company 187th Medical Battalion for command and control during this period of training. They will be responsible for in/out processing, personal finances, UCMJ authority, academic tracking, and enforcement of program policy.

(4) Officers will be under the control of their States for promotions while attending IPAP.

(6) ARNG IPAP Students will incur a 6 year service obligation to the ARNG.

(7) IPAP graduates are not eligible for an incentive until their 6 year obligation has been fulfilled.

(8) All enlisted soldiers attending IPAP will be required to attend BOLC A Direct Commission Course (DCC) and BOLC B (Phase I DL, Phase II Resident) upon successful completion of IPAP.

(9) Application: Basic application guidelines are as follows:

d. Milestones in processing applications

(1) Applicants will self-submit their transcripts through UNICAS, at <http://ipap.liaisoncas.com>. The online application/ transcript submission process will be open on **1 October 2021 through 25 January 2022 (confirm the exact January end date in UNICAS application)**. The online application/transcript submission process is mandatory for all applicants. Applicant should ensure they are applying to the correct component, any applications not received or submitted on time will be forced to reapply next cycle.

(2) Applicants will work with a State AMEDD Recruiter on the document checklist. Once the AMEDD recruiter has the required packet documents, the AMEDD recruiter will submit the completed document packet NLT **1 February 2022** using the DoD SAFE at <https://safe.apps.mil/>. Files will be sent to BOTH zachary.r.eason2.mil@mail.mil and nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil. Senders should click request an automatic notification during receipt. Packets must be labeled "FY22_IPAP_last name_State".

Note: For quality assurance, an ARNG AMEDD recruiter is required to submit the applicant's document packet. Applicants may work with their current State AMEDD Recruiter, or he/she may work with the State AMEDD Recruiter that is willing to access him/her upon selection. The SS/DSS memo can come from the potential gaining State.

(3) UNMC will complete the academic evaluation. Academic evaluations will begin to be evaluated in February 2022, regardless of when transcripts are submitted in UNICAS. Applicants need to

ensure they hit **submit** in UNICAS before the January 2022 deadline. If submission is not completed in UNICAS, applicants will be forced to reapply the following year.

(4) **Currently, Phase I funding is provided by NGB, Phase II funding is provided by the State.** States that have applicants that are found eligible will be notified by MAJ Eason, ARNG IPAP Manager.

Rough cost estimate for socialization with State Leadership by Recruiters: The full program is about \$200k per attendee. Cost depends on the applicants rank, family status, promotions during the program, PCS (3x TLE, DLA, travel, HHG/PPM), BAH for JBSA, BAH for Phase I and II site location, etc. State quota source managers should have a PCS calculator available.

(5) Applicant packets that are found eligible will go to the ARNG IPAP selection board held in **March 2022**. Board results, based on an OML, will be released to the States, along with a letter of instruction. Due to official staffing processes, board results can take up to 90 days to be signed and released. Results will be emailed to the AMEDD Recruiter immediately after they are received, please do not contact ARNG-HRR and ARNG-CSG for a status update prior to 90 days.

(6) Seats will be assigned IAW the instructions provided in the selection notification memo following the board.

e. Inquiries and assistance:

For inquires and assistance, contact the State AMEDD recruiter. For State AMEDD recruiter information contact ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.arng-hrr-specialty-branch-accessions@mail.mil.

If multiple attempts to contact the State AMEDD Recruiter have failed, please contact the below POCs.

MAJ Zach Eason
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IPAP Program Manager
ARNG Chief Surgeon's Office
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