

Fiscal Year 2021  
Army National Guard  
Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP)  
Announcement

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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 2021.

2. Purpose: This message is the fiscal year 2021 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 2021 (22-01), April 2022 (22-02), and August 2022 (22-03) 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. Army personnel selected for IPAP are exempt from stop loss, stop movement, and life cycle unit requirements.
  - 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 the ARNG IPAP Program Manager, MAJ Hockenberry at [nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil).

#### 4. Program information

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

(1) Update to AR 601-20 2-1(3)(a): Applicants with over 10 years total active federal service (AFS) as of 1 January 2023 are not eligible to apply and over 10 years of service credible toward retirement as of 1 January 2023 will be ineligible to apply. Officers with over 5 years of commissioned service will be ineligible to apply for FY 2021 IPAP (an exception to policy may be requested by the State to the ARNG IPAP Manager, MAJ Hockenberry at [nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil)).

(2) Clarification to AR 601-20 2-1(3)(b): 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. In order to compete for an ARNG seat, you must be under the age of 42 as of **30 July 2025**. Age waivers will be considered on a case by case basis (age waivers may be requested by the State to ARNG-HRH).

(3) Change to AR 601-20 2-1b: all applicants with P2 profile (except hearing and eyes) are ineligible to apply for IPAP.

(4) Clarification to AR 601-20 2-1.b: 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 Hockenberry at [nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil)).

b. Basic prerequisites: Update to AR 601-20

(1) Change to AR 601-20 2-2.a: Due to the Critical Skills Wartime Shortage of 65D in the ARNG, Soldiers in the ARNG cannot 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 affiliated university. Applicants must meet all GPA requirements by application deadline **25 January 2021**. ARNG applicants are not eligible for academic delays.

(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.

(4) Applicants must complete all mandatory science courses (Anatomy, Physiology, and Chemistry) 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.

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

(7) Grade replacement is accepted for applicants applying to the FY 2021 IPAP board. The highest grade received in each course will count toward the cumulative and/or Science GPA.

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

(9) Age, medical, or 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.**

(10) 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 and the **essay portion must** be included. 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.

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) Clarification to the AR 601-20 2-4 d(4): Commissioned officers will attend IPAP in their current officer branch and grade held. Upon successful completion of Phase 2 training, eligible graduates are tendered an ARNG appointment as a commissioned officer in the SP corps, with their rank determined by their individual constructive service credit calculated IAW DODI 6000.13 and the FY Phase Point memo.

(4) While attending IPAP, students will be assigned to B Company 187<sup>th</sup> 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.

(5) 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 2020 through 25 January 2021**. 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 2021**, emailed directly to MAJ Hockenberry at [nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.a.hockenberry2.mil@mail.mil), subject line should read "FY21\_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.**

(3) UNMC will complete the academic evaluation. Academic evaluations will begin to be evaluated in February 2021, regardless of when transcripts are submitted in the system. Applicants need to ensure they **submit** before the deadline. If submission is not completed in the system, applicants will be forced to reapply the following year.

(4) **Funding is provided by the States.** States that have applicants that are found eligible will be notified by MAJ Hockenberry, ARNG IPAP Manager.

(5) Applicants that are found eligible will go to the ARNG IPAP selection board held on 10 March 2020. Boards will consist of iPERMS review and IPAP board file review. 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.**

(6) Letters of acceptance will be sent to the Students from the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence on class assignments once State G3 funding memos are compiled and applicants are slotted for seats.

e. Inquiries and assistance:

For inquires and assistance, contact the State AMEDD recruiter. For State AMEDD recruiter information contact [ng.ncr.nqb-arng.mbx.arng-hrr-specialty-branch-accessions@mail.mil](mailto:ng.ncr.nqb-arng.mbx.arng-hrr-specialty-branch-accessions@mail.mil).