**MILPER Message Number**

**22-251**

**Proponent**

**RCHS-SVD-PA**

**Title**

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program Application**

**...Issued:[7 Jul 22]...**

A. AR 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), 27 June 2019.

B.  AR 601-20 (The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program), 14 August 2009.

C.  AR 600-9 (The Army Body Composition Program), 16 July 2019.

D.  AR 135-100 (Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Army), 1 September 1994.

E.  AR 135-101 (Appointment of Reserve Commissioned Officers for Assignment to Army Medical Department Branches), 15 February 1984.

F.  AR 350-1 (Army Training and Leader Development), 10 December 2017.

G.  AR 601-100 (Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers in the Regular Army), 21 November 2006.

H.  AR 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia), 26 January 2021.

I.  DoDI 6000.13 (Accession and Retention Policies, Programs, and Incentives for Military Health Professions Officers (HPOs)), 30 December 2015 (Change 1, 3 May 2016).

J. DoDI 6130.03 (Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction into the Military Services, 4 September 2020.

1.  This MILPER message will expire NLT 6 July 2023.

2.  Purpose:  This message is the FY 2023 announcement of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) board and solicits applications from regular Army (RA) and United States Army Reserve (USAR) enlisted, commissioned officers, and warrant officers. National Guard Applicants should follow their annual announcement and work with their state AMEDD recruiter to apply.

a. This message solicits applications for IPAP classes to start in January, April, and August 2024 at the Medical Center of Excellence located at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston (FSH), Texas.  The IPAP class that starts in January will report to FSH in November 2023.

b. Enlisted students selected for this training will attend in an officer candidate status and will be accessed into the Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP Corps) as commissioned officers upon successful completion of the training.

c. All selected enlisted applicants must have successfully completed the Basic Leadership Course (BLC) 120 days prior to reporting to FSH for the IPAP class.

d. Warrant officer students for this training will attend in their current warrant officer grade and will be accessed into the SP Corps as commissioned officers upon successful completion of the training.

e. Commissioned officer students selected for this training will report with their current rank (Ref.  4.e.(3)).

f. Applications from other services for Regular Army seats will not be accepted for the FY 2023 board.

g. ROTC cadets, to include U.S. Army Military Academy cadets, while in cadet status are not eligible to apply for IPAP.

h. Army personnel selected for the IPAP are exempt from stop loss, stop movement, and life cycle unit requirements (AR 601-20 2-2.e.)

i. Civilian personnel are not eligible to apply for IPAP.

j. All enlisted applicants must complete Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training prior to application.

k. All officer applicants must complete the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) prior to application.

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.  Recommending Physician Assistant (PA) will interview and provide specific recommendations on applicants under their control and/or supervision.  Physician Assistant recommendations must use USAREC Form 601-37.11 and include documentation of at least 80 hours of shadowing; more is recommended.  Applicants without access to a Physician Assistant may request approval for 80 shadowing hours with a health care professional other than a Physician Assistant by email to the IPAP program manager.

4.  Program Information:

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

(1) Update to AR 601-20 2-1(3):  The IPAP program manager will process all waivers to the appropriate waiver authority.

(2) Update to AR 601-20 2-1(3)(a):  The Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) or Basic Date of Appointment will be used to determine time of service.

| **Waiver Required to Board** |
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| Regular Army Applicants with less than 3 years of AFS as of 01 January 2024 |
| Regular Army Applicants with over 15 years of total AFS as of 01 January 2024 |
| USAR Applicants with less than 3 years time in service as of 01 January 2024 |
| USAR Applicants with over 10 years time in service as of 01 January 2024 |
|  Officers with over 8 years of AFCS as of 01 January 2024 |

 \* AFS stands for Active Federal Service
 \* AFCS stands for Active Federal Commissioned Service

(3) Clarification to the 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 RA must occur prior to age 42.  For the USAR, an original appointment as a commissioned officer must occur prior to the age of 47.  In order to be eligible to compete for an active duty IPAP seat, you will have to be under the appropriate commissioning age as of 14 June 2026.  Age waivers will be considered on a case by case basis.

(4) Change to AR 601-20 2-1.b:  All applicants with P2 profile (except hearing and eyes) are ineligible to apply for IPAP. An exception to board may be requested through the IPAP program manager to the PA consultant for applicants with a P2 in the P, H, or E category on their PULHES. No exceptions to board will be authorized for applicants with a P2 in the U, L, or S category on their PULHES.

(5) Clarification to AR 601-20 2-1.b:  Applicants with a temporary profile are ineligible to board.  An exception to board may be requested thru the IPAP program manager to the PA consultant.

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

(1)  Change to AR 601-20 2-2.a:  Due to the critical skills war time shortage of 65D in the USAR, soldiers in those components can only apply for their current component’s IPAP seats.

(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 8 years of the start of IPAP (courses completed Fall 2016 and after) as determined by the IPAP affiliated university.  Applicants must meet all GPA requirements by application deadline, 1 March 2023.  Minimum GPA requirements are not waiverable and must be met at time of application.  Coursework completed after 1 March 2023 will NOT count towards the GPA.  A list of courses that count towards the science GPA can be found under Additional Resources at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.

(3) The IPAP academic delay for RA and USAR allowing up to nine semester hours (three classes) to be completed after the application deadline of 1 March 2023 will be available. All prerequisite courses must be completed by 1 October 2023. The minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and minimum science GPA of 3.0 must be maintained upon completion of all prerequisite courses. National Guard applicants are not eligible for academic delay.

(4) All 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 Humanities.

(g) 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 to receive 6 semester hours of English.

(5) Applicants must complete all mandatory science courses (Anatomy, Physiology and General Chemistry) within 8 years of the start of IPAP (courses completed Fall 2016 and after); recommend within 5 years.  Credit for MOS-related training are as follows:  68K (lab technicians) will receive 6 hours of General 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 8 years of IPAP (Fall 2016 and after) to be accepted.

(6) The Medical Terminology course must be completed within 5 years of reporting to IPAP (Fall 2019 and after) 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. Recommend meeting requirement through college course if applicant has no medical background at time of application.

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

(8) Grade replacement is NOT accepted for applicants applying to for the IPAP FY23 board.

(9) For questions regarding academics that are not clear in the regulation or this MILPER, the interested applicant must contact the University of Nebraska medical Center via email at cahpadmissions@unmc.edu.

(10) Tuition assistance memos are provided by the University of Nebraska. Applicants can request a memo by completing the academic worksheet link on the IPAP website (recruiting.army.mil/armypa).

(11) Applicants must complete the online IPAP registration through UNICAS for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), at [http://ipap.liaisoncas.com](http://ipap.liaisoncas.com/).  Online registration will be open from 1 October 2022 through 1 March 2023.  The online registration is mandatory for all interested applicants and is in addition to sending a packet to United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Applicants must ensure UNMC has received all their transcripts and their online application. If this application is not completed the packet will not be boarded.

(12) Applicants must send an official transcript from EVERY university/college, they have attended to USAREC AND UNMC no earlier than 1 October 2022 but NLT 1 March 2023. These can be sent to USAREC digitally (email) or via mail to HQ, USAREC ATTN: RCHS-SVD-SP, 1307 Third Ave, Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726.

(13)  Students selected for IPAP are expected to bring a copy of all transcripts with them when reporting to Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston (FSH), Texas.

(14)  All applicants must include a complete physical in their packet on DD form 2807-1 and DD 2808.  The physical must be within 12 months of the June 2023 board.  Official results of the urine drug screen (UDS), alcohol blood test (ETOH), human immunodeficiency virus blood test (HIV), and urinalysis (UA) must be included in the packet.  Females are required to include the result of a recent human chorionic gonadotropin test (i.e.  Pregnancy test).  Applicants must also include a scanned copy of their audiogram (i.e.  Hearing test).  All enlisted Soldiers must meet commissioning standards IAW AR 40-501, chapter 2 and DODI 6130.13. All officers must meet retention standards IAW AR 40-501.

(15)  Waivers are processed and forwarded for the appropriate action through the IPAP program manager (pre-board and throughout the entirety of the IPAP program) IAW AR 601-100, AR 135-100, AR135-101, AR 40-501, DODI 6130.13 and local USAREC policy to ensure that soldiers remain eligible for appointment as a commissioned officer.

(16)  Packets will NOT board without an approved conditional release (RA only, DA form 4187).  Applicants must maintain command and branch support for attending IPAP, in the form of an approved conditional release throughout the application process to include pre-matriculation into IPAP (non-waiverable administrative requirement).  Failure to maintain command support will result in removal from the selection list and from the OML.  DA form 4187 for RA must be signed by the applicant’s Battalion or Brigade Commander and Branch Chief/Manager.  DA form 4187 must be received NLT 1 March 2023 (No Exceptions).  DD368 is not required for USAR applicants because they are staying in the same component.

(17)  ALL applicants must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) within 5 years of the FY of application (1 March 2018 or after).  Applicants must score a minimum of 450 in both the reading and math section with a cumulative score of at least 1000.  The SAT also needs to be taken early enough to ensure receipt of results NLT 11 March 2023.  Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for the College Board to grade the examination; take the examination by the 11 March 2023 test date.  SAT scores must be sent directly to USAREC, by including code ‘3994’ on your SAT scantron document, and may be submitted as soon as 1 October 2022, but NLT 11 March 2023 (No Exceptions and Non-waiverable).  The last available SAT date noted on the College Board website [https://www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org/) is 11 March 2023.  Graduate Record Exam (GRE) will not fulfill the SAT requirement. American College Testing (ACT) will not fulfill the SAT requirement.

(18) ALL applicants must take the Physician Assistant College Admissions Test (PA-CAT). The PA-CAT also needs to be taken NLT 1 March 2023.  Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for the test results to reach USAREC. Registration for the exam can be found at <https://www.pa-cat.com>. Scores must be sent directly to USAREC by selecting US Army Active Duty, US Army Reserves, or US Army National Guard as the program during registration.

(19) 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 of 1 March 2023 in order to apply (No Exceptions and Non-waiverable).

(20)  All applicants must pass height and weight standards IAW AR 600-9 and pass a record Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) IAW AR 350-1 and Army Directive 2020-06 to apply.  Applications must pass height and weight standards and take a record ACFT upon arrival to Fort Sam Houston.  If these requirements are not met the applicant may be removed from the program.

(21) No DA photo will be required for the application packet.

c. Academic delay versus the requirements completion course (RCC):  Update to AR 601-20 can be found under at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.  Failure to complete academic requirements prior to 1 October 2023 will result in removal from the program.  This is non-waiverable.

(1) The RCC will not be available for the FY 2023 board for FY 2026-2027 accession.

(2) Academic delay: AD and USAR applicants may have up to nine semester hours (three classes) of prerequisite courses incomplete at the time of application. Applicants with more than nine semester hours incomplete on 1 March 2023 will NOT be eligible to apply. All prerequisite courses must be completed by 1 October 2023, or it may result in removal from the program. National Guard applicants are not eligible for academic delay.

d. Application deadlines:  Updates, an application checklist and sample documents can be found at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.

(1)  Packets must be complete and digitally submitted to the USAREC IPAP mailbox usarmy.knox.usarec.mbx.hsd-ipap@mail.mil NET 1 October 2022 and NLT 1 March 2023 or they will not be processed.  Application packets should be in PDF format and in sequence as listed on the Application Checklist found at <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa>. Tab 1, Tab 2 and Tab 3 of the Application Checklist should each be a separate PDF document. Packets may be returned to the applicant if not in the correct format.

e. Program description and service obligation:

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

(2)  Update to AR 601-20 2-4 b(2):  Clinical training (Phase 2) will occur at selected Army 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 grade held and ‘detailed’ into the SP Corps.  Upon successful completion of Phase 2 training, eligible graduates are tendered a RA or USAR appointment as a commissioned officer in the SP Corps, with their rank determined by their individual constructive service credit calculated IAW DODI 6000.13, Enclosure 3 and policy established by the OTSG.  (One-half day of credit for each day of active commissioned service as a commissioned officer but not in the profession in which the person is being appointed and then day-for-day credit while participating in IPAP).

(4)  Update to AR 601-20 3-1 e(3):  The basic application memorandum for commissioned officers will consist of the following statement adjustments, “I understand that I will attend IPAP in my current Officer grade held, and will be ‘detailed’ into the SP.  Upon successful completion of Phase 2 training, I may be tendered a RA appointment as a commissioned Officer in the SP with a rank determined by my individual constructive service credit calculation IAW DODI 6000.13 and policy established by OTSG.  (One-half day of credit for each day of active commissioned service as a commissioned officer but not in the profession in which the person is being appointed and then day-for-day credit while participating in IPAP).”

(5)  Update to the AR 601-20 4-1.C:  Commissioned officers will report with their current rank held.

(6)  Commissioned officers, while attending IPAP, 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.

(7)  Officers will be under the control of their basic branch for promotions and career status integration while attending IPAP.

(8)  All regular Army IPAP students will incur a 54 month obligation for the training.

(9)  United States Army reservists will have a total of an 8 year obligation for the IPAP training:  the Selective Reserve (SELRES) obligation of 6 years and an Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) obligation of 2 years.

(10)  Application:  Basic application guidelines to include examples of required documents that must be within the IPAP packet can be found at https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa.

f. Milestones in processing applications:

(1) Effective upon publication of this message, application will be accepted if submitted between 1 October 2022 and 1 March 2023.

(2) Applicants must include ALL required documents in their packet on the initial submission NLT 1 March 2023.  Applicants must ensure that their Commander’s global email address is on their letter of recommendation.  Upon receipt of an incomplete packet, the applicant and their Commander will be notified of the inability to process the packet.  Incomplete packets will not be boarded.

(3) All documents within an applicant’s packet must be dated within 12 months of the June 2023 board.

(4) Failure to disclose information within one’s application upon submission may lead to administrative removal.

(5)  Applicants must complete the UNMC online IPAP registration through UNICAS, at [http://ipap.liaisoncas.com](http://ipap.liaisoncas.com/).  Online registrations will be open from 1 October 2022 through 1 March 2023.  The online registration is mandatory for all interested applicants and must be submitted even if applicant is pending transcript receipt from ALL the colleges/universities he/she attended.  (No Exceptions and Non-waiverable). Applicants must ensure UNMC has received all their transcripts and their online application. If this application is not completed the packet will not be boarded.

(6) Selections will be announced by USAREC (RCHS-SVD) via a worldwide MILPER message after June 2023. It is located on the home website of Human Resource Command (HRC) – Fort Knox, KY.  <https://www.hrc.army.mil/milper/>.

5.  Inquiries and assistance:

For additional assistance for Active duty and Reserve Applicants, contact the IPAP program manager, HQ, USAREC (RCHS-SVD-PA), 1307 Third Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726.  1-800-223-3735 EXT.  65409; Commercial (502) 626-5409 or DSN:  536-5409, email:  erin.e.driver.mil@army.mil or visit <https://recruiting.army.mil/armypa/>.

For additional assistance for National Guard Applicants, contact the state AMEDD recruiter. For State AMEDD recruiter information contact ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.arng-hrr-specialty-branch-accessions@army.mil.