



6010
11 April 2016

MEMORANDUM

From: A.F. Arnold, CAPT
COMDT (CG-112)

Reply to CDR Robert Pekari
Attn of: 202 475-5183

To: Physician Assistant Training Applicants

Subj: INTERSERVICE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM (IPAP) FY 2017

Ref: (a) ALCGOFF 035/16
(b) Performance, Training and Education Manual, COMDTINST M1500.10 (series)
(c) Officer Accessions, Evaluations, and Promotions, COMDTINST M1000.3 (series)
(d) Coast Guard Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)
(e) Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29b, Ch. 3.C.7

1. This Memo serves as information and guidance as directed by reference (a). Please read this memo in its entirety prior to contacting the listed POCs.

2. The Health, Safety, and Work-Life Directorate is soliciting applications for the FY17 Physician Assistant (PA) Training Program. Applicants should read and be familiar with the applicable sections of references (b) through (e) as part of the application process.

3. The Coast Guard-sponsored PA training program is conducted by the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) located at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio TX. The duration of the program is 29 months. Phase I (64 wks), held at Fort Sam Houston, is heavily didactic, offering 96 semester hours (SH) consisting of medical and clinical sciences. Phase II (60 wks), consists of clinical rotations and continued didactic instruction at various DOD training sites (50 plus SH). Due to the length of training, BAH protection requests described in reference (e) will most likely be denied.

4. This training and education process requires three PCS moves. Selected applicants should be prepared for a PCS move to FT Sam Houston for Phase I, a PCS move to the assigned Phase II training site, then to their first unit as a Coast Guard PA upon graduation.

5. A maximum of 4 applicants will be selected this year. IPAP students obtain a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree upon completion of Phase I and a Masters degree upon completion of Phase II from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC. Enlisted IPAP Coast Guard graduates will commission as Ensigns (temporary regular) upon graduation. They will also attend a 4 to 5 week Direct Commission Officer (DCO) course at the Coast Guard Academy as soon as practicable after graduation. Officer graduates will retain current grade. IPAP graduates incur a 3 for 1 service payback obligation of the first 12 months of training and a 1 for 1 service

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payback obligation for the subsequent months for a total payback obligation of 53 months (4 years, 5 months) Coast Guard service.

6. The application process consists of the following academic, program specific and administrative requirements:

(A) There are three deadlines:

- (1) The Direct Access My Panel Submission deadline of 25 June 2016.
- (2) Physician Assistant Package submission deadline is 29 July 2016.
- (3) Two Minute Interview CD submission deadline will be presented to applicants who have successfully applied by the deadlines referenced in above (1) and (2).

(B) This program is open to Active Duty Coast Guard personnel E4 to E7 with over 4 years of service, and Officers with fewer than 5 years of service. Officers, if selected, will continue to be considered for promotion.

(C) PROGRAM/ ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Applicants must submit a self-composed, hand written essay (350 words or fewer) expressing their reasons to become a Coast Guard Officer and PA, how the Coast Guard will benefit by selecting them, and a brief description or example of how they respond to stressful situations.
- (1) 100 hours (hrs) of patient care experience. At least 40 hrs must be shadowing a PA in a clinical setting. If this is not possible due to geographic constraints, contact the program manager. Additional experience as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Health Services Technician (HS), paramedic, hospital volunteer, or other health related field can be used towards the 100 hrs. Documentation must be in letter form from a supervisor in the facility where the experience was gained, or for Coast Guard EMTs and HSs, a command endorsement that documents the experience.
- (2) 60 SH of transferable college credits with a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. At least 30 SH must be earned through attending classes (ground or online). Up to 30 SH may be obtained through military schools as recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES). All credits must be acceptable by UNMC. Any CLEP, DANTES, or ACE credits shall be reported on a Coast Guard Institute Education Assessment Worksheet, Form CGI-1561.
- (3) Completion of the following courses from a regionally accredited college or university. The courses may be lower level (freshman or sophomore) or upper level (junior or senior) but may not be remedial or developmental. The course must be numbered with the SH equivalents listed and have resulted in a letter grade. If calculus has been taken and completed, proof of algebra is not required. The

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prerequisite courses may be completed in an online format provided they meet all of the requirements detailed in this paragraph. The math and science courses must have been completed in the preceding 8 years, courses completed prior to 01 July 2006 will not be accepted; it is highly recommended that these courses be earned within the last 5 years to effectively prepare the applicant for the rigors of training. Additional coursework in Anatomy and Physiology Biology with lab, microbiology with lab and abnormal psychology are also highly recommended.

- a. College Algebra (3 SH, CLEP and Intermediate not accepted)
- b. Anatomy & Physiology with lab (8 SH, “introductory” not accepted)
- c. General Chemistry with lab (8 SH, “introductory” not accepted) upper level Chemistry (i.e. Organic or Biochemistry also highly recommended)
- d. English (6 SH total – 3 SH must be English Composition, cannot CLEP this requirement)
- e. Humanities and Social Sciences (6 SH total)
- f. Psychology (3 SH)
- g. Medical Terminology (3 SH)

Transcripts must be submitted as part of the application process to the UNMC. Instructions can be found at the application [Website](#).

Any difficulties with this process should be addressed to the UNMC contact information at the end of this memo.

- (4) A Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) within 5 years is required of all applicants regardless of degree status. There is no minimum score. However, to be competitive, the combined SAT reasoning test score in critical reading, math and writing should at least 1425.
- (5) Applicants who are unable to secure a letter of recommendation from a PA or Physician shall contact the PA Force Manager identified at the end of this message.
- (6) Two letters of recommendation from a Coast Guard PA and/or U.S. Public Health Service Physician/PA familiar with the applicant’s medical experience and potential for becoming a PA. Although letters of recommendation from Coast Guard PAs are ideal, non-HS applicants may substitute letters from a civilian Physician or PA who is familiar with the applicant’s health care experience.

(D) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Active Duty enlisted applicants must be E-4 to E-7 with at least 4 years of service in any rating. Waivers for time in service requirements may be considered before the application deadline.

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- (2) Applicants must be physically qualified for worldwide duty and enlisted applicants must pass a Pre-Commissioning Physical Examination IAW reference (d). A memorandum from the approving authority with the date of the physical examination fulfills this requirement (there is no requirement to submit the physical examination). Since physicals are good for only 12 months, an additional Pre-commissioning physical must be completed and approved within 12 months of graduation.
- (3) Applicants must not have any court-martial convictions or Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP) during current enlistment.
- (4) Applicants must be a United States Citizen.
- (5) Officer program interview. The Officer Programs Applicant Interview Form, CG-5527, must be completed by the interview panel and submitted directly to PSC-OPM-1 for enclosure with the member's application NLT 29 July 2016. The Officer Interview Panel can normally be scheduled through any Coast Guard Education Service Officer (ESO). PHS Officers may not be part of this panel. Those applicants re-applying may use the same Officer Programs Applicant Interview Form, CG-5527, for up to 2 years. Thereafter, a new interview should be conducted. Applicants having trouble scheduling an officer interview should contact the PA Force Manager for further assistance. Officers will submit copies of their OER's Lieu of Officer Programs Applicant Interview Form, CG-5527, for the preceding four years.
- (6) Video Interview: A 2 minute video of the applicant providing responses to questions is required. Specific directions concerning this will be sent to applicants that have submitted otherwise complete applications by the deadline. This interview shall be completed and returned to PSC-OPM-1 no later than 16 August 2016. The selection board will meet in September or October. The video recording should be recorded on a CD. Prior to sending the CD to OPM, applicants should ensure the CD can run on a standard Coast Guard workstation.
- (7) Direct Access My Panel Submission. All applicants (officer and enlisted) should select the position associated with the Physician Assistant Post Graduate Program. IPAP position number is 000096 and should read "PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT" See 6. (A). (1) above.
- (8) Command endorsements forwarded via the E-interview shall include a comment on the applicant's leadership, interests, ability and potential value to the service as a PA. Only endorsements from the immediate command are authorized. In the "job endorsement" page under the "recommendation" drop-down menu, commanding officers should choose "make offer" to positively endorse a candidate's application. Process Guide found under the Documents section of the OPM-1 PG website:
<http://www.uscg.mil/opm/Opm1/opm-1PG.asp>.

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- (9) Applicants should provide a list of personal awards (no more than five).
- (10) Applicants should sign a Privacy Act release memo.
- (11) Applicants should submit a Request for Conditional Release, Form DD-368 (enlisted applicants only, complete sections 1-3).
- (12) Enlisted applicants should provide the Officer Candidate School Agreement, Form CG-3211B.
- (13) Applicants should complete Administrative Remarks, CG-3307 (General Positive PD-06), acknowledging prohibition on using Montgomery and/or Post 9/11 GI Bill for courses taken as part of the PA Program.
- (14) CLEARANCE DATA: Applicants shall provide proof of security clearance or Interim clearance. Print screen of clearance data shown on Direct Access or Coast Guard Business Intelligence will suffice. If needed, proof of interim clearance shall be in memo format from Command Security Officer.
- (15) Applicants must separately mail remaining application materials (SAT scores, two letters of recommendation, personal essay, approved Pre-commissioning Physical Examination Memo, certified documentation of health care experience, signed payback statement, and signed Privacy Act statement) to PSC-OPM-1. All application materials must be received NLT 29 July 2016.

Please submit packages in the following order, ideally in a 1.5" 3-ring binder:

- (1) Resume (TAB)
- (2) Essay (TAB)
- (3) Letters of Recommendation (TAB)
- (4) Verified Experience (TAB)
- (5) Awards (TAB)*
- (6) OER's *
- (7) Forms (TAB)
 - a. Officer Candidate School Agreement
 - b. Request for Conditional Release DD Form 368
 - c. Privacy Act Statement (Memo)
 - d. Service Payback Obligation Agreement (Memo)
 - e. Prohibition on using Post 9/11 GI-Bill (General Positive CG Form 3307)
 - f. Report of Medical Exam DD Form 2808
 - g. Clearance data printout from CGBI or DA Member Info
- (8) SAT (TAB)

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*Documents in order of Newest to Oldest

7. Applications must be fully acceptable to IPAP and UNMC. The Coast Guard selection board will consider only those applicants that are acceptable to both.

8. Applicants may contact UNMC via email: IPAP@UNMC.EDU or the IPAP specific phone line (402) 559-6673 regarding course requirements, transcript submission or other concerns. If UNMC is contacted, identify yourself as a Coast Guard IPAP applicant. Applicants are encouraged to seek amplifying information on eligibility requirements, prerequisites, and clarification of application procedures by contacting CDR Robert Pekari, Physician Assistant Force Manager 202-475-5183, Robert.M.Pekari@uscg.mil or LT Gaspar Rosario, our IPAP staff instructor at: Gaspar.A.Rosario.mil@mail.mil Questions regarding the processing of advanced education applications should be directed to YN3 Christian Hazzard (PSC-OPM), at 202-795-6424.

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