



*Accreditation Review Commission on Education  
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.*

## **Explanation of Changes to ARC-PA Fee Structure March 2018**

At the March 2018 ARC-PA meeting, the Commission made changes to the ARC-PA Fee Structure, which identifies the fees charged to applicant and accredited programs for accreditation services. These changes will allow the ARC-PA to continue to fulfill its Mission and Philosophy while responding to continued growth in the number of accredited Physician Assistant (PA) programs and the number of programs seeking accreditation. This document provides relevant background information and explanations for such changes.

### **ARC-PA Mission**

The ARC-PA is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public, including current and prospective PA students, and the PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

### **ARC-PA Philosophy**

- High quality education for all physician assistants best serves the interests of both the public and the PA profession
- Continual self-study is the foundation for improving quality in the content and processes of education

### **PA Accreditation Statistics**

The total number of accredited PA programs as of February 28, 2018 is **229**.

The current projected workload includes an additional 50 new programs for provisional accreditation consideration through 2021. A current list of institutions actively developing PA programs is available at <http://www.arc-pa.org/applicant-programs/>.

### **Items Considered by the Commission**

- Resources needed to fulfill the ARC-PA's Mission and Philosophy including professional and support staff, physical facilities, and other expenses incurred by the ARC-PA including site visit costs, insurance costs, and technology costs.
- Need for technology improvements including enhancements to the PA Program Portal.
- Continued growth in the number of programs seeking provisional accreditation along with the growing number of accredited programs seeking approval for expansions to a distant campus or increases in class size.
- PA Program requests for additional ARC-PA services, programs, and support throughout the accreditation cycle.

### **Rationale for Changes to Fee Structure**

- The expenses incurred to review application materials and travel to programs for site visits exceed the current interval assessment fee and the distant campus fee paid by programs.
- The ARC-PA incurs additional expenses as a result of accommodating program requests for agenda changes.
- The changes will enable the ARC-PA to make enhancements to the PA Program Portal that will result in minimizing duplicative work for both the ARC-PA staff and volunteers and PA Programs.
- The changes will allow the ARC-PA to provide additional services and support to PA Programs.

The Commission approved the implementation of the following revised fee structure.