



Experience with the ARC-AA Executive Summary

March 2026

ARC-AA surveyed its programs to gauge their experience with accreditation. Among the 43 respondents, 41 were from CAAHEP-accredited programs and two were from programs seeking accreditation.

ARC-AA stakeholders report a strongly positive overall experience, with high regard for staff support, core resources, and the value of accreditation, alongside clear, actionable opportunities to improve document formats, data organization, and clinical expectations.

Key Themes from the Survey

Strong Accreditation Adoption & Experience

Many programs have held accreditation for multiple years, and the leaders responding to the survey have a high level of personal involvement in accreditation processes (average rating of 3.8 out of 5).

Value of Accreditation is Clear

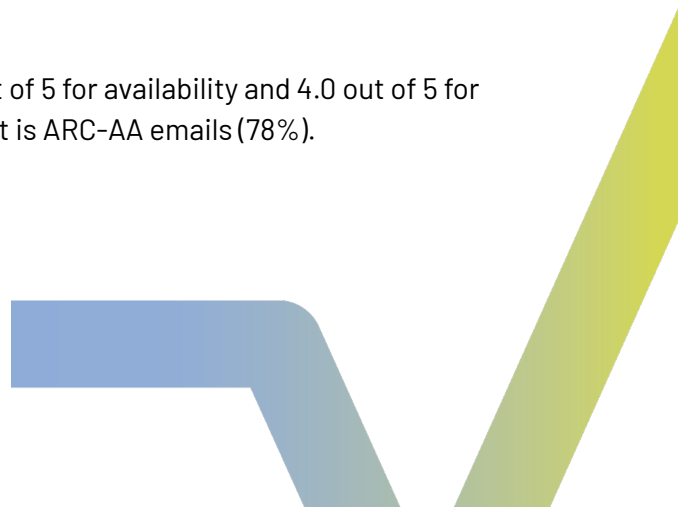
Accreditation's role in ensuring quality education is widely recognized (4.7 out of 5), including as a driver of educational quality and a contributor to competent workforce development.

Overall Positive Perception of ARC-AA

ARC-AA is viewed as effective and valuable, providing clear guidance and highly rated communication (4.3 out of 5).

Information Access is Good

Respondents cite the ease of accessing information – 4.1 out of 5 for availability and 4.0 out of 5 for website navigation. The primary information source for most is ARC-AA emails (78%).



Accreditation Process is Manageable

Most accreditation steps were rated highly manageable (4.4 or 4.5 out of 5).

High Engagement with Professional Community

Respondents reported strong participation in field events, with 89% attending the AAAA Annual Meeting and 100% attending the ASA Meeting. Fewer reported engagement with CAAHEP-specific events (33%).

Demand for More ARC-AA Engagement Opportunities

There was high interest in ARC-AA presence at AAAA meetings (4.5 out of 5).

Top improvement areas according to open-ended questions:

- Simplify and clarify communication
- Improve transparency and consistency of information
- Provide clearer benchmarks and expectations regarding key metrics
- Enhance resource accessibility (especially online)
- Provide more direct engagement, training, and feedback loops

The survey makes clear that ARC-AA is a trusted, high-performing accreditor with strong stakeholder support. Future areas for improvement include modernizing tools, simplifying access, and clarifying expectations.