

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about AMPAC Campaign School and Candidate Workshop**

**Q.** Who can attend the schools?

**A.** AMA active members, their spouses and staff of state medical societies are all eligible to apply.

**Q.** How much do the schools cost?

**A.** Hotel rooms, most meals, faculty and materials are all covered by AMPAC. Active AMA members, their spouses and staff of state medical societies only need to pay for their transportation to the Washington, D.C. area. However, please note that AMPAC's covering of these costs is contingent upon attendees being present for the entire program. AMPAC reserves the right to bill attendees if they are not present for the entirety of the program. Attendees are asked to sign an agreement stipulating these conditions.

**Q.** How does the application process work?

**A.** Completed applications are submitted to the Political Education Programs Manager by fax (202-789-4689) or email ([politicaleducation@ama-assn.org](mailto:politicaleducation@ama-assn.org)). Once an applicant's (or spouse's) active AMA membership is confirmed, AMPAC staff contact state medical society staff to gauge the applicant's involvement in advocacy on behalf of organized medicine. Applicants will be notified if they are accepted; the submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance.

**Q.** May medical students apply?

**A.** Yes, provided they are AMA members. However, AMPAC provides only for a limited number of medical student slots in each program, and medical students are therefore asked to submit an additional 500-word essay on why they would like to attend the particular program and what they hope to learn from it.

**Q.** Who should apply for each program?

**A.** The Candidate Workshop is aimed at physicians and other friends of medicine who are seriously considering a run for public office. The goal is to give them the tools they need to make an informed decision about running for office and to build an effective campaign should they choose to do so.

The Campaign School is geared towards those who are interested in becoming involved in the political process, particularly by helping other physicians and medicine-friendly candidates get elected to office. The School gives you the knowledge you need to work on a campaign.

**Q.** Can I attend both programs in the same year?

**A.** Yes, as long as you are not repeating a specific program (see below), but you should consider if each program is right for you. Also, please note that while the programs have different goals and different audiences, there is some overlap in subject matter.

**Q.** Can I attend a program a second time?

**A.** Repeat attendance at a specific program is subject to the approval of the AMPAC Board of Directors. Applicants who wish to attend a program again should specify in their application why they should be admitted again.

**Q.** Where are the schools held?

**A.** For most of the past decade, AMPAC has hosted each program at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia.

**Q.** What is the dress code?

**A.** For the most part, casual dress is fine, but attendees might want some business attire for the public speaking exercises in each school, which are videotaped.

**Q.** Is there any free time during the programs?

**A.** Not generally. Each of the programs is very rigorous, and intentionally so; they are meant to simulate the non-stop nature of a political campaign. Unless otherwise noted, each day lasts until at least 9 p.m., and often longer. The Candidate Workshop usually runs from a Friday night until Sunday afternoon. Depending upon the specific curriculum, the Campaign School, running from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, sometimes allows participants time off for one dinner, but most meals are working meals.