

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Questions	Answers
Who is NOVA and what is NACP?	NOVA is the National Organization for Victim Assistance, a 501(c)(3) organization. It is the oldest national victim assistance organization of its type in the United States. NOVA established the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP) in 2003 as the first voluntary credentialing program available to crime victim advocates nationwide. The DoD contracted with NOVA to process the applications. The applications are reviewed by the D-SAACP Review Committee, which consists of NACP members and includes military subject matter experts.
I currently hold a civilian certification through NACP. Can I use this instead?	No. The Certification requirements are similar for the civilian victim advocate program and D-SAACP, but are not the same. You must apply to D-SAACP and submit an application as a “new” applicant—not a renewal candidate.
I am a contracted SARC. Can I apply to D-SAACP?	No. D-SAACP accepts applications only from DoD personnel. Congress has mandated that all SARCs and SAPR VAs must be DoD military or civilian employees by October 1, 2013.
I am an Assistant or a part-time SARC. Can I apply to D-SAACP?	Anyone providing military sexual assault victim advocacy services must be certified by October 1, 2013. To continue providing services as an Assistant SARC, you must apply to D-SAACP.
When will I be notified whether I become certified?	The D-SAACP Certification Committee reviews applications on a quarterly basis. Within approximately 120 days of submitting your application, you will be notified of your Certification status first via an email from NOVA, and then by mail. If you have questions, NOVA can be contacted at dsaacp@trynova.org or at 703-535-5500.
What will I receive when I become certified?	In recognition of your experience, skills, and commitment to victim advocacy, you will receive a letter of confirmation, a frame-ready certificate, and a wallet-size certification card.
Can my D-SAACP certification be revoked?	Yes. D-SAACP Certification can be revoked for several reasons, to include violation of the SARC/SAPR VA Code of Professional Ethics.
I am a SARC. Who is the Senior Commander responsible for providing my recommendation?	Your Senior Commander is an officer, an O-6 or above, who is usually the commander of a military installation or comparable unit and has been designated by your Military Service to oversee the SAPR Program.
I am a SAPR VA and I have both an Installation (Lead) SARC and Command SARCs on my installation. Who is my designated SARC for completing the SARC Recommendation?	The SARC you report to is the preferred choice for completing your recommendation. If you are unable to get the signature of your SARC, you may have another SARC complete the recommendation if he/she has overseen you in the provision of your sexual assault advocacy services.
I am currently deployed as a SAPR VA and am not co-located with my SARC. Who can sign my SARC Recommendation Form?	You should first attempt to email the SARC Recommendation Form to your Installation SARC and have him/her return the completed form to you via email. If this is not logistically possible, you may request an area SARC complete the recommendation if he/she has overseen you in the provision of your sexual assault advocacy services.
Which D-SAACP Levels (I, II, III, or IV) can part-time SARCs and SAPR VAs apply for?	Part-time or collateral duty, SARCs and SAPR VAs are eligible for all of the D-SAACP levels. Part-time hours can be calculated by actual hours worked performing SARC/SAPR VA duties, including on-call hours. For example, if you are on-call 8 hours per week/per year, the number of hours credited would be 416/per year. If you are a collateral duty SARC on-call 24/7, 365 days a year, the maximum number of hours credited is 1,950 hours/per year. The Memorandum of Confirmation must verify your on-call assignment. If you have specific questions about calculating your service hours, contact NOVA at dsaacp@trynova.org .
I worked for several years at a local Rape Crisis Center prior to becoming a SARC/SAPR VA. Can I count these hours in determining my D-SAACP level?	Yes. All paid and volunteer work where you provided direct services to sexual assault victims should be aggregated when determining your D-SAACP level. This includes any work you completed prior to your appointment to SARC or SAPR VA, as well as any sexual assault advocacy services you continue to provide outside of your duties as a SARC/SAPR VA. This experience should be documented on your Memorandum of Confirmation.
Does my experience have to be in sexual assault advocacy services?	Yes. D-SAACP certifies SARCs and SAPR VAs in sexual assault victim advocacy. All hours counted to certification must be related to providing direct services to sexual assault victims.

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Is there any timeline for when I have to have attended the 40 hour training?	No, there is not a timeline for attending the 40 hour training. However, the 40 hour training course must be approved by NACP.
Where can I find out if my Service's training has been approved?	A list of NACP-approved training courses is posted on NOVA's website at http://www.trynova.org/ .
How often do I need to attend the 32 hours of continuing education training to renew my certification?	You need to take 32 hours of continuing education training between the dates you are first certified until the date you apply for certification renewal. D-SAACP Certification expires after two years, so you must complete 32 hours of continuing education within this timeframe.
I have more questions that are not answered by this instruction sheet. Who should I contact?	Please contact your SAPR Program Manager regarding Service-specific, training, and other application requirements. For questions about your Certification status, or if you have questions about the Application Form, please contact NOVA at dsaacp@trynova.org .