2021 MEDICAL CATEGORY PROMOTION BENCHMARKS

PY 2021 Guidance Regarding Promotion Precepts and Benchmarks for Commissioned Corps Officers

Officers competing for promotion are rated on the five Promotion Precepts described in the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS) Instructions 331.01 (old CCPM 23.4.1) "Permanent Grade Promotions", and 332.01 (old CCPM 23.4.2) "Temporary Grade Promotions", and noted below. To assist officers in better understanding the Promotion Precepts, the Precepts are described in terms of Factors. Each Factor has a Benchmark, which is a level of achievement for the officer given the category and grade.

The purpose of this Guidance is to inform officers and promotion boards of the levels of achievement for each Promotion Precept generally considered to describe the "best qualified" officer for a specific category at a specific grade. This document can also benefit the officer in setting some personal long-term goals for his or her career advancement.

The Chief Professional Officers (CPO) and Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Chairs, in consultation with their constituent category members, revise the Guidance annually to reflect the ever changing missions and policies of the Corps. All five Promotion Precepts are identical for all categories, as are the Benchmarks for Promotion Precepts 1, 4 and 5. The Benchmarks for Promotion Precepts 2 and 3 are category-specific.

The benchmarks for Precepts 1 – 5 are levels of achievement and/or standards of excellence that describe the "best-qualified" officer. They serve as guidance: a basis by which officers can be measured within each category. No Officer is expected to meet all the standards for Precepts 1 - 5. Many promoted officers will have achievements that exceed the factors for one or two precepts, but may not meet all the factors for others. Therefore these Benchmarks should not be considered a checklist of activities that must be completed in order to be promoted. Quality and impact of an officer's service is far more important than the quantity of activities in which they participate.

The individual factors within each Precept are not listed in priority order. The importance of each factor is left to the discretion of the Promotion Boards and may change from year to year. The members of the Promotion Boards review the service records of each officer under consideration for promotion and each assigns a score for the specific Promotion Precept. Promotion Board members exercise their professional judgment and discretion in the review and rating of each record.

There is no time period that limits which of the officer's activities and accomplishments are eligible for consideration. However, activities and accomplishments subsequent to an officer's last promotion should receive priority consideration.

The Promotion Precepts are weighted as follows:

1. Performance Rating and Reviewing Official's	40%
Statement (Performance)	40%
2. Education, training, and professional development	20%
3. Career progression and potential	25%
4. Professional contributions and services to the PHS	15%
Commissioned Corps (Officership)	
5. Basic Readiness	***0%

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Although the Readiness precept no longer carries any weight with regard to numerical score for promotion, basic readiness remains one of the several administrative checks for promotion. Officers in a "not ready" status at the 31 Dec RedDOG status report prior to the promotion year will receive an automatic Board Not Recommend. In addition, officers in a "not ready" status at the subsequent 31 March RedDOG status report, who were otherwise successful, will be removed from the successful list. Officers are advised to maintain basic readiness at all times.

Promotion Board members examine many documents in the officer's electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) during the promotion review. Examples of these documents include, but are not limited to: Commissioned Officers' Effectiveness Report (COER); Promotion Information Report (PIR); curriculum vitae; the Officer's and Reviewing Official's Statements; award narratives; and letters of appreciation. The most recent COERs (e.g., the last 3-5 years) are generally given the most consideration by Promotion Board members, although earlier COERs may also be reviewed.

Career development resources (e.g., Curriculum Vitae (CV) reviews, mentoring, internet training tools, career development seminars, fellow officers, serving in similar roles, etc.) provided by the PACs, agency liaisons, Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR), and the CPOs should be explored and fully utilized by all officers.

The Benchmarks will change as the Commissioned Corps continues to evolve. Any comments or suggestions that you have on the Benchmarks may be submitted to your PAC Chair, and will be carefully considered for incorporation into the next annual revision.

	1. Performance Rating	and Reviewing Official's S	tatement (Performance)	
Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
Commissioned Officers' Effectiveness Report (COER) Based on information contained in the Officer's Statement, separate from the Reviewing Official's Statement, the officer will be rated on promotion readiness as it relates to:	The primary focus in reviewing the COER should be on the accompanying narrative rather than on the indicated value. Secondary assessment will include a review of the COER score, in the context of the officer's performance	The primary focus in reviewing the COER should be on the accompanying narrative rather than on the indicated value. Secondary assessment will include a review of the COER score, in the context of the officer's performance	The primary focus in reviewing the COER should be on the accompanying narrative rather than on the indicated value. Secondary assessment will include a review of the COER score, in the context of the officer's performance	The primary focus in reviewing the COER should be on the accompanying narrative rather than on the indicated value. Secondary assessment will include a review of the COER score, in the context of the officer's performance
 Progression of responsibility Achievement and contributions to the agency mission Personal accountability for developing skills and leadership effectiveness 	trends. Completes assignments of moderate complexity and impact, with guidance as needed/requested. Skill development reflects potential for leadership and willingness/ability to assume increasing levels of responsibility.	trends. Completes assignments of moderate complexity and impact, with guidance as needed/requested. Skill development reflects potential for leadership and willingness/ability to assume increasing levels of responsibility.	trends. Evidence of independent performance of complex tasks requiring a high level of proficiency and increasing responsibility with positive impact on the program. Demonstrated leadership of program teams or projects.	trends. Independent initiative, evidenced by development, oversight, coordination and/or leadership/ accountability of projects of exceptional difficulty with required level of expertise. Completes assigned duty-
	Completes assigned duty- related mandatory training and elective training to complement mandatory training.	Completes assigned duty- related mandatory training and elective training to complement mandatory training.	Completes assigned duty- related mandatory training and elective training to complement mandatory training.	related mandatory training and elective training to complement mandatory training. Supporting information that professional development
	Supporting information that professional development contributes to the agency missions.	Supporting information that professional development contributes to the agency missions. The officer demonstrates they efficiently and effectively work at a higher level than their current grade.	Supporting information that professional development contributes to the agency missions. The officer demonstrates they efficiently and effectively	contributes to the agency missions. The officer demonstrates they efficiently and effectively work at a higher level than their current grade.

PY 2021 FACTORS and BENCHMARKS FOR PROMOTION PRECEPTS

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Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
	The officer demonstrates they efficiently and effectively work at their current grade.		work at a higher level than their current grade.	
Award History**	There should be a record of awards across the career.	There should be a record of awards across the career.	There should be a record of awards across the career.	There should be a record of awards across the career.
Progression of awards,	Officers should strive for	Officers should strive for	Officers should strive for	Officers should strive for
relevance to mission, quality,	increasing levels of	increasing levels of	levels of achievement that	levels of achievement that
as well as quantity, across	achievement including team	achievement that reflect	are distinctly greater than	demonstrate increasing
the career is assessed:	or unit participation, which may result in individual or	superior efforts, including team or unit participation,	expected and which should result in progressively higher	impact and result in progressively higher
\circ PHS Individual and Unit	unit awards (e.g., a PHS	which may result in individual	individual awards or unit	individual awards or unit
Honor Awards (e.g.,	Citation Medal or Unit	or unit awards (e.g., an	recognition (e.g., a	recognition (e.g., an
PHS Citation Medal,	Commendation).	Achievement Medal or Unit	Commendation Medal or Unit	Outstanding Service Medal
Outstanding Service		Commendation).	Commendation).	or Outstanding Unit Citation).
Medal, Unit	Division, Institute, and			
Commendation)	Agency (including non-DHHS	Division, Institute, and	Division, Institute, and	Division, Institute, and
○ Other Awards &	agencies), and professional organization awards, and	Agency (including non-DHHS	Agency (including non-DHHS agencies), and professional	Agency (including non-DHHS agencies), and professional
Recognition	recognition such as letters of	agencies), and professional organization awards, and	organization awards, and	organization awards, and
Recognition	commendation.	recognition such as letters of	recognition such as letters of	recognition such as letters of
\circ PHS Service Awards		commendation.	commendation.	commendation.
(e.g., Isolated Hardship	Awards should clearly reflect			
Service Award, Special	the impact(s) that evolve	Awards should clearly reflect	Awards should clearly reflect	Awards should clearly reflec
Assignment Service	from responsibility and	the impact(s) that evolve	the impact(s) that evolve	the impact(s) that evolve
Award)	performance of the officer.	from responsibility and	from responsibility and	from responsibility and
		performance of the officer.	performance of the officer.	performance of the officer.

	1. Performance Rating	and Reviewing Official's S	Statement (Performance)	
Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
Reviewing Official's	Exhibits Leadership	Exhibits Leadership	Demonstrates Leadership	Accomplished Leadership
Assessment for Promotion Readiness	Qualities	Qualities	Skills	Role
Based on information contained in the Reviewing Official's Statement (separate from the Officer's Statement), the Officer will be rated on promotion readiness as it relates to: • Current Leadership Role in Command/Agency • Progression of Leadership Potential	Recognized junior officers with the potential and inspiration to influence. For example: <i>As</i> <i>documented in ROS,</i> <i>candidate excels:</i> a) In attributes that serve the leadership in a group, team, committee, or branch work and with the potential for team leadership or	Recognized junior officers with the potential and inspiration to influence. For example: <i>As</i> <i>documented in ROS,</i> <i>candidate excels:</i> a) In attributes that serve the leadership in a group, team, committee, or branch work and with the potential for team leadership or	 Recognized exceptional personal leadership skill and significant potential or competence as a leader or manager. For example: <i>As documented in ROS, candidate excels by:</i> a) Assuming an intermediate level of responsibility in a group, team, committee or 	Recognized leaders who have moved into key leadership roles and have a proven record of expertise, influence and achievement (e.g., Subject Matter Expert, Program Chief/Director or equivalent). For example: <i>As</i> <i>documented in ROS</i> , <i>candidate excels as:</i> a) A subject matter expert,
	management role.	management role.	branch work; or making limited or time-	senior management, and/or special advisory/consultant
 Contribution to the Agency Missions 	and/or b) As a member of a task force or similar group at, or above, the Agency, local or regional level. Other considerations may include: Authorship of publications or other written communication or oral presentations that strive for increasing impact at, or above, the local/ regional, Branch, or Division level.	and/or b) As a member of a task force or similar group at, or above, the Agency, local or regional level. Other considerations may include: Authorship of publications or other written communication or oral presentations that strive for increasing impact at, or above, the local/ regional, Branch, or Division level. Engages in collateral activities that contribute to the Agency/PHS mission.	 bound contributions in a management, supervisory, technical or clinical expert and/or project leadership role. and/or b) Serving as a leader of a task force or similar group at, or above, the Agency, local or regional level. Other considerations <i>may</i> include: First or Second authorship of publications or other written communication or oral presentations that achieve increasing impact at 	 position. and/or b) Leader of a task force or a similar group at either the Agency, regional, national or international level. Other considerations <i>may</i> include: First, Second or senior authorship of publications or other written communication or oral presentations that achieve increasing impact at either the regional, national, international or Agency level.

Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
			or above the local, regional, or Agency level.	Evidence that career duties and collateral activities contribute to visibility and impact of the Agency/PHS
			Engages in collateral activities that contribute to the Agency/PHS mission.	Commissioned Corps mission.
dministrative file review as	omotions for all categories and Te outlined in Commissioned Corps In P-O2 & O3 for career developmen	nstruction (CCI) 332.01 (old C		

	2. Education, Training & F	Professional Development		
Factor	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6	
Professional Degree (Required)	MD or DO	MD or DO	MD or DO	
Medical licensure (Required)	Current	Current	Current	
 Medical residency and/or specialty training (Examples of excellence) 	Yes; multiple residencies and/or specialty trainings, or training in a subspecialty	Yes; multiple residencies and/or specialty trainings, or training in a subspecialty	Yes; multiple residencies and/or specialty trainings, or training in a subspecialty	
• Current board certification (Examples of excellence)	Yes; multiple board certifications; fellowship in specialty, or subspecialty college	Yes; multiple board certifications; fellowship in specialty, or subspecialty college	Yes; multiple board certifications; fellowship in specialty, or subspecialty_college	
 Continuing Medical Education (Examples of excellence) 	Demonstrates maintenance of professional competence by participating in and receiving certificates for educational activities approved by the ACCMEfor category I credit.	Demonstrates maintenance of professional competence by participating in and receiving certificates for educational activities approved by the ACCME for category I credit.	Demonstrates maintenance of professional competence by participating in and receiving certificates for educational activities approved by the ACCME for category I credit.	
	Standard is 75 hours /3 year interval. Annual summary of CME is documented for most recent 3 years.	Standard is 75 hours /3 year interval. Annual summary of CME is documented for most recent 3 years.	Standard is 75 hours /3 year interval. Annual summary of CME is documented for most recent 3 years.	
	In-depth CME activities relevant to the officer's current role or to future leadership roles.	In-depth CME activities relevant to the officer's current role or to future leadership roles.	In-depth CME activities relevant to the officer's current role or to future leadership roles.	
	CME leading to a certificate or other type of professional credential.	CME leading to a certificate or other type of professional credential.	CME leading to a certificate or other type of professional credential.	
		Deeper level of engagement in CME than as a learner (e.g, evaluation or development of CME materials).	Deeper level of engagement in CME than just as a learner (e.g, evaluation or development of CME materials, serving as a trainer or consultant for CME activities).	
 Public Health Training and Experience (Examples of excellence) 	Additional course work in public health, emergency preparedness, RedDOG	Additional course work in public health, emergency preparedness, RedDOG	Additional course work in public health, emergency preparedness, RedDOG	

	2. Education, Training & Professional Development				
Factor	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6		
	 modules, and other training related to agency mission, current role, or future roles. This might include (but is not limited to) bioethics, epidemiology, public health policy, research, and regulatory affairs. An additional consideration may include substantive participation in a community-based public health initiative or program (e.g., PACE). 	 modules, and other training related to agency mission, current role, or future roles. This might include (but is not limited to) bioethics, epidemiology, public health policy, research, and regulatory affairs. Work experience or committee service on a local, regional, national, or international public health activity or initiative. An additional consideration may include leadership in a community-based public health initiative or program (e.g., PACE). 	 modules, and other training related to agency mission, current role, or future roles. This might include (but is not limited to) bioethics, epidemiology, public health policy, research, and regulatory affairs. Work experience or committee service on a local, regional, national, or international public health activity or initiative. An additional consideration may include design, supervision, or mentorship to others for a community-based public health initiative or program (e.g., PACE). 		
 Additional Degrees (Examples of excellence) 	MPH, MHSc, PhD or other degree relevant to agency mission, or other training qualifications of note.	MPH, MHSc, PhD or other degree relevant to agency mission, or other training qualifications of note.	MPH, MHSc, PhD or other degree relevant to agency mission, or other training qualifications of note.		

	3. Career Progre	ession & Potential		
Factor	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6	
Pillar Assignment	Officer encumbers a position that meets one of the five pillars.			
• Billet	Officer should be in an O-4 billet or above.	Officer should be in an O-5 billet or above.	Officer should be in an O-6 billet or above.	
Assignments (Examples of Excellence)	Reflect increasing independence, responsibility, accountability, and emerging leadership potential, in current role or on detail assignments (including TDY assignments and deployments).	Reflect increasing independence, responsibility, accountability, and leadership, in current role or on detail assignments (including TDY assignments and deployments).	Reflect increasing independence responsibility, accountability, and leadership, in current role or on detail assignments (including TDY assignments and deployments).	
 Mobility, Geographic and/or Programmatic 	One geographic or programmatic move.	Two geographic or programmatic moves.	Three geographic or programmatic moves.	
(Examples of Excellence)	May consider fewer moves provided moves reflect increasing responsibility and leadership. Mobility may also be demonstrated by extended details (lasting 30 days or more) or by deployments with RedDOG or with officer's agency (lasting 14 days or more or totaling 30 days or more).	May consider fewer moves provided moves reflect increasing responsibility and leadership. Mobility may also be demonstrated by extended details (lasting 30 days or more) or by deployments with RedDOG or with officer's agency (lasting 14 days or more or totaling 30 days or more).	May consider fewer moves provided moves reflect increasing responsibility and leadership. Mobility may also be demonstrated by extended details (lasting 30 days or more) or by deployments with RedDOG or with officer's agency (lasting 14 days or more or totaling 30 days or more).	

3. Career Progression & Potential				
Factor	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6	
• Collateral Duties (Examples of Excellence)	Agency mission-related duties that are not included in the billet description. Involvement is local and as a team member.	Agency mission-related duties that are not included in the billet description. Involvement is regional or national and officer serves in leadership role. Serves as a leader of a task force (or similar group) at, or above, the Agency, local or regional level Lead a clinical quality improvement initiative or educational project. Precept/supervise trainees.	Agency mission-related duties that are not included in the billet description. Involvement is regional of national and officer serves in leadership role. Officer has initiated the activity. Serves as a leader of a task force (or similar group) at either the Agency, regional, national or international leve Design a clinical quality improvement initiative or educational project. Precept/supervise trainees.	

Note: Entries marked "Examples of Excellence" indicate sample activities and accomplishments through which an officer may distinguish him or herself. It is neither expected nor essential that an officer achieve all of these examples to be considered for promotion.

Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
Honor/ Integrity/Duty	Displaying honor and integrity as an officer.			
As a USPHS Officer	Completes mandatory CC training			
 Honor and integrity are the consistent regard for the highest standards of behaviors and the refusal to violate one's personal and professional codes. Duty is the free acceptance of a commitment to service. 	Officer participates in personal and professional duties to meet obligations. No disciplinary or adverse actions; officer in good standing	Officer participates in personal and professional duties to meet obligations. No disciplinary or adverse actions; officer in good standing	Officer participates in personal and professional duties to meet obligations. No disciplinary or adverse actions; officer in good standing	Officer participates in personal and professional duties to meet obligations. No disciplinary or adverse actions; officer in good standing
Officer CC Contributions Significant contributions are based on information contained in the Officer's Statement, CV, and documented in letters of	Appointed member or volunteer.	Appointed member or volunteer.	Appointed member or volunteer who leads subcommittee or demonstrates substantive role.	Appointed member or volunteer who serves as Chair or Vice-Chair, or lead subcommittees, or demonstrates substantive role.
 appreciation. Examples may include: Membership/ Leadership/ Involvement in PAC and Advisory Groups (e.g., Junior Officers Advisory Group, Minority Officers Liaison Council) 	Evidence that CC and collateral activities impact and contribute to the PHS mission at the local level.	Evidence that CC and collateral activities impact and contribute to the PHS mission at the local level.	Evidence that CC and collateral activities impact and contribute to the PHS mission at the regional level.	Evidence that CC and collateral activities impact and contribute to the PHS mission at the regional, national or international level.
• Recruitment Activities		Documented recruitment activities	Documented recruitment activities	Documented recruitment activities

Factor	Benchmarks P-O2*	Benchmarks T-O4/P-O3*	Benchmarks T-O5/P-O4	Benchmarks T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
Mentoring	Participates as a protégé in regular one-on-one or group mentoring activities	Participates as a protégé in regular one-on-one or group mentoring activities.	Participates as a primary or team mentor in regular one- on-one or group mentoring activities. Seeks mentors within peers or higher level. Completes a formal mentor assignment verified via letter from PAC, Advisory Group, Agency leadership, etc. Recruits other mentors to	Participates as a primary mentor in regular one-on- one or group mentoring activities. Seeks mentors within peers or higher level. Completes a formal mentor assignment verified via letter from PAC, Advisory Group, Agency leadership, etc. Recruits, trains, supports
Professional contributions Commitment to professional development and officer visibility, <i>i.e. while in</i> <i>uniform.</i> Significant contributions are based on information contained in the CV, and documented in letters of appreciation, awards, etc. Examples may include:	Active member at the local level.	Active member at the local and/or regional level.	support professional development of peers. Active member at the regional or national level. Serves as contributing member to the organization through a committee or subcommittee.	and manages other mentors for the professional development of other officers. Active member at the national or international level. Serves in a leadership role in the organization such as subcommittee Chair or Chair of the organization.
 Membership/ Involvement in Professional, Uniformed Service, and Specialty Organizations 				

Factor	Benchmarks	Benchmarks	Benchmarks	Benchmarks
	P-O2*	T-O4/P-O3*	T-O5/P-O4	T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
Presentations and Outreach	Participation at local and regional meetings or activities of professional organizations.	Presentations and/or outreach at local and regional meetings or activities of professional organizations.	Presentations and/or outreach at regional meetings or activities of professional organizations Evidence of greater visibility in promoting the Corps/Agency to broader audiences.	Presentations and/or outreach at regional, national or international meetings or activities of professional organizations. Sought out for presentations with evidence of greater impact in support of Corps/Agency missions.

5.Readiness				
Factor	Benchmarks	Benchmarks	Benchmarks	Benchmarks
	P-O2	T-O4/P-O3	T-O5/P-O4	T-O6/P-O5/P-O6
NA	Officer meets and maintains			
	Basic Readiness Standards.	Basic Readiness Standards.	Basic Readiness Standards.	Basic Readiness Standards.

Note: Officers may submit a request for a temporary medical waiver to the Medical Affairs for medical issues that would prevent an Officer from achieving or maintaining readiness status.