



Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
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October 26, 2021

Tracy D. Hall, Ed.D.
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
5983 Macon Cove
Memphis, TN 38134

RE: Program #0219
Previous Accreditation Status: Probation
Most Recent Site Visit: 04/2015

Dear Dr. Hall:

After review of the requested progress report, the continuing accreditation status of the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Community College was considered at the October 21, 2021 meeting of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. Specialized accreditation awarded by the JRCERT offers institutions significant value by providing peer evaluation and by assuring the public of quality professional education in the radiologic sciences. The program was evaluated according to the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography (2014)**. The JRCERT took the following action:

MAINTENANCE OF PROBATION.

Consistent with JRCERT Policy 10.100, this accreditation action is not subject to appeal.

The Committee based this decision on continuing concerns with the program's non-compliance with the requirements of **Standard Five - Objective 5.2** of the 2014 **Standards**. Due to the transition to the 2021 **Standards**, the program is now in non-compliance with **Standard Six** and the Committee requests an additional progress report documenting compliance with the following objectives:

Objective 6.1 - Lack of assurance that the program maintains the following program effectiveness data: Five-year average credentialing examination pass rate of not less than 75 percent at first attempt within six months of graduation.

The program's current five-year (2017-2021) average credentialing examination pass rate at first attempt within six months of graduation is 58% (42/73).

Objective 6.2 - Lack of assurance that the program analyzes and shares its program effectiveness data to facilitate ongoing program improvement. (Provide documentation of implementation and analysis of the action plan to improve unmet program effectiveness benchmarks.)

Additionally, the Committee based this decision on the expiration of the maximum compliance timeframe allowed to document compliance with all accreditation standards. As required by the USDE and consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, the JRCERT Board of Directors can grant a good cause extension to the program's compliance timeframe. Such an extension is generally 12 months but cannot exceed 24 months. The Board of Directors have granted the program a 12-month good cause extension due to COVID-19 requiring students to utilize an online learning platform which impacted student learning.

Therefore, an additional progress report is required by **October 2, 2022**. Based on evaluation of the progress report, the Board of Directors will either extend the compliance timeframe and maintain Probation or withdraw accreditation. As previously identified, no further action is required at this time with respect to the program's self-study report. The progress report must be submitted via the JRCERT Accreditation Management Systems (AMS) and will be considered by the Board of Directors at the next available meeting after submission.

As required by the USDE and consistent with the **maximum** compliance timeframes set forth in JRCERT Policy 11.400, when the JRCERT Board of Directors determines that a program has failed to document compliance with the **Standards** and has not satisfactorily addressed the identified deficiencies, the existing accreditation status will be withdrawn. Such involuntary withdrawal of accreditation is considered an adverse accreditation action. The JRCERT defines an adverse action as involuntary withdrawal of accreditation. Involuntary withdrawal of accreditation will generally, but not necessarily, occur after a Probationary Accreditation status has been awarded. The Board may take adverse action prior to the expiration of the maximum compliance timeframe. Probationary status, as well as an adverse accreditation action, requires written notification to the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, appropriate regional and/or other accrediting agencies, and the public.

Probationary Accreditation is an accreditation category and, consistent with JRCERT Policy 10.100, this action is not subject to appeal. Consistent with JRCERT Policy 10.700 (enclosed), the program must notify currently enrolled and accepted students, as well as the public via a website posting, of this status within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The program is required to submit a representative sample of such notification and list of recipients to the JRCERT no later than **November 26, 2021**.

The program is also advised that consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.600, the JRCERT reserves the right to conduct unannounced site visits of accredited programs. The sponsoring institution would be responsible for the expenses of any on-site inspection. Also, consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, programs with a probationary accreditation standing cannot request a substantive change.

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology Directors and staff encourage you and the program faculty to continue your efforts in developing a quality educational program. If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,



Julia L. Lasley, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(T)
Chair

JLL/LFW/jm
Enc.

copy: Program Director: Tracy R. Freeman-Jones, M.Ed., R.T.(R)
Dean: Evan McHugh, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs: Dr. Kendrick Hooker
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools of Commission on Colleges
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
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