



Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
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November 18, 2020

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

RE: Program #0219

Previous Accreditation Status: 5 Years
Most Recent Site Visit: 04/2015

Dear Dr. Hall:

After review of the 2019 annual report, the continuing accreditation status of the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Community College was considered at the November 17, 2020 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 awards:

PROBATION.

The Committee based this decision on areas of non-compliance with **Standard Five**:

Objective 5.2 - Lack of assurance that the program documents 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.

To date, the program's current five-year (2016-2020) average credentialing examination pass rate at first attempt within six months of graduation is 65% (51/78).

As identified in the JRCERT award letter of October 29, 2019, the program must document compliance with all accreditation standards no later than **October 25, 2021** or identify mitigating circumstances hindering the attainment of this outcome. Consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, Procedure 11.405B, the JRCERT must initiate involuntary withdrawal of accreditation if the program does not document compliance within a specific timeframe, unless the JRCERT, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance. Grounds for a good cause extension of the timeframe for achieving compliance may include natural disasters or a change in key personnel. The length of such a good cause extension is generally 12 months but will not exceed 24 months.

Therefore, a progress report documenting compliance with this objective is required by **October 1, 2021**. 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. Based on evaluation of the progress report, the Board of Directors will maintain, extend, or withdraw accreditation.

It is noted that the program's self-study report has been submitted and reviewed with a tentative site visit date for the First Quarter of 2021. Due to the program's compliance timeframe, the site visit will not take place at that time. If the program elects to seek a good cause extension, it must identify mitigating circumstances and provide the necessary information required in JRCERT Policy 11.400. If the JRCERT subsequently grants a good cause extension of the compliance timeframe, a tentative site visit will be scheduled for the Second Quarter of 2022. Under these circumstances, the program would be required to update and resubmit the self-study report. Information regarding updating the self-study report will be forthcoming should the program request a good cause extension.

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 **December 18, 2020**.

The program is 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 status 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,



Bette A. Schans, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT
Chair

BAS/LFW/am
Enc.

copy: Program Director: Tracy R. Freeman-Jones, M.Ed., R.T.(R)
Dean: Evan McHugh, Ph.D.
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
USDE
ARRT