



Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
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August 31, 2021

Segundo Rodriguez, M.D.
Chancellor
University of Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 365067
San Juan, PR 00936-5067

RE: Program #0333
Previous Accreditation Status: Probation
Most Recent Site Visit: 10/2018

Dear Dr. Rodriguez:

After review of the request for mitigating circumstances, the continuing accreditation status of the associate degree radiography program sponsored by the University of Puerto Rico was considered at the August 24, 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 awards:

MAINTENANCE OF PROBATION.

The Committee based this decision on continuing concerns with the program's non-compliance with **Standard Five - Objective 5.2** of the 2014 **Standards**. Due to the transition to the 2021 **Standards** effective January 1, 2021, the program is now in non-compliance with **Standard Six:**

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. (Provide the 2017-2021 credentialing examination pass rate and the 2016-2020 job placement rate.)

Objective 6.2 - Lack of assurance that the analyzes and shares its program effectiveness data to facilitate ongoing program improvement. (Provide the action plan for the following unmet program effectiveness outcomes: credentialing examination pass rate; job placement rate.)

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 program was to have documented compliance with the Standards by February 22, 2022. Consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, the JRCERT Board of Directors has granted a twenty-four (24) month good cause extension to the program's compliance timeframe. The Board recognizes the change in key program personnel (i.e., program director) may have affected the program from documenting compliance with all accreditation standards. The program must now be in compliance with all accreditation standards no later than **February 22, 2024**. This is the maximum time that the Board will allow for the program to document progress towards and achievement of compliance with all accreditation standards. The program is advised that no additional extensions will be granted and that the Board may consider involuntary withdrawal of accreditation prior to expiration of the good cause extension.

Therefore, a progress report documenting compliance with these objectives is required by **January 14, 2022**. 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. An additional progress report may be required if the objectives are not adequately addressed.

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 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 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,



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

JLL/TJE/jm
Enc.

copy: Program Director: Juan Melendez-Sostre, Ed.D., L.R.T.
Dean: Barbara Segarra-Vazquez, Ph.D.
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
USDE
ARRT