



Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology  
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November 29, 2021

Benjamin Arriola, B.S.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Southwest University at El Paso  
1414 Geronimo Drive  
El Paso, TX 79925

**RE: Program #0628**

**Previous Accreditation Status: Probation**  
**Most Recent Site Visit: 12/2017**

Dear Mr. Arriola:

After review of the requested progress report, the continuing accreditation status of the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Southwest University at El Paso was considered at the November 16, 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**, 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 2018-2022 credentialing examination exam report.)

The program's current five-year (2017-2021) average credentialing examination pass rate at first attempt within six months of graduation is 68% (33/48).

**Objective 6.2** - Lack of assurance that the program analyzes and shares its program effectiveness data to facilitate ongoing program improvement. (Provide the program's action plan identifying the reasons for not meeting the credentialing examination benchmark. This documentation must include data analysis, trending of results over time, and identify areas for improvement.)

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 October 10, 2021. 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 a 12-month good cause extension due to COVID-19.

Therefore, a progress report documenting compliance with these objectives is required by **September 1, 2022**. Based on evaluation of the progress report, the Board of Directors will either extend the program's compliance timeframe and extend Probation or withdraw accreditation. 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 **December 29, 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 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/BJL/jm  
Enc.

copy: Acting Program Director: Matthew G. Casale, M.B.A., R.T.(R)(CT)(MR)  
Dean: Jeremy M. Burciaga, M.P.H.  
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
USDE  
ARRT