



Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
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October 25, 2013

**Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested**

Jose Ginel Rodriguez, M.D.
President
Universidad Central Del Caribe
P.O. Box 60327
Bayamon, PR 00960-6032

RE: Program #0309

Previous Accreditation Status: Probation
Most Recent Site Visit: 10/08
Agenda: R-Q

Dear Dr. Rodriguez:

After review of the requested interim report and the additional progress report regarding the program's compliance with **Objective 5.2**, the continuing accreditation status of the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Universidad Central Del Caribe was considered at the October 18, 2013 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) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. The program was evaluated according to the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography (2011)**. The JRCERT took the following action:

MAINTENANCE OF PROBATION

The Committee based this decision on the program's non-compliance with **Standards One, Four, and Five**.

Objective 1.10 - Makes the program's mission statement, goals, and student learning outcomes readily available to students, faculty, administrators, and the general public.

Objective 4.1 - Assures the radiation safety of students through the implementation of published policies and procedures that are in compliance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and state laws as applicable.

Objective 4.2 - Has a published pregnancy policy that is consistent with applicable federal regulations and state laws, made known to accepted and enrolled female students, and contains the following elements:

- Written notice of voluntary declaration,
- Option for student continuance in the program without modification, and
- Option for written withdrawal of declaration.

Objective 4.3 Assures that students employ proper radiation safety practices.

Objective 4.4 - Assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the direct supervision of a qualified radiographer until a student achieves competency.

Objective 4.5 - Assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the indirect supervision of a qualified radiographer after a student achieves competency.

Objective 4.6 - Assures that students are directly supervised by a qualified radiographer when repeating unsatisfactory images.

Objective 5.1 - Develops an assessment plan that, at a minimum, measures the program's student learning outcomes in relation to the following goals: clinical competence, critical thinking, professionalism, and communication skills.

Objective 5.2 - Assures 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 (for examinations taken within six months of graduation).

As identified in JRCERT correspondence of May 16, 2011, April 3, 2012, August 23, 2012, and January 29, 2013, the program is not in compliance with **Standard Five - Objective 5.2**. The program must document a five-year average credentialing examination pass rate of not less than 75% at first attempt for examinations taken within six months of graduation. It is noted that the program has elected to utilize the Puerto Rico Examining Board results to document credentialing examination pass rate. The examination is administered twice per year in July and November. The progress report received August 23, 2013 documents a five-year average (2008-July 2012) pass rate on the Puerto Rico Examining Board examination of 58%. Additional results from the November 2012 examination document a full five-year average (2008-2012) pass rate of 60%. The results from the November, 2012 examination documented a 75% pass rate which represents a significant improvement over the 2011 results of 41%. It is noted that the program has developed and is currently implementing a multi-year action plan to address its credentialing examination pass rate. The first cohort of students to benefit from the complete array of instructional and supportive initiatives identified in the action plan completed the program in June 2013. No examination results are currently available from the Puerto Rico Examining Board for the graduating class of 2013.

Objective 5.4 - Analyzes and shares student learning outcome data and program effectiveness data to foster continuous program improvement.

Objective 5.5 - Periodically evaluates its assessment plan to assure continuous program improvement.

Based on a thorough analysis of the program's documentation regarding **Standard Five - Objective 5.2** and consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, the JRCERT Board of Directors has granted a good cause extension of 18 months to document compliance with **Standard Five - Objective 5.2**. No additional extensions will be granted.

The next site visit is tentatively scheduled for the Fourth Quarter of 2014. The program will be required to complete a new application and Self-Study Report based on the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography (2014)**. The continuing accreditation materials will be forwarded to the program at a future date and will include a submission timetable.

Based upon the decision of non-compliance and with the good cause extension, the program must document compliance with all relevant accreditation standards no later than **November 16, 2014**. 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 may 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. Probationary status, as well as an adverse accreditation action, requires written notification of the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, appropriate regional and/or other accrediting agencies and the public.


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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 general public via a Web site 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 25, 2013**.

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.

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,


Deborah Gay Utz, M.Ed., R.T.(R)
Chair

DGU/BAB/TAB/jm
Enc.

copy: Program Director: Jose Rafael Moscoso-Alvarez, Ed.D., L.T.
Dean: Nereida Diaz Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Commission on Higher Education
Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education
ARRT
USDE
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