

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850 Chicago, IL 60606-3182 312.704.5300 www.jrcert.org

September 19, 2023

Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. President Augusta University 1120 15th Street Office AA-311 Augusta, GA 30912

## RE: Program #0753

Previous Accreditation Status: 5 Years Most Recent Site Visit: 02/2023

Dear Dr. Brooks:

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) appreciated the opportunity to evaluate the baccalaureate degree radiation therapy program, which includes a distance delivery option, sponsored by Augusta University. 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 continuing accreditation status of the program was considered at the September 12, 2023 meeting of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The program was evaluated according to the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiation Therapy (2021)**. The JRCERT awards:

## **PROBATION.**

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

The JRCERT, after reviewing the findings of the site visit team and the program's response to the report of findings, has determined that the program is 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.

The program's current five-year (2019-2023) average credentialing examination pass rate at first attempt within six months of graduation is 73% (27/37).

Therefore, a progress report documenting compliance with this objective is required by **June 17, 2024**. The progress report must be submitted via the JRCERT Accreditation Management System (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 determine the appropriate accreditation action. An additional progress report may be required if the objective is not adequately addressed.

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Consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, the maximum compliance timeframe is 36 months. Based on the areas of noncompliance, the Board of Directors are extending the program's current 24-month compliance timeframe to a 36-month compliance timeframe. Therefore, the program must document compliance with all accreditation standards no later than **September 21, 2024**.

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 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.

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 **October 19, 2023**.

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 evaluation.

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,

Tracy Herrmann, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FAEIRS Chair

TH/TBL/jm

copy: Program Director: Kevin E. Kindle, M.B.A., R.T.(T) Dean and Professor: Lester Pretlow, Ph.D., NRCC(CC), CLS(C) Site Visitors: Stephanie Eatmon, Ed., R.T.(R)(T), FASRT Kristi L. Tonning, Ph.D., R.T.(T) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission USDE ARRT