

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

June 26, 2024

Jeffery S. Allbritten, D.A. President Florida SouthWestern State College 8099 College Parkway, S.W., I-226 Ft. Myers, FL 33906

RE: Program #0420 Previous Accreditation Status: 5 Years Most Recent Site Visit: 01/2024

Dear Dr. Allbritten:

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) appreciated the opportunity to evaluate the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Florida SouthWestern State College. 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 June 20, 2024 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 Radiography (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 **Standards Three, Five,** and **Six:**

Objective 3.1 - Lack of assurance that the sponsoring institution provides an adequate number of faculty to meet all educational, accreditation, and administrative requirements. (Provide assurance the sponsoring institution has hired an additional faculty member to ensure that program officials are able to fulfill the requirements of their positions.)

Objective 5.1 - Lack of assurance that the program assures the radiation safety of students through the implementation of published policies and procedures. (Provide an updated magnetic resonance (MR) screening form that excludes pregnancy-related questions as students' disclosure of pregnancy must be voluntary.)

Therefore, a progress report documenting compliance with Objectives 3.1 and 5.1 is required by August 23, 2024.

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Objective 6.4 - Lack of assurance that the program analyzes and shares student learning outcome data to facilitate ongoing program improvement. (Provide assurance the program has fully analyzed and shared its student learning outcome data with its communities of interest.)

Additionally, a progress report documenting compliance with Objective 6.4 is required by March 28, 2025.

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 July 22, 2024. Consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.400, the JRCERT Board of Directors has granted a 12-month good cause extension to the program's compliance timeframe. The board recognizes the natural disasters or acts of God (i.e., Hurricane Ian) 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 **July 22, 2025**. 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.

The progress reports 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.

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 institutional 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 **July 26, 2024**.

Consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.500, the JRCERT has determined that program officials would benefit from a JRCERT-sponsored Outcomes Assessment Workshop. Documentation of the program director and/or clinical coordinator's attendance at an Outcomes Assessment Workshop must be submitted no later than **June 20, 2025**. A complete listing of dates and locations for all JRCERT-sponsored seminars and workshops is available at <u>www.jrcert.org/events.</u>

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 onsite evaluation.

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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,



MD/JAM/jm

copy:	Program Director:	James E. Mayhew, M.S., R.T.(R)(QM)
	Dean:	Tami Such, Ph.D., RNC-OB
	Site Visitors:	Raquel Farias. M.S., R.T.(R)(CT)
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	Southern Association o	f Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
	USDE	
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