



ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS | ABHES

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February 12, 2025

ID#: I-190-05

Mr. Richard Garti
Campus Director
Pima Medical Institute
780 Bay Boulevard, Suite 101
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Mr. Garti:

The Commission, at its January 2025 meeting, reviewed the institution's outcomes reporting record¹ for the **Veterinary Technician – Associate of Applied Science** program. Based on review and discussion, the Commission acted to place the program on **program specific warning and direct the institution to justify why the program approval should not be withdrawn from the institution's grant of accreditation.**

According to III.A.10.d. of the *Accreditation Manual*, failure to demonstrate at least a 70 percent credentialing pass rate raises a question whether accreditation requirements are being met. An institution is required, at minimum, to demonstrate that it has undertaken an analysis of the data, identified areas needing improvement, and has taken corrective action through the development and implementation of an action plan. The program specific warning process provides another opportunity for the institution to submit such a plan and evidence of its effectiveness in improving outcomes, in particular its credentialing pass rate.

According to our records, the following credentialing pass rates for the **Veterinary Technician – Associate of Applied Science** program have been reported to date:

- November 2022 – The institution reported a credentialing pass rate of 56% on its 2021-2022 Annual Report.
- May 2023 – The institution submitted an updated credentialing pass rate of 62% for the 2021 – 2022 reporting year.

¹ The record includes the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Annual Reports, outcome reporting letters dated February 16, 2023, August 10, 2023, February 14, 2024, and August 7, 2024, the institution's responses to these letters, and other relevant correspondence and documentation.

- October 2023 – The institution submitted an updated credentialing pass rate of 66% for the 2021 – 2022 reporting year.
- November 2023 – The institution reported a credentialing pass rate of 67% on its 2022 – 2023 Annual Report.
- May 2024 – The institution submitted an updated credentialing pass rate of 63% for the 2022 – 2023 reporting year.
- October 2024 – The institution submitted an updated credentialing pass rate of 66% for the 2022 – 2023 reporting year.
- November 2024 – The institution reported a credentialing pass rate of 52% on its 2023 – 2024 Annual Report.

The institution, therefore, is directed to submit sufficient information and documentation to show the program has achieved a credentialing pass rate of at least 70% including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A complete ABHES Backup Documentation Form to support an updated credentialing pass rate for the time period of **July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024**. The required form can be found on the ABHES website at <https://abhes.org/resources/#Reporting>.
2. A table of graduates whose credentialing status has changed since your last submission. The table must include a) graduate name; b) program; c) previous category; and d) current category.

For graduates identified above whose credentialing status has changed, the institution must also provide supporting documentation from the credentialing/licensure body. Examples of this documentation might include state licensure information and a credentialing examination pass-fail roster.

3. An updated action plan for the program if the updated rate is below 70%. The action plan must include (1) a description of the effectiveness of the institution's action plan submitted in its last response including an analysis of its successes and failures, (2) what new activities or initiatives the institution is taking to improve the rate based on its assessment, and (3) a timeline for when the institution anticipates that the program will meet the credentialing benchmark.

Maximum Timeframe for Compliance

The maximum period of time the Commission may allow for an institution to achieve compliance with accreditation requirements is stated in III.C.1.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*. The findings of non-compliance set forth above were first identified by the Commission in its letter dated August 10, 2023. The Commission may withdraw accreditation at any time if it determines that an institution or program is not complying with its policies or standards. Alternatively, the Commission may in its discretion provide the institution with an opportunity to bring itself into compliance within a maximum timeframe, which would require a final response due May 2025, for review at the Commission's July 2025 meeting.

The Commission will review the institution's response to this letter and assess its progress toward attaining compliance with the standard(s) at the July 2025 meeting. At that time, the Commission may withdraw the approval of the program or may extend the period for achieving compliance, for good cause, defined as significant improvement by the institution in the deficient areas and/or the need for additional time to demonstrate full compliance.

The program may request a good cause extension by submitting a completed *Request for Good Cause Extension Request* form available for download at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Forms> with its response due on May 1, 2025. If the Commission grants a good cause extension, it will limit the timeframe to no longer than 12 months from the program's original maximum timeframe. This would require a final response in time for the Commission's consideration at its July 2026 meeting.

Submission Requirements

The institution is directed to submit the following:

1. Teach-Out

By **Monday, February 24, 2025**, the institution must submit online via [DropBox Applications](#) its Teach-Out Plan for the Veterinary Technician – Associate of Applied Science program and the corresponding form (available for download from the ABHES website at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Forms>).

If the institution has decided to stop enrolling and officially teach out the program, the institution must submit by **Monday, February 24, 2025**, the appropriate completed Teach-Out Plan or Agreement form available for download at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Forms>. This form must be submitted to ABHES under separate cover and not as part of the institution's response. Upon receipt and approval, ABHES will issue a written acknowledgement which must be included with the institution's response to this letter.

2. Student disclosure

By **Monday, February 24, 2025**, the institution must submit evidence that it has published a student disclosure **within seven business days of the date of this letter** informing enrolled and prospective program students of the Program Specific Warning action as the reason the program Teach-Out Plan is required.²

3. Additional information regarding the standard-related directives

By **Thursday, May 1, 2025**, the institution must submit its response to the standard-related directives identified within this letter. The file must be named "*I-190-05_RSP to Feb 2025 PSW Letter_52025*" and submitted online via [DropBox Commission Responses](#).

² This disclosure is also required under 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 668.43(a) (19) which states: "If the institution is required to maintain a teach-out plan by its accrediting agency, notice that the institution is required to maintain such teach-out plan and the reason that the accrediting agency required such plan under § 602.24(c)(1). . ."

The response must be submitted in accordance with the format and content instructions outlined in the [Preparing Your Response](#) Guide. Failure to adhere to the instructions or the due dates will result in a late-fee assessment in accordance with Appendix G of the *Accreditation Manual*.

Appearance

If, as part of its response to this directive, the institution wishes to appear before a panel of the Commission via teleconference, its request to appear must be submitted to ABHES online via [DropBox Commission Responses](#) by **Monday, February 24, 2025**. The file name must be named "I-190-05_Request to Appear_22025". A teleconference appearance fee of \$2,000 will be assessed in accordance with Appendix G, Fees, of the *Accreditation Manual* upon receipt of the institution's request to appear. **The required fee must be remitted within five business days.** Failure to remit timely payment of the appearance fee may hinder or delay scheduling of the appearance.

Disclosure

ABHES will not consider, review, or process substantive changes (as defined in III.B.2.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*) relating to the Veterinary Technician – Associate of Applied Science program while the program is under a program specific warning unless the institution demonstrates that the substantive change is likely to resolve non-compliance. An institution's request for acceptance of a substantive change application must include justification for the change and its effect on the program's operation. This restriction does not apply to a Teach Out Agreement.

The U.S. Department of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, the appropriate accrediting agency, and the public have been notified of this action in compliance with 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 602.26 et seq and Chapter III of the *Accreditation Manual*.

The Commission conducts its evaluation of institutions and programs in an objective and confidential manner. To ensure objectivity, impartiality, and integrity in the accreditation process, Commissioners do not participate in considerations of institutions or programs that present or appear to present a conflict of interest. The list of ABHES Commissioners is posted at <https://www.abhes.org/board-of-commissioners/>. Each Commissioner serves a defined term, which expires June 30, and is held responsible to a strict Code of Ethics. An institution may object to a current Commissioner considering an impending accreditation matter on the basis of a possible conflict of interest, indicating the reason(s) for the objection per the examples listed in I.A.4 of the *Accreditation Manual*. An objection must be submitted in writing to the ABHES Executive Director within five business days prior to a scheduled Commission meeting via email at info@abhes.org.

Mr. Richard Garti
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If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact staff liaison, Hannah Boers, at hboers@abhes.org or at (571) 282-0078.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "India Y. Tips".

India Y. Tips
Executive Director

c: DAPIP, U.S. Department of Education
 Debbie Cochrane, California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
 Ebony Santee, California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education