



August 9, 2017

ID Code 00024422(MC)

VIA E-MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

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Dr. Leon E. Linton
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ID CODE 00267203(LS)

Subject: Denial of Application for the Renewal of Accreditation

Dear Dr. Linton:

At its August 2017 meeting, the Council considered your institution's application for renewal of accreditation, including the continued show-cause directive, and the institution's response to the areas of non-compliance identified in the Council's letter dated April 27, 2017.

At its August 2016 meeting, the Council reviewed the institution's application for renewal of accreditation. The team's visit report identified 16 findings, 12 of which were not satisfactorily addressed by the institution's response and the contents of which cast serious doubt on the overall administrative and operational capability of the institution. The Council, at that time, directed the institution to show cause why its application for renewal of accreditation should not be denied.

At its December 2016 meeting, the Council continued the show-cause directive, having considered the institution's response, the testimony provided at the hearing held on December 7, 2016, information from the U.S. Department of Education in a letter dated September 30, 2016, and the student achievement outcomes reported on the institution's 2016 Campus Accountability Report (CAR).

At its April 2017 meeting, the Council was particularly concerned that the institution was not enrolling a majority of its students in programs which led to a postsecondary academic credential or occupational objective, a critical component of its eligibility for ACICS accreditation. Based on the information provided in its mid-year 2017 CAR, the Physical Therapy Assistant program had one (1) remaining student; the Medical Assistant program had thirty-one (31) students set to graduate or complete before June 2017; and the Intensive English Program had over two hundred (200) students. The institution was provided with another opportunity to demonstrate its eligibility for accreditation in the Council's April 27, 2017, continued show-cause letter.

As a result of its review, the Council found the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The institution no longer meets ACICS minimum eligibility requirements (Section 1-2-100(a)(d)). The Council found that the institution does not primarily offer “programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational careers.” In its response, the institution indicated that the final student in the physical therapy assistant cohort had graduated, all students in the medical assistant program will soon complete or graduate, and enrollment in either program will not be reinitiated until the show-cause directive is cleared. However, the Intensive English Program (IEP) will continue to be offered. With students enrolled only in the IEP program, the institution does not enroll “a majority of its students in one or more programs, the content of which is on a postsecondary academic level and which leads to a postsecondary academic credential or an occupational objective” as stipulated by the *Accreditation Criteria*.

Council Action

Because no evidence has been provided that there is enrollment in any career-related program, the campus is not eligible for accreditation by ACICS. Therefore, the Council acted to **deny the institution’s application for a renewal of accreditation**.

The institution has the right to appeal this decision to the Review Board of Appeals. The Council must be notified within ten (10) business days of receipt of this notice if the institution desires to appeal this decision to the Review Board. The appeal notification must include payment of \$10,000.00. The Council’s decision is final if the appeal notice and appropriate fee are not provided within ten business days of your receipt of this notice. If the institution elects to appeal this action to the Review Board and remits the appropriate fee by the established deadline, then more detailed appeal procedures and information will be forwarded to the institution.

If the institution elects not to appeal this action, the institution must submit any comments regarding this decision to the Council office within two weeks of the date of this letter. Should the institution choose to submit any comments, these comments will be included in the summary detailing the reasons for the Council’s decision that will be made available to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, and the public through www.acics.org.

Current Grant Expired December 31, 2016

The institution is advised that its grant of accreditation expired on **December 31, 2016**. Though, should the institution elect to appeal the decision and remit the appropriate fee by the established deadline, the grant of accreditation will be extended through September 5, 2017.

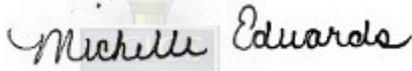
Institutional Teach-Out Plan

Finally, if the institution exercises its appeal rights, in compliance with Section 2-2-303 of the Accreditation Criteria, the institution is directed to provide the Council with an Institutional Teach-Out Plan, utilizing the **online Institutional Teach-Out Plan** application in the ACICS Member Center. This Institutional Teach-Out Plan must be completed as part of the institution's intent to appeal the denial of accreditation action.

The Council expects that the institution will take the appropriate steps to assist its students through any transition to successfully complete their programs in an orderly manner. The institution is advised that Section 2-3-900 of the ACICS *Accreditation Criteria* stipulates that the Council may bar any person or entity from being an owner or senior manager of an ACICS-accredited institution if that person or entity was an owner or manager of an institution that loses its accreditation as a result of a denial or suspension action or that closes without providing a teach-out or refunds to students matriculated at that time of closure.

Please contact Ms. Cathy Kouko at ckouko@acics.org or (202) 336-6790 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Edwards". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned over a faint, circular watermark logo that features a torch.

Michelle Edwards
President

- c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
(aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov)
Mr. Douglas Parrott, U.S. Department of Education, Chicago/Denver School
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Dr. Daniel Cullen, Illinois Board of Higher Education (cullen@ibhe.org)
Ms. Rachel E. Canty, Department of Homeland Security (Rachel.E.Canty@ice.dhs.gov)
Ms. Sandra Wise, The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
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