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CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

October 30, 2019

Stephen Stapleton, PhD, RN, CEN, FAEN
Director
School of Nursing
Missouri State University
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897

Dear Dr. Stapleton:

On behalf of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), I am pleased to advise you that the CCNE Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on October 1-4, 2019, to grant accreditation to the **master's degree program in nursing** at Missouri State University for 5 years, extending to December 31, 2024. The program was eligible for an accreditation term of up to 10 years. After its review of the combined special/compliance report described below, the Board may act to extend the term of accreditation for up to an additional 5 years, resulting in a 10-year term of accreditation.

The accreditation action is effective as of March 18, 2019, which is the first day of the program's recent CCNE on-site evaluation. You should plan for the next on-site evaluation to take place in the spring of 2024.

At its meeting, the Board determined that the program met Standards I, II, and IV, but that it did not meet Standard III. The Board additionally determined that there are compliance concerns with respect to Key Elements I-E, III-C, and III-H.

A special report must be submitted to demonstrate compliance with Standard III focusing, in particular, on the following key elements in the *CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (2018)*:

Demonstrate that master's curricula are developed, implemented, and revised to reflect relevant professional nursing standards and guidelines, which are clearly evident within the curriculum and within the expected student outcomes (individual and aggregate) (Key Element III-C). Specifically, provide evidence that the students completing the pre-revision curriculum of the nurse educator track will receive graduate-level content addressing the APRN core prior to their Spring 2020 graduation. (Note: APRN core content, while required, does not have to be offered as three separate courses.)

Demonstrate that the curriculum includes planned clinical practice experiences that:

- enable students to integrate new knowledge and demonstrate attainment of program outcomes;
- foster interprofessional collaborative practice; and
- are evaluated by faculty (Key Element III-H).

Specifically, the program must demonstrate that students in the nurse educator track complete clinical practice experiences consistent with *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (Master's Essentials)* definition of the direct-care role, including "sustained clinical experiences designed to strengthen patient

care delivery skills” at the master’s level (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2011, pp. 8-9). In its Glossary, the *Master’s Essentials* defines direct care as “nursing care provided to individuals or families that is intended to achieve specific health goals or achieve selected health outcomes. Direct care may be provided in a wide range of settings, including acute and critical care, long term care, home health, community-based settings, and educational settings” (*Master’s Essentials*, AACN, 2011, p. 33). Direct care experiences are not designed to prepare students for the nurse educator role, but rather to prepare them for advanced nursing practice care. The course description for NUR 787 provided in the program’s response dated August 13, 2019 does not provide sufficient evidence that all students in the nurse educator track engage in direct care clinical practice, and it is not clear how those students who are completing the pre-revision nurse educator curriculum in Spring 2020 will have obtained the required direct care clinical practice experience.

A compliance report must be submitted to demonstrate the program’s compliance with the following key element:

Demonstrate that students participate in program governance (Key Element I-E).

The deadline for submitting the combined special/compliance report to CCNE is December 1, 2020. Please email the report, along with appendices, if any, as a PDF attachment to ccnereports@ccneaccreditation.org.

As is required for all accredited programs, a continuous improvement progress report (CIPR) must be submitted at the mid-point of the accreditation term. The deadline for submitting the CIPR to CCNE is June 1, 2022.

Please note that each aforementioned report needs to demonstrate the program’s compliance with the CCNE standards that are in effect at the time of the report’s submission. As a courtesy, CCNE will send a reminder letter to the chief nurse administrator informing the program of the specific standards and/or key elements to be addressed in the report, including guidance for the preparation of the report. The Report Review Committee, and then the Board of Commissioners, review each report. For more information about reports and the report review process, please refer to the CCNE procedures.

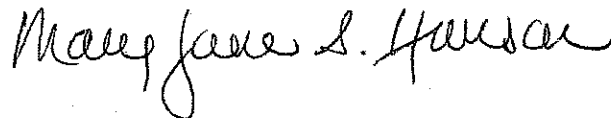
As you know, the team report and the program’s response to the team report are available to the institution in the CCNE Online Community. We hope that the results of the self-study process and the team report will be useful to the continued growth and development of the nursing program. A certificate of accreditation is enclosed.

In accordance with CCNE policy, if a program or institution elects to make a public disclosure of a program’s accreditation status with CCNE, the program or institution must disclose that status accurately. The program or institution disclosing the information must identify the nursing program and its affiliation with CCNE. Please refer to CCNE’s disclosure policy and the statements CCNE has approved for use, as well as information on use of the CCNE accreditation seal, at <http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/Seal-Policy/Baccalaureate-Graduate>. Please ensure that the institution’s website and other materials are updated to reflect this language, as appropriate.

As a reminder, programs are expected to comply with the CCNE standards and procedures throughout the period of accreditation. These documents are available at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/Accreditation-Resources/Standards-Procedures-Guidelines>. Information on advising CCNE in the event of a substantive change affecting the nursing program is available at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/What-We-Do/CCNE-Accreditation-Process>. Substantive change notifications must be submitted to CCNE no earlier than 90 days prior to implementation or occurrence of the change, but no later than 90 days after implementation or occurrence of the change. These reporting requirements are described further in the CCNE procedures.

Thank you for your participation in the CCNE accreditation process. The Commissioners join me in expressing our very best wishes as you continue to promote excellence in nursing education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jane S. Hanson".

Mary Jane S. Hanson, PhD, CRNP, CNS, FNP-BC, ACNS-BC, FAANP
Chair, Board of Commissioners

cc: President Clifton M. Smart, III
CCNE Board of Commissioners
CCNE Accreditation Review Committee
CCNE Evaluation Team