

ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS | ABHES

7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314 N. · Falls Church, Virginia 22043 Tel. 703/917.9503 · Fax 703/917.4109 · E-Mail: info@abhes.org

Transmitted by electronic mail only: carick@nwsc.edu

August 11, 2022 ID#: I-441

Dr. Christopher Arick Director of Programs Northwest Suburban College 5999 S. New Wilke Road, Building 500 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Dear Dr. Arick:

The Commission, at its July 2022 meeting, reviewed the record¹ of your application for a grant of accreditation. Based on review and discussion, the Commission acted to grant the institution accreditation through **February 28, 2025**. This grant of accreditation includes programmatic recognition of the Medical Assisting program.

In determining the length of the grant, the Commission has considered the overall evaluation process of the institution, including that this is an initial grant and that the grant follows multiple deferral actions.

The following programs are included in this grant of accreditation:

| Program | Total Clock Hours | Length in Weeks | Academic Credit Hours* □ quarter ☑ semester | Method of Delivery | Credential Awarded |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dental Assistant** | 720 | 32 | 33 | Blended | Certificate |
| Medical Assistant | 720 | 32 | 33 | Blended | Certificate |
| Pharmacy Technician | 600 | 32 | 25 | Blended | Certificate |

^{*}Based on required academic conversions outlined in IV.G.1. of the Accreditation Manual.

** The Dental Assistant program complies with standards outlined in Chapter VIII-DAI of the Accreditation Manual.

You are reminded to notify the ABHES office of any changes in program content, including total hours, courses, or credit hours in the current program(s) or change in delivery method (e.g., residential to distance or vice versa) <u>prior</u> to implementation.

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¹ The accreditation record includes the Application, the May 2019 and November 2021 Self-Evaluation Reports, the August 2019, November 2020, and April 2022 visitation reports, the October 2019, December 2020, and May 2022 responses to the visitation reports, the institution's responses to the Commission's February 12, 2020, August 12, 2020, February 12, 2021, and August 12, 2021 deferral letters, the institution's financial history, and other relevant correspondence and documentation.

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A certificate of accreditation is attached to this communication. Please contact the ABHES office if you would like an electronic copy of ABHES logos. When publicizing your accredited status, you must use one of the statements as described in the *Accreditation Manual*.

Accreditation by ABHES signifies that the institution has met the eligibility criteria and evaluation standards of ABHES as evidenced during its most recent on-site review and continues to comply with the policies and procedures for maintenance of accreditation as established by ABHES.

As a reminder, continuous compliance is a requirement to maintain accreditation. The Commission can withdraw accreditation at any time if it determines that an institution is not complying with its policies or standards. There is a <u>maximum timeframe</u> for required compliance (see Chapter III, Section C of the *Accreditation Manual*). This includes instances where the retention, licensing, or employment rates fall below 70 percent as reported on the program's annual report or when the reported rates cannot be validated.

Institutions accredited by ABHES must submit audited financial statements to the Commission no later than six months after the institution's fiscal year end. See Chapter III, Section A, Subsection 10 in the *Accreditation Manual* for more information.

While ABHES is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, various credentialing bodies, and postsecondary institutions throughout the country, accreditation does not guarantee Title IV or other financial aid eligibility, credentialing opportunities for graduates, or the ability to transfer credits to other institutions.

As applicable, the institution is encouraged to correspond directly with the U.S. Department of Education and to maintain continuous awareness and understanding of the rules and regulations governing eligibility and continued participation in federal financial aid programs.

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.

Please use the **ABHES** identification number above on all correspondence sent to ABHES. If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact the ABHES office at (703) 917-9503.

Congratulations on achieving accreditation by ABHES!

Sincerely,

India Y. Tips Executive Director

Attachment: Certificate of Accreditation