



Transmitted by electronic mail only: [REDACTED]

August 10, 2023

ID#: I-401-02

[REDACTED]
Campus Director
Dewey University
Carr. #149, Km. 55.9, Parque Industrial Lomas
Juana Diaz, PR 00795

Dear [REDACTED]:

The Commission, at its July 2023 meeting, reviewed the record¹ of your institution's outcomes reporting. Based on review and discussion, the Commission acted to **withdraw** approval of the Electricity and Photovoltaic System Technology – Diploma and Pharmacy Technician – Academic Associate programs from the institution's grant of accreditation, subject to appeal, in accordance with III.E.3.a. of the *Accreditation Manual*.

The Commission also considered the institution's request for a Good Cause Extension (as defined in III.C.1.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*). Based on review and discussion, the Commission denied the request since the institution did not demonstrate that either program had made significant improvement toward achieving compliance with the Commission's 70% outcomes benchmark. The most recent rates reported in May 2023 showed continuing downward placement trends in the Electricity and Photovoltaic System Technology - Diploma program and downward retention trends in the Pharmacy Technician - Academic Associate Degree program as explained in more detail below.

Reason for the Withdrawal of Program Approval

- The **Electricity and Photovoltaic System Technology - Diploma** program placement rates and the **Pharmacy Technician – Academic Associate** program retention rates are below the 70% threshold required under III.A.10.d of the *Accreditation Manual*.

According to III.C.1.a. of the *Accreditation Manual*, the Commission may withdraw accreditation at any time if it determines that an institution or program is not complying with its policies or standards or determines that the retention, credentialing, or placement rates fall below 70%. The Commission may, in its discretion, provide an opportunity for the institution or program to bring itself into

¹ The record includes the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 Annual Reports; outcome reporting letters dated August 2020, February 2021, August 2021, February 2022, August 2022, the February 2023 program specific warning letter, and the institution's response to such letters.

compliance within a maximum time period specified by the Commission, as outlined in III.C.1.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*.

In this instance, the findings of non-compliance set forth above were first identified by the Commission in its letter dated August 12, 2021. The programs were then placed on Program Specific Warning in a letter dated February 16, 2023, and the institution was directed to demonstrate compliance with a final response due on May 1, 2023, for review at the Commission's July 2023 meeting. As the reports described below indicate, the institution did not demonstrate 70% placement or retention within the allotted maximum timeframe. Therefore, the approval of the programs has been withdrawn, subject to appeal.

Placement Rates for the Electricity and Photovoltaic System Technology - Diploma Program Reported to ABHES:

- December 2020 – The institution reported a placement rate of 38% in its 2019-2020 Annual Report.
- May 2021 – The institution reported an updated placement rate of 44% for the 2019-2020 reporting year.
- October 2021 – The institution reported an updated placement rate of 44% for the 2019-2020 reporting year.
- November 2021 – The institution reported a placement rate of 50% in its 2020-2021 Annual Report.
- May 2022 – The institution reported an updated placement rate of 60% for the 2020-2021 reporting year.
- October 2022 – The institution reported an updated placement rate of 60% rate for the 2020-2021 reporting year.
- November 2022 – the institution reported a placement rate of 21% in its 2021-2022 Annual Report.
- May 2023 – The institution reported an updated placement rate of 21% for the 2021-2022 reporting year.

Retention Rates for the Pharmacy Technician – Academic Associate Program Reported to ABHES:

- December 2020 – The institution reported a retention rate of 62% in its 2019-2020 Annual Report.
- May 2021 – The institution submitted a draft retention rate of 71% for the period of July 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021, but this rate did not represent a full year of data which later showed a rate of 68% for the 2020-2021 reporting year as it reported in November 2021.
- October 2021 – The institution reported an updated draft retention rate of 68% for the reporting period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.
- November 2021 – The institution reported retention rate of 68% in its 2020 -2021 Annual Report.
- May 2022 – The institution reported a draft retention rate of 64% rate for the reporting period of

July 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022.

- October 2022 – The institution submitted an updated draft retention rate of 66% for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.
- November 2022 – The institution reported a retention rate of 66% in its 2021-2022 Annual Report
- May 2023 – The institution submitted a draft retention rate of 52% for the period of July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023.

Appeal of Action, Notice of Intent to Appeal and Required Fees

If the institution wishes to appeal the action of the Commission, it may do so by filing its intent to appeal the Commission action online via [DropBox Commission Responses](#) by **August 21, 2023**. The file must be named, “I-401-02_Intent_to_Appeal.” An appeal fee of \$5,000 plus a \$10,000 expense deposit will be assessed in accordance with Appendix G, Fees, of the *Accreditation Manual* upon receipt of the institution’s intent to appeal by the due date. **The \$15,000 payment must be remitted within five business days.** Failure to remit timely payment of the fees may hinder confirmation of the appeal.

Written Statement of Grounds for Appeal

The *Written Statement of Grounds for Appeal*, including a cover letter, narrative, and exhibits, must be submitted to ABHES online via [DropBox Commission Responses](#) by **September 25, 2023** (within 45 calendar days of the date of this letter). The file name must be labeled as, “I-401-02_RSP to Aug 2023 Withdrawal APPEAL Letter_92023.” It is imperative that the institution’s submission is in compliance with the instructions outlined in [Preparing Your Response](#). The institution should review carefully all procedures governing its appeal, as detailed in III.E.3.a.-k. of the *Accreditation Manual*.

Note that the appeal is based upon the information available to the Commission at the time of its action. Unless specifically provided for in III.E.3.g., the Appeals Panel has no authority to consider evidence outside of the record reviewed by the Commission at its July 2023 meeting. The institution has the burden of demonstrating that the action of the Commission was not supported by the record or was otherwise erroneous.

During any pending appeal, the institution will retain its program approval in accordance with III.E.3.a. of the *Accreditation Manual*.

Should the institution elect not to appeal, the decision to withdraw the program approval will be effective as of **August 21, 2023**, unless the institution submits a Teach-Out Agreement in accordance with item **1 B under Required Submissions** below. The institution may not reapply to ABHES for the same or a substantively similar program within one year from the effective date of withdrawal.

Required Submissions

The institution is directed to submit the following:

1. Teach-Out Plan or Teach-Out Agreement

- A. If the institution intends to appeal, it must submit by **August 21, 2023**, online via [DropBox Forms/Applications](#), its updated Teach-Out Plan and the corresponding *Teach-out Plan Form*

(available for download from the ABHES website at <https://abhes.org/resources/#Forms>) for the Electricity and Photovoltaic – Diploma and Pharmacy Technician – Academic Associate programs.

- B. If the institution elects not to appeal, it must submit by **August 21, 2023**, online via [DropBox Forms/Applications](#), a Teach-Out Agreement, using the corresponding *Teach-out Agreement Form* (available for download from the ABHES website at <https://abhes.org/resources/#Forms>) for the Electricity and Photovoltaic System Technology – Diploma and Pharmacy Technician – Academic Associate programs. Upon receipt, the Commission will consider extending the effective date of its action to permit the program to accommodate current students in the program.

2. Student disclosure

By **August 21, 2023**, the institution must also include in its submission evidence it has published a new student disclosure notice **within seven business days of the date of this letter** informing enrolled and prospective program students of the Withdrawal of Program Approval as the reason the updated Teach-Out Plan or Agreement is being required.²

Disclosures

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 to withdraw the program’s approval and that the action is subject to appeal in compliance with 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 602.26 *et seq* and as set forth in Chapter III of the *Accreditation Manual*.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



India Y. Tips
Executive Director

- c: DAPIP, U.S. Department of Education
 Damaris Nolasco-Ortiz, Puerto Rico State Department – Board of Postsecondary Institutions
 David Baez Davila, Puerto Rico State Department – Board of Postsecondary Institutions
 Ryan Burke, Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

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). . .”