



Transmitted by electronic mail only: doctorfe@premierecollege.edu

***REVISED April 11, 2022

March 22, 2022

ID#: I-368

Dr. Fe Ludovico-Aragon
President
Premiere Career College
12901 Ramona Boulevard
Irwindale, CA 91706

Dear Dr. Ludovico-Aragon:

This letter is to inform you that on February 25, 2022, ABHES was notified by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) that, at its February 18, 2022 meeting, it removed the Premiere Career College (Premier) Vocational Nursing – Diploma program from its list of approved programs. On March 1, 2022, ABHES sent a letter of inquiry to Premiere Career College regarding the loss of program approval by BVNPT and the institution's plans for its students.

Chapter III, Section B, Subsection C (i) of the ABHES Accreditation Manual requires notification to ABHES for “[a]n adverse or probationary equivalent action placed upon an institution or program by a recognized accrediting agency, state approval agency or federal regulatory agency.” The action of the BVNPT to remove approval of Premier's Vocational Nursing – Diploma program falls within this notification requirement. Premier did not provide the required notification to ABHES. In addition, the response to the February 25, 2022, ABHES inquiry, received on March 4, 2022, did not provide adequate updates on the institution's plan for assisting students to continue their education either at Premiere Career College or another institution with an approved Vocational Nursing program as was specifically requested.

Additionally, as set forth in more detail below ABHES has found that the BVNPT action raises questions concerning Premier's compliance with IV.C and IV.D of the ABHES *Accreditation Manual* concerning the administration and management of the institution. For these reasons the Commission's Executive Committee has found reason to **direct the institution to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn.**

The institution is being provided an opportunity to respond to the specific areas of non-compliance described in this letter which are, as noted, based on the standards set forth in the *Accreditation Manual*. The show-cause directive constitutes notice to the institution that absent corrective action and information by and from the institution that demonstrates compliance with the standards, its accreditation may be withdrawn as the Commission's next action.

Reasons for Show Cause

1. An institution must evidence that it is properly licensed, chartered or approved to provide education beyond the secondary level under the laws and regulations of the state(s) or territories in which it operates,

including any regulatory oversight body approval required to operate specific programs. (Chapter II, Section A, Subsection 1, (a), (5))

The institution's March 4, 2022 response to ABHES' letter of inquiry indicated that the school was hoping to appeal the case. Further, the institution's response articulated the difficulty of transferring the students to another institution, but offered no plans to do so, and indicated that the institution would like the chance to continue serving its students. A March 8, 2022 communication from BVNPT to ABHES clarified that there is no appeal process available for this decision at the BVNPT, and that BVNPT would not offer the opportunity for the institution to conduct a self teach-out of the vocational nursing program.

The institution, therefore, is directed to submit sufficient information and documentation to demonstrate compliance with the standard, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Evidence that the institution has the required approvals from the BVNPT to offer or teach-out the vocational nursing program; or by April 5, 2022, submission of an ABHES *Teach Out Agreement Form*, available for download at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Forms>, for the vocational nursing program as instructed later in this letter.
2. Notification to ABHES is required for an adverse or probationary equivalent action placed upon an institution or program by a recognized accrediting agency, state approval agency, or federal regulatory agency (Chapter III, Section B, Subsection 4, Notifications); and, the on-site administrator demonstrates effective management capability (IV.C.1)

On March 1, 2022, ABHES sent a follow-up inquiry to Premiere Career College regarding the loss of program approval by BVNPT and the institution's plans for its students. The institution responded to ABHES on March 4, 2022, two weeks after BVNPT notified the institution that it had lost the state approval to operate the vocational nursing program. It is unclear from the institution's response whether it is still conducting classes in this program, and whether students have been notified.

The Commission found that the institution has not demonstrated compliance with the standards because it is not clear that the on-site administrator is implementing policies and procedures in keeping with the mission and scope of the institution, accreditation standards, and other regulatory requirements.

The institution, therefore, is directed to submit sufficient information and documentation to demonstrate compliance with the standard, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Evidence that the on-site administrator demonstrates effective management capability with regard to accreditation standards and other regulatory requirements with an explanation that details why the institution did not notify ABHES regarding its loss of BVNPT approval for the vocational nursing program.
- Explanation as to whether classes are continuing to be taught, including which classes, and the student cohorts impacted.
- Evidence of the institution's communications with students regarding the loss of program approval and any assistance the institution plans to provide to those students to continue their education.

The institution is directed to submit the following:

1. Teach-Out Plan and student disclosure

By *****April 26, 2022**, the institution must submit, online via [DropBox Forms/Applications](#) its Teach-Out Plan, the corresponding *Teach-out Plan Form* (available for download from the ABHES website at <https://abhес.org/resources/#Forms>) and evidence of published notice to current and potential students, for all programs (except the Vocational Nursing program, which has been directed to submit a Teach-out Agreement Form in the event that the institution is unable to demonstrate that it has the required approvals from the BVNPT).

The institution must include in its submission evidence it has published notice that is readily available to enrolled and prospective students of the Show Cause as the reason the Teach-Out Plan (or Teach-out Agreement for the Vocational Nursing program, as applicable) is being required within seven business days of receipt of this letter.¹

2. Additional information regarding the standard-related directives

By *****April 26, 2022**, the institution must submit, online via [DropBox Commission Responses](#), its response to the standard-related directives identified within this letter. The file name must include the ABHES ID#, RSP to Feb 2022 Show Cause Letter, and date of submission (ex: I-100_RSP to Mar 2022 SC Letter_52022).

Your submission must include a cover letter, narrative, exhibits and the completed “Notice for Commissioner Recusal” form (enclosed). Please refer to the ABHES [Preparing Your Response](#) Guide for instructions on organizing and finalizing your response.

The institution is advised that failure to respond per the requirements outlined within this letter by 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](#) within 10 calendar days of the date of this letter, by ***April 21, 2022**, and named "ABHES ID#_Request to Appear."** A teleconference fee of \$2,000 will be assessed in accordance with Appendix G, Fees, of the *Accreditation Manual*. Payment of any fees are to be remitted electronically. Please contact the Accounting Department at accounting@abhес.org or (703) 917-9503 to obtain an invoice.

Disclosures

ABHES will not review, consider, or process substantive changes (as defined in III.B.2. of the *Accreditation Manual*) while the institution is under a show cause directive, unless the institution demonstrates that the substantive change is likely to resolve the show cause directive. An institution’s request for acceptance of the application must include justification for the change and its effect on the institution’s or program’s operation.

¹ 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). . .”

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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 as required under 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 602.26 *et seq* and set forth in Chapter III of the *Accreditation Manual*.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact staff liaison, Crystal Calarusse, at ccalarusse@abhes.org or at (571) 282-0061.

Sincerely,

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

India Y. Tips
Executive Director

Attachment: Notice for Commissioner Recusal

C: Herman Bounds, U.S. Department of Education
Leeza Rifredi, Deputy Bureau Chief, California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education