

**JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY**

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November 5, 2019

Brooks Keel, PhD
President
Augusta University
1120 15th St, BWH-202
Augusta, GA 30912

Sent by USPS certified letter

Dear Dr. Keel:

At its meeting on October 25, 2019, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) voted to place the nuclear medicine technology program at Augusta University on probation for one year. This decision was based on the Committee's ongoing review of the program's aggregated pass rate for first-time examinees on the national certification examinations.

Standard D3.2 in the *Accreditation Standards for Nuclear Medicine Technologist Education* states that programs must maintain a minimum 80% pass rate over consecutive three-year periods for graduates on the national certification examinations. In a letter dated October 26, 2017, the JRCNMT notified the institution that the program was placed on heightened monitoring because the first-time examinee pass rate was below the threshold. Through annual and progress reports in the interim, the program identified changes implemented to improve the graduate pass rates but as of the 2019 Annual Report the aggregate pass rate remains below 80% for the third consecutive year. The averages are as follows:

Annual Report Submission	Three-Year Period	Pass Rate
2017	2014 - 2016	69%
2018	2015 - 2017	65%
2019	2016 - 2018	65%

JRCNMT Policy 3.110 (enclosed) was recently modified to shorten the monitoring cycle from five to four years in total length and utilize three-year pass rates. The JRCNMT is permitting programs that were in the monitoring cycle at the time of the revision to remain on the original five-year timeline.

The program at Augusta University has had an aggregate certification exam pass rate below 80% for three consecutive years and is now on probation. In accordance with JRCNMT policy 2.800 (enclosed), an institution may request reconsideration of probation if it believes the cited deficiency is factually inaccurate. The request, due by November 26, 2019, must include evidence demonstrating the deficiency was cited in error.

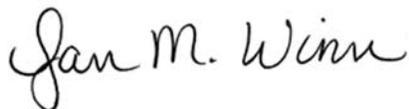
If the 80% threshold is not met in 2020 the monitoring policy permits probation to be extended for one additional year. Probation is limited to two years though it may be extended, for good cause, following the JRCNTM's determination that the program has demonstrated a substantive effort toward achieving compliance with the standard. Accreditation could be withdrawn in 2021 if the pass rate remains below the threshold for the fifth consecutive year.

The highlighted section of JRCNMT policy 2.100 (enclosed) requires programs placed on probation to advise current and prospective students of the program's probationary status on its web page and in publications. In addition, a program on probation may not add clinical affiliates or expand its student capacity until the probationary status has been removed, except when addition of clinical affiliates is necessary to address a cited deficiency. JRCNMT staff will review the program's web page one week after the reconsideration deadline, should reconsideration not be requested, to ensure that the required information on probation in the enclosed policy has been posted.

The JRCNMT requests a progress report be submitted no later than **February 3, 2020** documenting an action plan to address the program's on-going deficiency in compliance with this standard. New certification data for the period 2017-2019, provided in the form of official reports from the certification agencies, should be included in the report. Probation may be rescinded at the spring 2020 JRCNMT meeting if the progress report demonstrates that the aggregated pass rate for the certification exams for 2017-2019 is at 80% or higher.

Program officials should contact the JRCNMT office if they require assistance in preparing the progress report.

Sincerely,



Jan M. Winn, MEd, RT(N), CNMT
Executive Director

Encls.

cc: Greg Passmore, PhD, CNMT, NMTCB(RS)
Nuclear Medicine Program Director

Ana Thompson, MEd, RDH
Chair, Undergraduate Health Programs

JRCNMT Executive Officers