

Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Application to Request Approval of Distance Education

The decision to expand an existing nuclear medicine technology program using distance education is a significant step in a program's evolution. Thorough and on-going needs assessment, program planning, resource allocation and evaluation must be instituted to ensure development of a successful program that is sustainable and meets JRCNMT accreditation standards.

Distance education uses one or more of the following technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies used may include: the Internet; one way and two way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite or wireless communications devices; audio conferencing; or videocassettes, DVDs and CD-ROMs when used in conjunction with any of the other listed technologies.

For accredited nuclear medicine technology programs seeking to deliver 50% or more of the curriculum by distance education, a formal application for approval must be submitted to the JRCNMT for review prior to making the distance education track available to students. The application must include responses for each item listed below and the necessary supporting documentation.

1. Explain the program's purpose for expanding into distance education and how this ties to the institution and program's educational mission.
2. Provide evidence that the institution's regional/institutional accreditor and the appropriate state agency have approved the institution to deliver distance education.
3. Provide evidence that the appropriate educational agency in states where the program will be marketed has approved its delivery in that state, when such approval is required.
4. Describe the technology (electronic devices and software) that will be used to deliver the program.
5. Describe the financial resources to support the program for sustained distance education delivery.
6. Will faculty be added to support the expanded program? If so, in what capacities (e.g. clinical coordination, teaching, etc...)? If none are being added describe why additional faculty is unnecessary.
7. How and where will student testing occur?
8. Where will students access the coursework/lectures?
9. Describe the frequency and methods of faculty/student interactions.
10. Describe the technical support services available to distance students.
11. Describe the methodology that will be used to ensure that a student enrolling in a course is the same student who participates in, completes and receives academic credit for the course.
12. Will students be required to come to the home campus for any courses, laboratories or other activities? If so please describe.
13. Explain the plans for clinical education of the distance students. Provide complete affiliate applications for any new clinical sites being added.
14. Other than content delivery, describe any other ways in which the distance education program will differ from the on-site program offered.
15. What additional fees or tuition will students be charged to access the program via distance education and how will they be informed of the additional costs?
16. Describe how the program will ensure that distance students receive equivalent didactic, laboratory and clinical education to what the on-site students receive.