



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

December 28, 2023

Read Receipt Requested

Milan Hayward, PhD, President
Respiratory Care Program
Pierpont Community & Technical College
500 Galliher Dr
Fairmont, WV 26554

RE: Program Number 200632

Dear Dr. Hayward:

At its November 2023 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) conferred Probationary Accreditation for the AAS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program sponsored by Pierpont Community & Technical College. Pierpont Community & Technical College was given thirty (30) days to request reconsideration of the Probationary Accreditation status upon receipt of the November 15, 2023 CoARC letter. The thirty (30) day time period has expired as of December 17, 2023. The AAS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program sponsored by Pierpont Community & Technical College has been placed on **Probationary Accreditation** effective **November 3, 2023**, the date of the November 2023 accreditation decision.

As stated in Policy 1.053 (<http://www.coarc.com>), if the Program does not demonstrate compliance with all Standards within two (2) consecutive years following conferral of Probationary Accreditation, accreditation will be withheld or withdrawn. In no case will probation status exceed two (2) years. If the program remains out of compliance with the *Standards* at the end of the first year of the two-year probationary period, the CoARC may withdraw accreditation unless the CoARC determines that the program is making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the *Standards*. However, if at any time the Program is able to rectify all the deficiencies that resulted in Probationary Accreditation, supported by CoARC's review of the Probation Report, and thereby achieve compliance with the *Standards* and/or Policies, the CoARC will consider removing probationary status. **The Program is scheduled for a one (1) year probation period review at the CoARC November 2024 meeting.**

CoARC Accreditation Policy Section 11 (<http://www.coarc.com>) requires that currently enrolled students and those seeking admission promptly be advised in writing that the Program is on Probationary Accreditation, and that any promotional pieces, print advertisements or areas on the Program's website that make reference to accreditation status must include language about Probationary Accreditation.

According to the November 15, 2023 CoARC letter, the Commission voted to request a Probation Report to address the following Standard citation(s):

Standard Citation 1

Standard 3.07 – Program Goals, Outcomes, and Assessment – Reporting Program Outcomes
Regardless of the degree awarded, all programs must, at a minimum, meet the thresholds established by CoARC for all mandated outcome measures at all program locations, notwithstanding the instructional methodology used. Program outcomes must be submitted to the CoARC annually, on or before the mandated deadline, using the Report of Current Status (RCS) format.

Rationale for Citation: Based on the 2023 Annual Report of Current Status, the Program did not meet the threshold for TMC High Cut Score Success (2020-2022 average results=39% [16/41], threshold=60%). The Standardized Progress Report submitted in September 2022 and Progress Report Update submitted in September 2023 addressing the TMC High Cut Score were acknowledged by the Commission.

Program Required Response (Evidence for Compliance) Due January 20, 2024:

1. *Submit a Detailed Action Plan (attached) addressing TMC High Cut Score Success.*
2. *Submit the Programmatic Teach-Out Plan Form (attached).*

A Detailed Action Plan and Programmatic Teach-Out Plan must be sent electronically to CoARC on or before **January 20, 2024** by emailing shelley@coarc.com. The Commission will evaluate the Program's response at its March 2024 meeting. Failure to submit the required response above may result in Administrative Probation (see CoARC Policy 1.055).

The Program must also submit the following required response for the Standard 3.07 citation:

Program Required Response (Evidence for Compliance) Due September 20, 2024:

1. *Submit the Progress Report Update for TMC High Cut Score Success (form will be provided after the March 2024 meeting).*
2. *Submit an updated NBRC Annual School Summary Report (www.nbrc.org).*
3. *Submit an updated NBRC TMC Graduate Performance Report (www.nbrc.org).*

The Program's response constitutes the Probation Report. The Probation Report must be sent electronically, regardless of the reconsideration procedure, to CoARC no later than **September 20, 2024** by emailing shelley@coarc.com. CoARC will evaluate the Program's response at its November 2024 meeting. Failure to meet thresholds or respond to the citation(s) above may result in Withdrawal of Accreditation (see CoARC Accreditation Policy 1.057).

Questions concerning the submission or content of the Probation Report should be directed to the Executive Office and the program Referee.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Smalling, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC
Chief Executive Officer

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Amy Cunningham, RHIA, Dean
Wendy Singleton, Med, RRT-NPS, Program Director
Ian Gilmour, MD, FRCP, FACA, FCCP, Referee



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

Public Disclosure Notice on Pierpont Community & Technical College (200632)

At its November 2023 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) conferred **Probationary Accreditation** for the AS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program sponsored by Pierpont Community & Technical College. Probation is a public status and, therefore, the information provided below is in accord with the Commission's policy on release of information (see CoARC Policy 11.05D).

Probationary Accreditation was conferred after review of the Program's accreditation record during the November 2022 and November 2023 CoARC Board meetings. The following Standard(s) is/are not in compliance:

Standard Citation 1

Standard 3.07 – Program Goals, Outcomes, and Assessment – Reporting Program Outcomes

Regardless of the degree awarded, all programs must, at a minimum, meet the thresholds established by CoARC for all mandated outcome measures at all program locations, notwithstanding the instructional methodology used. Program outcomes must be submitted to the CoARC annually, on or before the mandated deadline, using the Report of Current Status (RCS) format.

Rationale for Citation: Based on the 2023 Annual Report of Current Status, the Program did not meet the threshold for TMC High Cut Score Success (2020-2022 average results=39% [16/41], threshold=60%). The Standardized Progress Report submitted in September 2022 and Progress Report Update submitted in September 2023 addressing the TMC High Cut Score were acknowledged by the Commission.

Please Note: *Probationary Accreditation is a temporary status of accreditation (maximum duration of two (2) years) conferred when an accredited program is not in compliance with one or more Standards and/or Policies, and progress reports submitted do not demonstrate correction of these deficiencies. Probationary Accreditation can also be conferred when a sponsor receives an adverse action, as described in CoARC Policy 1.07. Following conferral of Probationary Accreditation, the program must file a Probation Report as directed by the CoARC Executive Office. If/when, to the satisfaction of CoARC, the program is able to rectify all the deficiencies that resulted in Probationary Accreditation, and thereby achieve compliance with the Standards, the CoARC will remove probationary status.*

If the program remains out of compliance with the Standards at the end of the first year of the two-year probationary period, the CoARC may withdraw accreditation unless the CoARC determines that the program is making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the Standards. The CoARC defines a "good faith effort" as: 1) a completed comprehensive assessment of the non-compliant Standard(s) under review; 2) development of an appropriate plan for achieving Standards' compliance within a reasonable time frame (not to exceed the two year probationary period); 3) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan; 4) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline; and, 5) evidence that the program is making progress toward achieving compliance as stated in the plan. It is the program's



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responsibility to make the case that a good faith effort has been made. If compliance with all Standards is not demonstrated within the two (2) years following conferral of Probationary Accreditation, accreditation will be withheld or withdrawn. In no case will probation status exceed 2 years. Programs on Probationary Accreditation are prohibited from increasing cohort and enrollment numbers until Probationary Accreditation is removed.

A program on probation maintains the accreditation status existing prior to conferral of probation and is therefore required to adhere to all applicable policies, including the submission of the Annual Report of Current Status (RCS) on or before the due date. However, review and approval of the RCS per se does not affect the probationary status. Because probation is not a part of the accreditation cycle, the applicable accreditation cycle dates remain in effect. When related to probation, a decision to Withdraw Accreditation is subject to reconsideration but cannot be appealed (See Policy 1.06).

*The CoARC requires a sponsor to complete a teach-out plan when a program is placed on probation, requests inactive status or when accreditation is withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily (see Policy 1.13). Enrolled students graduating from a program under Probationary Accreditation are considered graduates of a CoARC accredited program. **(Accreditation Policy 1.053)***

The next review for Pierpont Community & Technical College is scheduled for the November 2024 CoARC Board meeting.

This statement has been reviewed and approved by the institution.