Dear Dr. Campbell:

On behalf of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), I am pleased to advise you that the CCNE Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on September 20-23, 2022 to grant accreditation to the master’s degree program in nursing at Lehman College-The City University of New York for 5 years, extending to December 31, 2027. The accreditation action is effective as of February 7, 2022, which is the first day of the program’s recent CCNE evaluation. You should plan for the next on-site evaluation to take place in the spring of 2027.

The program was considered by the Board using the CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (2018).

At its meeting, the Board determined that the program met all four accreditation standards. The Board additionally determined that there is a compliance concern with respect to Key Element IV-D.

A compliance report must be submitted to demonstrate the program’s compliance with the following key element:

Provide evidence that certification pass rates demonstrate program effectiveness (Key Element IV-D). Specifically, it was noted in the team report that the program was unable to demonstrate that it is meeting CCNE’s 80% certification pass rate requirement using any one of the options identified in the Elaboration to this key element (pp. 33-38). In its response to the team report, dated April 22, 2022, the program provided pass rate data by year of graduation, as opposed to providing pass rate data for each examination by calendar year, as required by CCNE (CCNE Standards, pp. 6-7). When calculating the certification pass rate for all test takers who took the exam during the 2021 calendar year, the rate is 72.5%, which is well below CCNE’s 80% requirement. As a reminder, the institution may demonstrate compliance using any one of the options identified in the Elaboration to this key element, including the pass rate for each examination for first-time takers for the most recent calendar year; the pass rate for each examination for all takers (first-time and repeaters who pass) for the most recent calendar year; the pass rate for each examination for all first-time takers over the three most recent calendar years; or the pass rate for each examination for all takers (first-time and repeaters who pass) over the three most recent calendar years. The program must identify which option is used to calculate the pass rate. For guidance, CCNE hosted a free webinar focusing on Standard IV, which is archived and accessible via the CCNE website.

The deadline for submitting the compliance report to CCNE is December 1, 2023. Please email the report, along with appendices, if any, as a PDF attachment to ccnereports@ccneaccreditation.org.
As is required for all accredited programs, a continuous improvement progress report (CIPR) must be submitted at the midpoint of the accreditation term. The deadline for submitting the CIPR to CCNE is June 1, 2025.

Please note that each aforementioned report needs to demonstrate the program’s compliance with the CCNE standards that are in effect at the time of the report’s submission. As a courtesy, CCNE will send a reminder letter to the chief nurse administrator informing the program of the specific standards and/or key elements to be addressed in the report and provide guidance for the preparation of the report. The Report Review Committee, and then the Board of Commissioners, review each report. For more information about reports and the report review process, please refer to the CCNE procedures.

As you know, the team report and the program’s response to the team report are available to the institution in the CCNE Online Community. We hope that the results of the self-study process and the team report will be useful to the continued growth and development of the nursing program. The certificate of accreditation will be mailed to you in the coming weeks.

As previously conveyed by CCNE and in accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements, CCNE is required to conduct an in-person verification visit, within a reasonable period of time, to all programs that have hosted a comprehensive virtual evaluation. CCNE will share additional information about this follow-up visit requirement at a later date.

In accordance with CCNE policy, if a program or institution elects to make a public disclosure of a program’s accreditation status with CCNE, the program or institution must disclose that status accurately. The program or institution disclosing the information must identify the nursing program and its affiliation with CCNE. Please refer to CCNE’s disclosure policy and the statements CCNE has approved for use, as well as information on use of the CCNE accreditation seal, at http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/Seal-Policy/Baccalaureate-Graduate. Please ensure that the institution’s website and other materials are updated to reflect this language, as appropriate.

As a reminder, programs are expected to comply with the CCNE standards and procedures throughout the period of accreditation. These documents are available at https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/Accreditation-Resources/Standards-Procedures-Guidelines. Information on advising CCNE in the event of a substantive change affecting the nursing program is available at https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/What-We-Do/Bacc-Graduate-Change-Notifications. Substantive change notifications must be received by CCNE no earlier than 90 days prior to implementation or occurrence of the change, but no later than 90 days after implementation or occurrence of the change. These reporting requirements are described further in the CCNE procedures.

Thank you for your participation in the CCNE accreditation process. The Commissioners join me in expressing our very best wishes as you continue to promote excellence in nursing education.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ritt, EdD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNE
Chair, CCNE Board of Commissioners
cc: President Fernando Delgado
CCNE Board of Commissioners
CCNE Accreditation Review Committee
CCNE Evaluation Team