

APPENDIX K

Summary of Visit of Team of Examiners for South College-Asheville, North Carolina

Background

South College-Asheville was founded in 1905 as Cecils Business College. On November 1, 1998, South College of North Carolina, Inc. purchased Cecils College from Executive Schools, Inc. All of the assets of Executive Schools, Inc, doing business as Cecils College, were transferred to the new owner, South College of North Carolina. The name of Cecils College was changed to South College-Asheville in February 2002.

South College-Asheville is a private, co-educational, nonsectarian academic institution that offers various academic programs at the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate levels. There is also a South College in Knoxville, Tennessee owned and operated by the same persons who own South College-Asheville.

The Board of Governors initially approved licensure for South College-Asheville to offer degrees in 1975. Currently, South College is approved to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies. They are also approved to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in the following eight areas: Accounting, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Medical Assisting, Network Technology, Office Technology, Paralegal Studies, and Physical Therapist Assistant.

South College-Asheville is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The Medical Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Medical Assistant Education.

Application and Site Visit

On August 1, 2005, South College-Asheville submitted an application and supporting documentation to General Administration to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Radiologic Technology.

The goal of the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology is to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality patient care in entry-level radiographer positions. South College intends to seek program accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The aforementioned organization sets standards and criteria for accreditation for radiology technology programs. If the program is accredited, students will be able to practice as registered RT. A visit to South College-Asheville will be scheduled by the Joint Review Committee within eighteen months after students begin courses, and prior to the first class graduation.

Dr. Howard-Vital reviewed the application for the proposed associate degree program in Radiologic Technology and constructed a team of examiners with expertise in the area. As is delineated in the Rules and Standards, South College-Asheville was required to

demonstrate that it would be in compliance with the standards for the proposed new degree program and that it would maintain its compliance with the standards for all Board of Governors' previously licensed degree programs.

The team of examiners included Dr. Richard Neel (chair), Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business Administration, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Dr. Ron E. Proffitt, Dean of Mathematics, Science, & Health Technology, Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands Virginia; Mr. Wilson Stahl, University Librarian, and Interim Chief Information Officer, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina; and Dr. James C. Sadler (ex-officio), Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina.

On November 14-15, 2005, the team of examiners visited South College-Asheville, at its facilities in Asheville, North Carolina. The team of examiners closely studied all areas covered in the 15 licensure Standards including educational facilities, academic curricula, course syllabi, the faculty handbook, the student handbook, faculty credentials, library resources, budget data, student data, computer resources, the latest financial audit, promotional materials, and student housing. The team of examiners carefully reviewed the curriculum for the proposed A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology, and they found it to be adequate.

During the two-day visit at South College-Asheville, the team of examiners met with the president, dean of academic affairs, chairman of the board, department chair for Radiologic Technology, head library, faculty, and current students. The team also conferred with the following clinical representatives, using conferencing technology: Fonda Harris, Director of Education; Linda Crout, R. T. from Spruce Pine Community Hospital; Tony Hochschild, Director of Radiology, Spine Carolina; Kristi Pressley, R. T., Clinical Education Instructor; Kathy Laughter, R. T., Clinical Education Instructor, Pro Med Minor Emergency Center; Judy Iskander, Director of Radiology, Cherokee Indian Hospital; and Peter Tefft, R. T., Clinical Education Instructor, Park Ridge Urgent Care Systems. The team, moreover, toured the clinical sites at Pro Med Minor Emergency Center and Spine Carolina in Asheville.

On November 30, 2005, the team of examiners submitted its preliminary report on South College-Asheville to General Administration and the team chair. The preliminary report was transmitted immediately to South College-Asheville for corrections of fact and errors of omission. On December 9, 2005, South College-Asheville responded to the team's recommendations and suggestions contained in the team's preliminary report. The team forwarded its reply to the institution's responses on January 16, 2006.

There are nine recommendations and one suggestion in the preliminary report from the team. These recommendations focus on the proposed associate degree program in Radiologic Technology, library resources, and faculty qualifications. In recommendation one the team of examiners recommends that South College-Asheville ensure that there are adequate clinical placements to accommodate all students admitted into the proposed degree program in Radiologic Technology. The institution responded that there are nine signed affiliation agreements with clinical sites that would

accommodate the placement of ten students. (One site will place two students.) Since the team's visit, South College-Asheville affirms that thirteen additional sites have given South College-Asheville verbal commitments to enter affiliation agreements. The institution will require that these verbal agreements be placed in writing. Moreover, the Chair of the Radiologic Technology program will continue to pursue affiliation agreements with additional sites. To insure the clinical placement of students, South College-Asheville plans to hire a qualified Radiologic Technology Clinical Coordinator of Clinical Education in Spring 2006. The institution stated that it would not admit "a greater number of students than clinical rotations available." The team replied that copies of clinical agreements should be forwarded to General Administration, and a list of verbal agreements should be sent also. The team further requested results of South College-Asheville's study on job opportunities for graduates of the proposed program. On January 20, 2006, General Administration received signed affiliation agreements for clinical rotations from institutions including South College for Shriner's Hospital, ProMed Minor Emergency, Cherokee Indian Hospital, Southeastern Sports Medicine, Hendersonville Orthopedics, Park Ridge Urgent Care, Spine Carolina, Spruce Pine Community Hospital, and Blue Ridge Bone & Joint. The office also received a report on market demand and employment outlook from South College-Asheville.

In the second recommendation, the team recommends that South College-Asheville installs equipment for the radiography laboratory by the admission date of the first class for the proposed Associate of Applied Science degree. The institution responded that the first class of students will not be admitted until the Fall 2006 academic year and that equipment would be fully installed prior to that date.

Several recommendations from the team centered on the library and library resources. The team recommends that South College-Asheville place professional development of the librarian as a high priority. The institution responded that it "understands fully the importance of having a skilled library staff and is currently focusing effort to insure that the new Head Librarian has the training to be productive and responsive to the needs of students and faculty." The team also recommends that South College-Asheville acquire six journal titles to support the proposed Associate of Applied Science degree in Radiologic Technology. These journals are *Applied Radiography*, *Journal of Allied Health*, *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*, *Radiology Technology*, and *Radiology Today*. The institution responded that the aforementioned journals have been ordered. The team also recommends that South College-Asheville enter into the institution's online catalog the recently acquired titles for the proposed degree program. The institution responded that it is currently in the process of adding to its online catalog bibliographic records for newly acquired titles to support the Radiologic Technology Program. The team replied that the institution's response was adequate.

Several recommendations focused on the educational credentials of faculty who would teach the proposed associate degree program in Radiologic Technology. The team recommends that South College-Asheville hire faculty with credentials that are required in the Rules and Standards (revised November 2004) and provide General Administration with new faculty member's transcripts, resumes, and course assignments no later than

three weeks after the beginning of classes for the first term the faculty member teaches. The institution replied that it would adhere to the team's recommendations and "comply with all requirements set forth in the Rules and Standards when considering faculty for employment and will do everything within its power to insure the timely receipt of applicable documents by General Administration." The team replied that the institution's response was adequate.

Additionally, the team stated that if the proposed program is authorized by the Board of Governors, a one year visit is recommended to ensure that the recommendations have been followed and that the institution is in overall compliance with the fifteen licensure standards contained in the Rules and Standards.

General Administration agrees with the team's recommendations and acknowledges the institution's responses and recommends licensure of the Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in Radiologic Technology.