



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

May 25, 2017

Florence Tate
Executive Director
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314N
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Dear Ms. Tate,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the recognition for the expanded scope requested by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), specifically ABHES' request to expand its scope of recognition to include the master's degree program. U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me on this matter. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

The Department staff concluded that ABHES met the requirements of the relevant criteria for an expansion of scope, and further recommended that I approve ABHES' request. At the hearing on February 22, 2017, the NACIQI reviewed and discussed the staff report and cited several concerns with ABHES' request for expanded scope. After discussion of these issues, the NACIQI voted to recommend that I deny the expansion of scope request.

I have reviewed the record thoroughly, noting both the Department staff's rationale for recommending approval of the expansion of scope and the issues raised by the NACIQI members at the meeting that led to their recommendation to deny the expansion. Although I acknowledge the concerns and lengthy discussion at the NACIQI meeting, based upon my detailed review, ABHES demonstrated that it met the relevant requirements for an expansion of scope. Therefore, I find that ABHES has met the relevant requirements for an expansion of scope, concur with the Department staff's recommendation, and approve ABHES' requested change in scope. However, I recommend that ABHES take into account the questions and concerns expressed by the NACIQI members as ABHES moves forward with its expansion at the master's degree level.

Please note that ABHES' scope of recognition will now include the expanded scope as listed below. This new recognized scope applies throughout the remainder of the five-year period of recognition granted to ABHES on September 22, 2016.

Scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education programs and the programmatic accreditation of medical assistant, medical laboratory technician and surgical technology programs, leading to a certificate, diploma, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of

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Occupational Science, Academic Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree and Master's degree, including those offered via distance education. The scope extends to the Substantive Change Committee, jointly with the Commission, for decisions on substantive change.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of ABHES. We appreciate the work that ABHES does to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly L. Ham".

Holly L. Ham
Assistant Secretary
Office of Management