



*Accreditation Review Commission on Education  
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.*

April 5, 2017

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Luther Fred Carter, PhD  
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Dear Dr. Carter:

The **Francis Marion University Physician Assistant Program** was previously placed on **Accreditation-Probation** status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). After review at the March 2017 commission meeting, the program's accreditation status remains **Accreditation-Probation**.

The program's status will remain **Accreditation-Probation** until the **Provisional Monitoring** visit. As such, the program is prohibited from admitting a cohort of students until approved by the ARC-PA. The Program report due (as outlined in the attached citation document) will be reviewed by the commission at the September 2017 meeting. The program's ability to admit a cohort of students in 2018 will be determined at the September 2017 commission meeting.

The basis for the decision was the information contained in the program's follow up report and its accreditation history.

At the time of the focused site visit, the commission determined the program was making positive strides toward compliance with standards A1.03a, A2.09d and C1.01, while others remain deficient. The site visit revealed evidence of strong institutional support throughout administration. Throughout each meeting with the institutional officials (Dean, Provost, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, the SAC-COC Coordinator and the SACS-COC Liaison Officer), each official expressed a personal and institutional commitment to the making the program successful. Both the dean and the provost took responsibility for shortcomings in supervision and oversight of the previous program director. The dean discussed the ongoing collaboration that is now in place and the progress the interim program director has made. During site visit discussions, the medical director and the dean both acknowledged the previous deficiencies in the program's self-assessment process.

**Collaborating Organizations:** American Academy of Family Physicians • American Academy of Pediatrics • American Academy of Physician Assistants • American College of Physicians • American College of Surgeons • American Medical Association • Physician Assistant Education Association

**Member:** Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

**Recognized by:** Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

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Since the last site visit, the program has developed a comprehensive plan to collect and analyze data to promote program effectiveness and self-assessment. Although didactic objectives have been revised, the clinical year syllabi and objectives need further improvement. Site visitors determined that with the start of the new semester (January 2017), students will obtain syllabi that will guide student acquisition of required competencies and allow assessment of student learning.

The ARC-PA noted **six (6)** areas of noncompliance with the *Standards* presented as citations in the enclosed document. The Citations document includes information on reports due to the ARC-PA.

The ***Provisional Monitoring*** review of the program by the ARC-PA is scheduled for the March 2019 commission meeting. The program will be contacted by the ARC-PA in advance of that review regarding details of the application, reports and selecting site visit dates.

The ARC-PA appreciates the commitment and dedication to quality PA education demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Sharon Luke, MSHS, PA-C  
Executive Director

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