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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

August 22, 2014

Dr. L. Fred Carter
President
Francis Marion University
Stokes Administration Building
P. O. Box 100547
Florence, SC 29502-0547

Dear Dr. Carter:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2014, transmitting a prospectus for the following off-campus site where the approved R.N. to B.S.N. degree program will be offered in a hybrid format, effective fall 2014:

Trident Technical College
Mount Pleasant Campus
1125 John Dilligard Lane
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

The offering of the program at the site is consistent with the mission of the University. A feasibility study was conducted after the University received inquiries about offering the program at the site. The need was documented to include data concerning growth of the Tri-County Charleston metro area, the need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses, and the pool of potential students. Appropriate planning was documented. Approval was secured from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

The curriculum, course descriptions, program outcomes, and student learning outcomes were provided. Assessment processes were described. Student learning outcomes are assessed each semester. Program competencies are assessed by projects, presentations, and discussion boards. Graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction are surveyed periodically as well. Some of the courses in the program will be offered in hybrid or blended format. Orientation, review of student learning and program outcomes, best practice in technological utilization, and clinical expectations as well as some class sessions will be provided in a face-to-face format. There will be no changes in curriculum, admission policies, credit assignment for courses, or clinical expectations. Campus technology will offer support, updates, and educational instruction for the Blackboard Learn System for both instructors and students at the site. Over a two year period (2014-2016) more than 50% of the program will be offered at the site.

Qualifications of faculty members scheduled to teach at the site appear appropriate. The Department of Nursing at the main campus will be responsible for the program offered at the site. Discipline-specific electronic databases were listed along with resources housed in the library on-campus. Each semester students at the Mount Pleasant site will be instructed face-to-face on how to access online databases, journals, and e-reference books. Student support services include the writing center, which can be accessed online; advisement, counseling, and testing will be provided by the full-time faculty member at the site.

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The program will be housed at Trident Technical College for the first year where adequate classroom space will accommodate the face-to-face portion of the hybrid program. The town of Mount Pleasant has committed to acquiring a building to house the program. The University is reminded that should it relocate the site, notification of the relocation should be provided prior to the move. Costs and sources of revenue were provided. Financial resources appear adequate to support the program.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Mount Pleasant off-campus site at Trident Technical College. It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of the current accreditation. The approval of an off-campus instructional site is effective for a maximum of five years.

Because the institution currently has fewer than three approved off-campus sites, I am authorizing a Substantive Change Committee which will visit the above site within six months after its implementation to determine continued compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Your staff representative, Dr. Crystal A. Baird, will assist you with preparations for the visit. You may contact her by telephone at 404-679-4501, ext. 4586 or by email at cbaird@sacscoc.org.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$300 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

Best regards,



Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:iyw

Enclosure

Cc: Dr. Charlene Wages, Vice President for Administration
Dr. Crystal A. Baird
Ms. Carol A. Luthman