



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR
RESPIRATORY CARE

July 7, 2017

Susan Donovan, PhD, President
Respiratory Care Program
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Rd, Library 202C
Louisville, KY 40205

RE: Program Number 200281

Dear Dr. Donovan:

At its June 2017 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) voted to confer **Continuing Accreditation** to the BS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program at Bellarmine University.

The recent accreditation review conducted by CoARC recognizes the Program's compliance with the nationally established accreditation Standards. The next comprehensive evaluation of the Program, including an on-site review, is scheduled to occur no later than **2027**.

In addition to the comprehensive evaluation, CoARC regularly monitors the Program's compliance with established outcomes assessment thresholds (Standard 3.09) through the Annual Report of Current Status submitted annually by the Program as well as other documentation that may be requested. CoARC is in the process of reviewing the 2017 Annual Report of Current Status and will notify you of the results in a separate letter. The next Annual Report of Current Status is due by July 1, 2018.

The Commission commends you and your colleagues for your commitment to continuous quality improvement in education, as demonstrated by your participation in programmatic accreditation.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC
Executive Director

cc: Nancy York, PhD, RN, Dean
Christy Kane, PhD, RRT, Program Director
Kathy J. Rye, EdD, RRT-ACCS, Referee (Emailed)



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

July 5, 2016

Doris Tegart, EdD, President
Respiratory Care Program
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Rd, Library #202C
Louisville, KY 40205

RE: Program Number 220281

Dear Dr. Tegart:

At its June 2016 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) voted to confer **Provisional Accreditation** to the MS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. It is the determination of CoARC that the Program has demonstrated sufficient evidence to initiate a Program in accordance with the CoARC Accreditation Standards. Under the authority of this Provisional Accreditation, the Program is allowed to admit its first class of students. The maximum enrollment is approved at up to **1 cohort per calendar year of up to 10 students per cohort**. This maximum remains in effect until the Program is granted Continuing Accreditation.

In addition to maintaining on-going compliance with the Standards, the Program must meet all administrative requirements specified in the CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual. One of those requirements is to submit all requested and scheduled documentation to the Executive Office and Program Referee in a timely manner as stated in CoARC policy 4.03. Accordingly, the Program must electronically file an Annual Report of Current Status each year. The first of these Reports will be due on or before **July 1, 2017**. The Executive Office will be contacting the Program at the appropriate time to provide the specifics of setting up, completing, and submitting that Annual Report of Current Status.

Under this Provisional Accreditation, the students subsequently admitted to and graduated from the Program will be recognized by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) as being eligible to sit for the appropriate credentialing examination(s), if all other requirements for admission to the examination(s) are met by the graduate. Students who may have been admitted to this Program prior to the above date will not be recognized by the NBRC.

A subsequent step in the Initiation of Accreditation process will be to prepare the "Continuing Accreditation Self Study Report" (CSSR) and submit it, with appropriate fees, to CoARC within six (6) months following the deadline date of the Annual Report of Current Status showing three (3) reporting years of outcomes. The deadline date for the CSSR is dependent on the establishment of the expected graduation date of the Program's first cohort which will be determined for Bellarmine University with the submission of the next Annual Report of Current Status. The Program will be notified once the CSSR due date has been established. When your Referee deems that the CSSR is acceptable, the Executive Office will schedule an on-site visit, which must occur within six (6) months following Referee approval of the CSSR. Please keep in mind that Annual Reports of Current Status must be submitted every year as specified above.

The Program must also comply with proper disclosure policies (11.01 and 11.02) which state the following:

- 11.01 The CoARC requires institutions and programs to be accurate in reporting to the public the program's accreditation status.
- A. Publication of a program's accreditation status must include the full name, CoARC program number(s), mailing address, website address, and telephone number of the CoARC.
 - B. The CoARC requires a program to inform all current students and applicants in writing of the program's accreditation status including changes to its accreditation status.
 - C. If an institution is seeking CoARC accreditation for a program and has submitted a Letter of Intent Application, the institution must make the following disclosure:
 "[Name of sponsor] is currently in the process of seeking CoARC accreditation for the program. However, [Name of sponsor] can provide no assurance that accreditation will be granted by the CoARC."
 - D. If accreditation is withdrawn or discontinued, the sponsor must no longer refer to the program as being accredited.
 - E. Use of language other than what is designated by the CoARC requires prior written permission.
 - F. Any communication source that provides information to the public regarding the program accreditation status must include information that is accurate and reflects the current status. The failure of a program to disclose its CoARC accreditation status in an accurate and timely fashion is a violation of *Standards 5.01 and 5.02*.
- 11.02 If a program holds Provisional Accreditation with the CoARC, the program's sponsor, in at least one of its comprehensive publications customarily used to officially convey institutional information must use the following language when referring to that status:

"The *[name of program, CoARC program number(s), degree(s) awarded, and campus location]* holds Provisional Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com). This status signifies that a program that has been granted an Approval of Intent has demonstrated sufficient compliance to initiate a program in accordance with the *Standards* through the completion and submission of an acceptable Provisional Accreditation Self Study Report (PSSR), completion of an initial on-site visit, and other documentation required by the CoARC. The conferral of Provisional Accreditation denotes a new program that has made significant progress towards meeting the Standards of Accreditation. The program will remain on Provisional Accreditation until achieving Continuing Accreditation. It is recognized by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) toward eligibility to the Respiratory Care Credentialing Examination(s). Enrolled students completing the program under Provisional Accreditation are considered graduates of a CoARC accredited program."

Commission on Accreditation
for Respiratory Care
1248 Harwood Road
Bedford, Texas 76021-4244
(817) 283-2835

CoARC commends you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality respiratory care education, as demonstrated by your participation in programmatic accreditation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Smalling', with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC
Executive Director

cc: Mark Weigand, PhD, Dean
Christy Kane, PhD, RRT-NPS, Program Director
Ami Bishop, NBRC (Emailed)
Kathy J. Rye, EdD, RRT-ACCS, Referee (Emailed)