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June 16, 2023

Belen Kersten, MSN, RN, CNOR  
Director of Nursing  
College of the Sequoias  
915 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Ms. Kersten:

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that your application for candidacy has been granted for the associate nursing program at College of the Sequoias. Your candidate status is valid for two years, expiring in June 2025; therefore, the initial accreditation site visit must take place before June 16, 2025. Please note that approval of candidacy does not guarantee that the program will achieve initial accreditation. If this candidacy period leads to initial accreditation, the effective date of that initial accreditation will be the date of this letter: June 16, 2023.

Pre-accreditation is not within the scope of recognition the ACEN has with the United States Department of Education (USDE). Any program/institution granted candidacy may not use ACEN candidacy status to seek or gain Title IV eligibility or eligibility for any other federal funding.

The ACEN's goal is to promote quality nursing education and to support you and your faculty in the accreditation process. Two comprehensive and independent reviews of your program's Candidacy Presentation have been completed by professional staff.

The decision to grant candidacy status is based on the nursing program (a) demonstrating it is currently compliant with selected ACEN Standards and Criteria and (b) demonstrating the potential to achieve ACEN accreditation based upon the selected ACEN Standards and Criteria reviewed in the Candidacy Presentation. Please note that the program must demonstrate compliance with all ACEN Standards and Criteria at the time of the site visit. To assist in your continued development toward initial accreditation review, please see the attached staff comments.

The table on the following page provides the dates by which the Information Form for Accreditation Site Visit must be submitted. This form is available on the ACEN website under *Resources for Nursing Programs*. The final Cycle during which the associate nursing program may schedule a visit is the Spring 2025 Cycle.

Information Form Due Date	Site Visit Cycle
July 1, 2023	Spring 2024
January 2, 2024	Fall 2024
July 1, 2024	Spring 2025

In keeping with ACEN policy, your program will be added to our listing of candidates (website and directory). Programs that achieve candidacy must publicly disclose the following information exactly as illustrated below:

Effective June 16, 2023, this nursing program is a candidate for initial accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. This candidacy status expires on June 16, 2025.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)  
3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
(404) 975-5000  
<http://www.acenursing.com/candidates/candidacy.asp>

Note: Upon granting of initial accreditation by the ACEN Board of Commissioners, the effective date of initial accreditation is the date on which the nursing program was approved by the ACEN as a candidate program that concluded in the Board of Commissioners granting initial accreditation.

You are encouraged to keep working with your Candidacy mentor and affirm your planned date for review for initial accreditation. I can be reached at (404) 975-5004 or via email at [nard@acenursing.org](mailto:nard@acenursing.org). Additionally, please immediately contact me if the **annual** licensure/certification examination pass rate for this program is below 80% at any time between now and the site visit. Please note that the program must be in compliance with all Accreditation Standards for the ACEN Board of Commissioners to grant initial accreditation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Nell Ard, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF  
Interim CEO/ACEN Director