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## DELIVERED VIA EMAIL ONLY

April 23, 2021

Lucy Graham, PhD, MHP, RN  
Director of Nursing Education Programs  
Colorado Mesa University  
1100 North Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122

Dear Dr. Graham:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) at its meeting in March 2021. The Board of Commissioners granted initial accreditation to the associate nursing program and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall 2025. Based on ACEN Policy #34 Candidacy for a Governing Organization/Nursing Program Seeking Initial Accreditation, the effective date for initial accreditation of the associate nursing program is August 21, 2019. Please see ACEN Policy #9 Disclosure of Information About an Accredited Program for the required disclosure statement regarding this decision that must be made to all current and prospective students within seven business days of this letter.

Deliberations centered on the materials available to the Board from this accreditation review process and the recommendation for accreditation proposed by the peer evaluators on the site visit team and the Evaluation Review Panel.

The Board of Commissioners identified the following:

### **Areas of Strength**

#### **Standard 1 Mission and Administrative Capacity, Criterion 1.4**

- The partnership between the AAS program and Memorial Regional Hospital (MRH) provides opportunities for diverse students to realize their educational and professional goals, which they ordinarily would not have in a rural community. Students receive full scholarships for tuition, fees, textbooks, and laptops and are guaranteed a registered nurse position at MRH upon successful completion of the AAS program and the NCLEX.

### **Areas Needing Development**

#### **Standard 2 Faculty and Staff, Criteria 2.1 and 2.6**

- Ensure evidence demonstrates that the full-time nursing faculty meet the educational and experiential qualification requirements of the governing organization.
- Ensure full-time faculty performance reflects scholarship and evidence-based teaching practice.

**Areas Needing Development (continued)****Standard 5 Resources, Criterion 5.2**

- Ensure all students have sufficient access to the nursing skills laboratories to meet their learning needs.

**Standard 6 Outcomes, Criteria 6.1, 6.2, and 6.4**

- Ensure there are specific, measurable expected levels of achievement for each assessment method.
- Review and revise the licensure examination pass rate outcome statement(s) to be congruent with the ACEN Criterion by including an appropriate 12-month period.
- Review and revise the job placement outcome statement to be congruent with the ACEN definition of job placement by including an appropriate ELA in a role for which students were prepared.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement! We look forward to continued successes for your nursing program. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality nursing education. In addition to this official letter, your nursing program will receive an ACEN certificate authenticating the Board of Commissioners' decision. The processing of these certificates has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In closing, the ACEN commends the flexibility, courage, and resiliency demonstrated by nursing program faculty and leaders, and their institutional colleagues during the global pandemic. The ACEN would like to offer a note of thanks for maintaining high standards while providing outstanding support to the students and your communities. If you have questions about this action or about ACEN policies and procedures, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Marsal P. Stoll, EdD, MSN  
Chief Executive Officer