

**Department of Health Sciences**1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122  
970.248.1398 (o) • 970.248.1834 (f) • 1.800.982.6372

September 1, 2016

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
343 Peachtree Rd NE, Suite 850  
Atlanta, GA 30326

Dear AACN,

This letter is to formally notify the ACEN that the LPN – AAS nursing program at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) will be on hiatus for the year of 2017. The LPN –AAS program underwent a needs assessment to survey stakeholders, community members and students from 2013-2016 to identify the option and support of a LPN –BSN program.

Discussion through advisory board meetings, student information sessions and formal discussions with stakeholders occurred over the last three years. In fall of 2015, curriculum plans for the LPN- BSN program were taken through the CMU curriculum committee and passed.

The Board of Trustees at CMU approved the plans for the new LPN-BSN program in March of 2016. The program will facilitate the IOM mission to have eighty percent of RN's at the Baccalaureate level by 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the LPN-AAS program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Debra Bailey PhD, RN, FNP, CDE  
Director of Health Sciences; DNP Program Director  
Colorado Mesa University 1100 North Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81506  
dbailey@coloradomesa.edu; 970-248-1772

“Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.” William Pollard

September 1, 2016

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Atlanta, GA 30326

Dear AACN,

Below is the documentation from the ACEN Policy #14 for change in the LPN-AAS program at Colorado Mesa University.

**1. Name of the governing organization:** Colorado Mesa University

**Nursing Unit:** LPN-AAS

**2. Current Teaching Locations:** Grand Junction, Colorado and Montrose, Colorado Mesa University

**3. Current Nursing Program Enrollment:** 35 Students in Grand Junction and 20 students in Montrose. There are no plans to enroll students in the LPN-AAS for the year of 2017.

**4. Name, Credentials, and Contact Information Nurse Administrator:**

Debra K. Bailey RN, PhD, FNP, CDE

1100 North Ave.

Grand Junction, CO, 81501

dbailey@coloradomesa.edu

970-248-1772

**5. Date substantive change will become effective:** January 1, 2017

**6. Rational for Change:** We are not admitting students for fall of 2017 as we are starting an LPN-BSN program in Jan 2017. The LPN-AAS program is scheduled for a site visit fall of 2017. We will not have LPN-AAS students for this year as no students will be admitted. We will decide by summer of 2017 if we will have an opt out option or readmit students to the LPN-AAS program. At this time our plan is to inactivate the LPN-AAS program beginning fall 2018. The IOM intuitive for 20,000 new BSN graduates is not being met with the current career ladder system in our region. We have 90% of LPN graduates who continue into the LPN-AAS program. After receiving their Associate degree RN only 30% continue on to obtain their BSN. In order to encourage more LPN's to obtain their BSN we are changing the career ladder to be a direct route from LPN to BSN. This route will take a year which is the same amount of time as the AAS program. The students will be in class an extra day a week and all summer in order to complete the requirements in theory as well as clinical.

**7. Documentation of State Regulatory Agency for Nursing approval, acceptance or notification (if indicated):** See attachment for increase of numbers for PN and LPN- AAS program

**8. Copies of notification sent to students:** Students were notified on the health science department web site about the change from the LPN-AAS to LPN-BSN. The advisory council was also informed at the advisory meeting in March.

**9. Pass rates for the LPN-AAS Program three previous years: 2013- 88.89%, 2014-85%, 2015- 94%**

**Inactivating a nursing program:**

**a. Verification of plans for completion for students currently enrolled:** The 55 students enrolled will finish the LPN-AAS program December 2016. The next cohort of students will transition to the LPN – BSN program in January 2017. The LPN-AAS program will not accept students for January 2017.

b. Plans for the LPN-AAS program are to not admit students for 2017. We will look at the program in 2017 and will be deciding about inactivating this program during this term. Stakeholders, community advisory board, and students will be involved in the decision process.

c. Faculty from the LPN-AAS program, students, and advisory board were all involved in the decision making to not admit students for 2017. A poll was taken for 3 consecutive years that indicated the students would be very interested in an LPN-BSN program rather than the LPN-AAS program. The advisory council was informed of the plans to move from an LPN-BSN program. The advisory council gave input and support for this process. Faculty have been discussing moving away from the LPN-AAS program for several years. With support from the University, director of health sciences, students, and advisory council the decision was made. Program was approved the CMU curriculum and the Board of Trustees in spring of 2016.

d. & e. The process to inactivate the program has not been taken to the curriculum committee or to the board. Formal decision will be based on 9b. We will not be admitting students for 2017 cohort at this time.

Please note we are scheduled for a site visit fall of 2017 and will need to have this delayed while we make a decision on whether to reactivate the LPN-AAS or strictly have an LPN-BSN program only.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the LPN-AAS program.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Debra Bailey in cursive script.

Dr. Debra Bailey PhD, RN, FNP, CDE  
Director of Health Sciences; DNP Program Director  
Colorado Mesa University 1100 North Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81506

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“Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.” William Pollard

June 5, 2014

Dr. Roberta Hills, PhD, RN, Nurse Education Specialist  
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies  
Division of Professions and Occupations  
State Board of Nursing, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1350, Denver Co, 80202

Dear Dr. Hills,

Colorado Mesa University, Department of Health Sciences is requesting an increase in the number of students we enroll each semester in the Practical Nursing to Associate Registered Nurse Program (PN-AAS) we offer. The PN-AAS program is currently at 30 students per semester in Grand Junction and 20 students in Montrose. We were approved in 2010 for 30 students per semester in Grand Junction and 20 in Montrose. We are asking for the number to be at 70 per year to parallel our Practical Nursing Program if the State Board approves the increase of numbers for the PN program. The PN – AAS program in Grand Junction would like to move to 35 nursing students in the next academic year of 2015. We serve 17 counties in western Colorado and have had tremendous support from community area hospitals and care facilities to support the high quality clinical experience our students receive. We have students utilizing over one hundred clinical facility sites in western Colorado to achieve a high quality, well rounded clinical experience. There is discussion as we speak to absorb the Delta Vocational PN program in Delta. When appropriate details are worked out, we would use the same curriculum as CMU currently uses for the PN program and move the site to Montrose, Colorado. Currently the Delta Vocational PN program uses the sites in Delta and Montrose. The transition would allow for these same sites to be used and faculty teaching at the Delta program to join CMU. The numbers in Delta Montrose would be capped for the first year at 30. We see 90 % of our PN students advancing on through the career ladder through the PN – AAS program. It makes sense to be prepared and increase our numbers allowed by the state to accommodate these students.

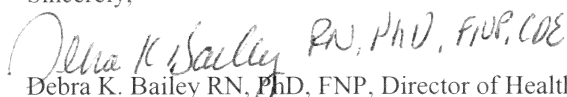
Subsequently in 2016 and with accreditation being completed by CMU in fall of 2014 (site visit for accreditation is Oct 22-24, 2014) we would expand the numbers to 70 between the Grand Junction and Montrose site. This will be a win-win outcome for the students as they currently are CMU students for pre-requisites, then drive to Delta for the PN program. They would have the option of taking all courses including the PN classes on the CMU Montrose campus. The PN- AAS program was accredited in 2013. We will write for the substantive change in increase of numbers pending your approval.

Attached are the clinical sites we have currently having affiliation agreements with and contracts to take students for the fall of 2014 and beyond. If you need letters of commitment from community agencies I would be happy to supply these letters. The affiliation agreements serve as the commitment to Colorado Mesa University and are on file in our office. The PN-AAS has an outstanding Program Director, Genell Stites. She successfully brought the PN – AAS program through accreditation in 2013.

We currently have five hospitals, a mental health hospital, and a major medical center that the majority of our student's complete medical surgical, mental health and gerontological care, obstetrics and pediatrics are being completed at St. Mary's hospital and community sites listed in the attached document listing our affiliation sites. Delta and Montrose both have hospitals with obstetrics and pediatrics in Montrose. The Montrose hospital board has been extremely supportive of this addition in their communities.

Thank you for your time and effort in this request.

Sincerely,



Debra K. Bailey RN, PhD, FNP, Director of Health Sciences  
DNP Program Director, FNP track; Colorado Mesa University  
Grand Junction Colorado; [dbailey@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:dbailey@coloradomesa.edu)  
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Division of Professions and Occupations  
State Board of Nursing, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1350, Denver Co, 80202

Dear Dr. Hills,

Colorado Mesa University, Department of Health Sciences is requesting an increase in the number of students we enroll each semester in the Practical Nursing Program we offer. The Practical Nursing program is currently at 30 students per semester. We were approved in 2008 for 20 students a year or 30 students per semester. We are asking for the number to be at 70 per year. The PN program in Grand Junction would like to move to 35 nursing students in the next academic year of 2015. We serve 17 counties in western Colorado and have had tremendous support from community area hospitals and care facilities to support the high quality clinical experience our students receive. We have students utilizing over one hundred clinical facility sites in western Colorado to achieve a high quality, well rounded clinical experience. There is discussion as we speak to absorb the Delta Vocational PN program in Delta. When appropriate details are worked out, we would use the same curriculum as CMU currently uses for the PN program and move the site to Montrose, Colorado. Currently the Delta Vocational PN program uses the sites in Delta and Montrose. The transition would allow for these same sites to be used and faculty teaching at the Delta program to join CMU. The numbers in Delta Montrose would be capped for the first year at 30.

Subsequently in 2016 and with accreditation being completed by CMU in fall of 2014 (site visit for accreditation is Oct 22-24, 2014) we would expand the numbers to 70 between the Grand Junction and Montrose site. This will be a win-win outcome for the students as they currently are CMU students for pre-requisites, then drive to Delta for the PN program. They would have the option of taking all courses including the PN classes on the CMU Montrose campus.

Attached are the clinical sites we have currently having affiliation agreements with and contracts to take students for the fall of 2014 and beyond. If you need letters of commitment from community agencies I would be happy to supply these letters. The affiliation agreements serve as the commitment to Colorado Mesa University and are on file in our office.

The Practical Nursing Program has an outstanding Program Director, Genell Stites. She successfully brought the PN – AAS program through accreditation in 2013. I have no doubt she will be successful with the PN program this fall of 2014. We currently can only accept 1/3 of our PN applicants but have the ability to offer clinical sites for more students. Please consider the request for the increase in the number of students we can have in our PN program.

We currently have five hospitals, a mental health hospital, and a major medical center that the majority of our student's complete medical surgical, mental health and gerontological care, obstetrics and pediatrics are being completed at St. Mary's hospital and community sites listed in the attached document listing our affiliation sites. Delta and Montrose both have hospitals with obstetrics and pediatrics in Montrose. The Montrose hospital board has been extremely supportive of this addition in their communities.

Thank you for your time and effort in this request.

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 *Debra K. Bailey* RN, PhD, FNP, COE

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