



NLN Commission for Nursing
Education Accreditation

February 22, 2022

Kathy Dolter, PhD, RN
Kirkwood Community College
Associate Degree in Nursing Program
6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Dear Dr. Dolter:

This letter provides formal notice of the action taken on the accreditation status of the Associate Degree in Nursing program at Kirkwood Community College during the recent National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) Board of Commissioners meeting, which took place on February 17-18, 2022. We are pleased to inform you that the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners voted that initial accreditation be **granted** for the following program:

Associate Degree in Nursing

The program was found to be compliant with all standards. However, quality improvement conditions were identified for the following Standard and Quality Indicators: Standard III, Quality Indicators III-A and III-D. The Board of Commissions requests a report be submitted addressing compliance of these Quality Indicators to Dr. Teresa Shellenbarger by **August 1, 2022**.

The report should include the following:

Quality Indicator III-A: List the number of full- and part-time faculty and provide faculty demographics such as age, race, gender, or other factors demonstrating diversity. Provide the faculty full-time equivalencies (FTEs). FTEs are defined by full-time load and includes all full-time and part-time faculty. Faculty FTEs are to be calculated using the institution's formula for determining FTEs. Provide that calculation formula in your report.

The documentation is to be submitted to the attention of the Executive Director of the NLN CNEA at cneaaccreditation@nlm.org. Failure to submit the requested documentation may affect the program's accreditation status with the NLN CNEA. If there are any questions about this request, contact Dr. Teresa Shellenbarger at tshellenbarger@nlm.org.

The program's initial accreditation status is effective for a maximum term of six years, beginning September 30, 2021 and terminating September 30, 2027.

The Board of Commissioners' decision was based upon a review of the program's self-study report, on-site program evaluation team report, the NLN CNEA Program Review Committee's report, and the determination that the program is in compliance with the NLN CNEA's Standards of Accreditation.

The program's on-site program evaluation review for continuing accreditation is scheduled for Spring 2027.

Programs accredited by NLN CNEA are required to complete an Annual Report due in January of each calendar year and submit a Mid-Cycle Report midway through the accreditation term to validate continued compliance with NLN CNEA accreditation standards. **The program's Mid-Cycle Report will be due January 30, 2025.**

As per NLN CNEA policy, the NLN CNEA reserves the right to review and potentially terminate the accreditation status of any program with due notice under the following conditions:

- 1) Accreditation status of the governing institution changes;
- 2) State regulatory status of the nursing program changes;
- 3) Lack of compliance with required NLN CNEA reporting mechanisms (i.e., Annual Report and Mid-Cycle Report);
- 4) Failure to pay annual accreditation fees; OR
- 5) Other substantive institutional or program changes occur affecting the stability of the nursing program and the ability to remain compliant with NLN CNEA Standards of Accreditation.

If changes occur within the program as outlined above, the NLN CNEA requires that programs notify NLN CNEA **within sixty days of the change in program status.** Failure to notify NLN CNEA of program changes of the nature listed above within the stipulated time frame may also lead to a review of and action on the program's accreditation status by the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners.

Programs may choose to publicly disclose their NLN CNEA accreditation status. A certificate of accreditation and an electronic accreditation logo will be forthcoming shortly for the program to display. For programs choosing to publicly disclose their accreditation status on printed or electronic materials, they must use the following public statement:

"The Kirkwood Community College Associate Degree in Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) located at 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20032, 202-909-2526."

Congratulations on achieving initial accreditation status with NLN CNEA and your commitment to providing quality nursing education! We look forward to the on-going success of your nursing program. If you have any questions about the accreditation process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Shellenbarger".

Teresa Shellenbarger, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEcl, ANEF
Executive Director, NLN CNEA

CC: Lori Sundberg, DBA, MBA, BA, President, Kirkwood Community College
Barbara Gellman-Danley, President, The Higher Learning Commission
Kathleen Weinberg, Executive Director, Iowa Board of Nursing
Joan Darden, PhD, RN, ANEF, Chair, NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners
Jewel Diller, DNP, MEd, RN, Co-chair, NLN CNEA Program Review
Committee
Stephanie Holaday, DrPH, MSN, BSN, CNE, Co-Chair, NLN CNEA Program
Review Committee
Staci Foster, PhD, RN, CNE, NLN CNEA Site Visit Team Leader
Allison Norwood, EdD, MSN, BSN, NLN CNEA Site Visit Team Member
Stacie Olson, DNP, MS, PMHNP-BC, NLN CNEA Site Visit Team Member