



## COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

### Public Disclosure Notice on Independence University (320276)

At its December 2021 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) voted to **Withdraw Accreditation** for the AS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program sponsored by Independence University. *The information provided below is in accord with the Commission's policy on release of information (see CoARC Policy 11.05D available at [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)).*

The decision to Withdraw Accreditation was determined after review of the Program's accreditation record during the December 2021 meeting and is effective as of December 10, 2021. The following Standard and Policies are not in compliance:

#### Standard Citation 1

##### **Standard 1 .01 – Institutional Accreditation**

Except as provided in the following paragraph, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and must award program graduates a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

Associate degree programs that were accredited prior to January 1, 2018, or that applied for accreditation prior to January 1, 2018 and have subsequently received accreditation, may continue to award program graduates an associate degree as long as they remain accredited by the CoARC. Sponsors of these programs must be post-secondary academic institutions accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the USDE and must award program graduates an associate degree.

#### Policy Citation 1

##### **Policy 1.073 –**

When a sponsor has received an Adverse Action, the CoARC Board will assess the action in the context of the CoARC Standards and these Policies at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The CoARC may:

1. determine that the matter is resolved, and no further action is required.
2. request that the sponsor provide additional information and/or documentation.
3. confer Probationary Accreditation; or
4. confer Withdrawal of Accreditation.

#### Policy Citation 2

##### **Policy 1.074 –**

The CoARC will not grant Approval of Intent, Provisional Accreditation, Inactive Accreditation, or Continuing Accreditation status to a program when the sponsor or an educational member of the sponsoring consortium has been:

1. Subject to an Adverse Action by an institutional accrediting agency.
2. Subject to an Adverse Action by a state agency.
3. Subject to an Adverse Action by the U.S. Department of Education.



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**Rationale for Citations: The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges' (ACCSC) February 2021 decision to withdraw institutional accreditation was affirmed under appeal as the final action. Consequently, the sponsor has had its institutional accreditation or legal authority to provide postsecondary education terminated.**

***Please Note:***

A program that has had its accreditation status withdrawn is no longer allowed to admit students. The CoARC requires a sponsor to complete a teach-out plan when the CoARC takes action to withhold or withdraw a program's accreditation (see Policy [1.13](#)). Accordingly, students enrolled in such programs who satisfactorily complete the program teach-out are considered graduates of a CoARC accredited program (See Section [1.06](#) for Reconsideration and Appeal Policy).

**CoARC Policy 1.064- Sponsor Responsibilities Following Notification of Final Accreditation Status**

If the CoARC's final action is to assign probationary status, Withhold of Provisional Accreditation, Withdrawal of Accreditation, or Withhold of Accreditation, the program must notify, in writing, all currently enrolled students, those accepted for enrollment, and those seeking enrollment, of its accreditation status. The program must provide copies of these notifications to the CoARC Executive Office no later than seven (7) calendar days after receiving notice of the final action by the CoARC. The program must also respond to all other requests regarding its accreditation status. The CoARC will notify the U.S. Department of Education, the appropriate state regulatory authority, and the appropriate institutional accrediting agency of the final decision at the same time as the sponsor. The public will be notified of a final adverse action via the CoARC's web site within twenty-four (24) hours of confirmation that the sponsor has received notification of the CoARC's final decision.

**CoARC Policy 1.068- Reaccreditation Following Withhold of Accreditation or Withdrawal of Accreditation (Voluntary or Involuntary)**

Institutions applying for reaccreditation must follow the procedures outlined in Section 2 of this document. The CoARC will not consider an application from an institution/program that has had accreditation withheld or withdrawn (voluntary or involuntary) until the following have been met:

1. All information requested in Policies [1.056](#), [1.057](#), [1.058](#) and [1.063](#) has been submitted to the CoARC Executive Office;
2. At least 12 months have elapsed since the effective date of Withhold or Withdraw (voluntary or involuntary) and all students listed in the teach-out plan have completed the program or transferred to another accredited program.

The CoARC will not consider an application for reaccreditation from a sponsor failing to execute an approved teach-out plan or agreement (see Policy [1.13](#)).

Questions concerning this notice or matter(s) concerning the program's accreditation should be directed to the Executive Office at (817) 283-2835 or electronically to the CoARC Chief Executive Officer (tom@coarc.com).

***No response was received from this program.***