



## COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

### Updated November 2024 Public Disclosure Notice on Mercyhurst University (200556)

At its November 2023 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) initially conferred **Probationary Accreditation** for the AS Degree Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice Program sponsored by Mercyhurst University. Probation is a public status and, therefore, the information provided below is in accord with the Commission's policy on release of information (see CoARC Policy 11.05D). **The Program has been granted an additional one (1) year probation period which will expire at the CoARC November 2025 meeting. Please keep in mind, Probationary Accreditation cannot exceed a period of two (2) years.**

The following Standard(s) is/are not in compliance:

#### Standard Citation 1

##### **Standard 3.07 – Program Goals, Outcomes, and Assessment – Reporting Program Outcomes**

**Regardless of the degree awarded, all programs must, at a minimum, meet the thresholds established by CoARC for all mandated outcome measures at all program locations, notwithstanding the instructional methodology used. Program outcomes must be submitted to the CoARC annually, on or before the mandated deadline, using the Report of Current Status (RCS) format.**

**Rationale for Citation:** Based on the 2024 Annual Report of Current Status, the Program did not meet the threshold for TMC High Cut Score Success (2021-2023 average results=33% [1/3], threshold=60%). *The Standardized Progress Report submitted in September 2022 and Progress Report Updates submitted in September 2023 and September 2024 addressing the TMC High Cut Score were acknowledged by the Commission.*

Please see page 2 for more information regarding Probationary Accreditation.



## COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

Updated Public Disclosure Notice  
Page 2

**Please Note:** Probationary Accreditation is a temporary status of accreditation (maximum duration of two (2) years) conferred when an accredited program is not in compliance with one or more Standards and/or Policies, and progress reports submitted do not demonstrate correction of these deficiencies. Probationary Accreditation can also be conferred when a sponsor receives an adverse action, as described in CoARC Policy 1.07. Following conferral of Probationary Accreditation, the program must file a Probation Report as directed by the CoARC Executive Office. If/when, to the satisfaction of CoARC, the program is able to rectify all the deficiencies that resulted in Probationary Accreditation, and thereby achieve compliance with the Standards, the CoARC will remove probationary status.

If the program remains out of compliance with the Standards at the end of the first year of the two-year probationary period, the CoARC may withdraw accreditation unless the CoARC determines that the program is making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the Standards. The CoARC defines a “good faith effort” as: 1) a completed comprehensive assessment of the non-compliant Standard(s) under review; 2) development of an appropriate plan for achieving Standards’ compliance within a reasonable time frame (not to exceed the two year probationary period); 3) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan; 4) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline; and, 5) evidence that the program is making progress toward achieving compliance as stated in the plan. It is the program’s responsibility to make the case that a good faith effort has been made. If compliance with all Standards is not demonstrated within the two (2) years following conferral of Probationary Accreditation, accreditation will be withheld or withdrawn. In no case will probation status exceed 2 years. Programs on Probationary Accreditation are prohibited from increasing cohort and enrollment numbers until Probationary Accreditation is removed.

A program on probation maintains the accreditation status existing prior to conferral of probation and is therefore required to adhere to all applicable policies, including the submission of the Annual Report of Current Status (RCS) on or before the due date. However, review and approval of the RCS per se does not affect the probationary status. Because probation is not a part of the accreditation cycle, the applicable accreditation cycle dates remain in effect. When related to probation, a decision to Withdraw Accreditation is subject to reconsideration but cannot be appealed (See Policy 1.06).

The CoARC requires a sponsor to complete a teach-out plan when a program is placed on probation, requests inactive status or when accreditation is withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily (see Policy 1.13). Enrolled students graduating from a program under Probationary Accreditation are considered graduates of a CoARC accredited program. **(Accreditation Policy 1.053)**

The next review for Mercyhurst University is scheduled for the November 2025 CoARC Board meeting.

This statement has been reviewed and approved by the institution.