



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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November 23, 2022

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

██████████
Director
Future-Tech Institute
3446 8th Street, Suite 213
Miami, Florida 33135

School #M070706
Continued Warning

Dear ██████████

At the November 2022 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered the Warning Order, Licensure Report, and Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form submitted by Future-Tech Institute (“FTI”) located in Miami, Florida. Upon review of the Commission’s June 24, 2022 Warning Order and the school’s October 13, 2022 response, as well as the Teach-Out Plan the Commission voted to **continue FTI on Warning, continue the school on Licensure Reporting, and approve the Teach-Out Plan**. The reasons for the Commission’s decision are set forth below.

History of the Commission’s Review:

Licensure Reporting Review History

- At the **August 2020 meeting**, the Commission considered the May 13, 2020 notification from the Florida Commission for Independent Education (“CIE”) regarding the status of FTI. The notification states that CIE ordered the Conditional Approval of FTI’s application for Annual Review of Licensure by Means of Accreditation. The notice specifically requests progress reporting containing an “update on the outcome of implementing the strategies to increase the NCLEX pass rates contained in the remediation plan,” for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program. The Commission voted to defer action and to direct FTI to submit additional information to demonstrate the school’s compliance.
- At the **February 2021 meeting**, the Commission considered its previous action to defer on the May 13, 2020 notification from CIE, and the school’s first-time test takers passage rates of 25% as of July 28, 2020, as reported in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing documentation submitted to the Commission. The Commission voted to place FTI on Licensure Reporting for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program.
- At the **May 2021 meeting**, the Commission considered the Licensure Report submitted by FTI demonstrating the first-time test takers passage rate of 11.11% as reported in CIE’s *Professional Nursing Student Disclosure*, updated as of November 2020 NCLEX Pass Rates. The Commission voted to continue FTI on Licensure Reporting for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program.
- At the **November 2021 meeting**, the Commission considered the Licensure Report submitted by FTI demonstrating the first-time test takers passage rate of 0% as reported in CIE’s *Professional Nursing Student Disclosure* updated as of July 2021 NCLEX Pass Rates, identifying the school’s probationary status with CIE and the Florida Board of Nursing (“FBON”). The Commission voted to continue FTI on Licensure Reporting and required the school to submit the ACCSC Programmatic Teach-Out Plan Approval Form for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program. Additionally, the Commission noted that given the continued and significantly low licensure rates and lack of improvement, the Commission was concerned with the program’s ability to prepare students for the NCLEX exam and the school’s ability to analyze and address factors impacting the licensure rates. The Commission informed the

school that it reserves the right to take further institutional action if these concerns are not resolved and improvement is not readily evidenced in the school's next submission.

May 2022 Meeting Review and Action

At the May 2022 meeting, the Commission reviewed FTI's Licensure Report response for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program. *Section VII (D)(5)(a)(iii), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* states that "(t)he Commission will review and take appropriate action as allowed under these *Rules* regarding the accreditation status of any school for which the Commission has received information from an appropriate state agency that the school is subject to an action potentially leading to the suspension, denial, withdrawal/revocation, or termination of the school's eligibility to participate in any state student financial aid program." Specifically, FTI remains on Probation with FBON for failure to obtain the minimum pass rates on the NCLEX, as required. Accordingly, the Commission expressed concern as to whether FTI may lose its license to operate in the state of Florida from either CIE or FBON, or both, if the school does not dramatically improve its NCLEX pass rates.

Furthermore, for those programs where a governmental entity requires the attainment of a passing score on a licensure exam in order to work in a particular field, the Commission determines a program's licensure exam pass rate to be acceptable when at least 70% of the students that take the exam attain a passing score (*Section VII (B)(1)(b)(iii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). In response to the November 17, 2021 Commission letter, the Commission considered previously reported licensure exam rates, the school's student achievement improvement plan, an assessment of factors impacting the implemented strategies, and additional enhancements or modifications to the implemented strategies to improve the licensure exam pass rates. Overall, the Commission found that the school has yet to demonstrate that FTI meets either the Commission's or FBON's licensure pass rate requirements.

NCLEX Pass Rates:

The Commission's minimum pass rate, however, does not supersede any state or programmatic accreditor requirements in this area and FTI must demonstrate that the school meets Florida Board of Nursing requirements.

In addition to the NCLEX rates outlined above in the history of the Commission's review, as reported on CIE's *Professional Nursing Student Disclosure*, FTI's 2021 NCLEX quarterly rates are as follows:

- 1st Quarter = 0.00%
- 2nd Quarter = 25.00%
- 3rd Quarter = 28.57%
- 4th Quarter = 14.29%
- Cumulative Score = 21.05%

The above listed rates are as reported from the Florida Department of Health.¹

In response to the Commission's continued requests for the school's student achievement plan to improve the NCLEX pass rate for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program, the school has submitted three Remediation Plans for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program originally submitted in response to CIE's

¹ <https://mqa-internet.doh.state.fl.us/MQASearchServices/NursingPrograms/Details/356?proCde=1704>

Conditional Approval of the school's application for Annual Review of Licensure by Means of Accreditation. In response to the Commission's November 21, 2021 letter, FTI provided a narrative assessment of the factors the school believes are contributing to the significantly low pass rates. The Commission found, however, that the school did not submit a revised remediation plan that reflects the issues that the school identified in its narrative assessment. The remediation plan for 2021-2022, as submitted in the school's April 8, 2022 response, includes the same action plan items as noted in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 remediation plans, with the exception of an additional quarterly review of the NCLEX rates. The strategies provided by the school include:

- Addressing unsatisfactory progress of students as early as identifiable;
- Implementing and encouraging tutoring/study hall hours;
- Revised course syllabi;
- HESI Exit Exam;
- Offering non-credit NCLEX review course;
- Pre-admission exam; and
- Quarterly NCLEX rate review.

Moreover, the school noted the following in its April 8, 2022 response:

...other changes have been determined to not have been favorable to the plan, [and] in turn, [to] the program or students. After careful evaluation, the School Administration, Program Director, and faculty team have determined the original plan attempted to address the need to strengthen and improve the program...It was further agreed upon that the best course of action will be to go back to the original plan and carry it out to fully evaluate its effectiveness as this was not done in 2021 and the objectivity of the plan was lost (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 11).

The school further explained that the changes to the remediation plan "did not allow for the ability to fully be able to assess all of the original planned actions to take/implement." The Commission noted that FTI's response neither addresses why the revised plan was unsuccessful in implementing the changes nor explains why reverting to the original plan will be more successful going forward. The 2021-2022 remediation plan contains the same information and action items without any updated timeline to indicate that the plan has been evaluated as a result of the school's most recent assessment of factors for the continued low pass rates. Despite the school's plan to revert to the original remediation plan, there is no indication that the school's assessment to address the specific needs of the student population served is reflected in the most recent school response, and the school failed to provide a rationale as to why this original plan would be more successful than the previous versions of the remediation plan.

FTI did provide an assessment of the factors it believes are impacting the NCLEX pass rates and a description of why the school believes these factors negatively impacted the rates. The 2021-2022 remediation plan states the primary factor impacting the school's NCLEX rate "is the graduates' fear of the test and the failure to test in a timely manner" (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 163 of Exhibit 1). The graduate's fear of taking the test, specifically in regard to English as a second language, was originally noted as a factor impacting the rates in the school's October 26, 2021 response to the Commission and the school stated that it was scheduling a language seminar to assist students (October 26, 2021 FTI Response,

p. 7). In the school's April 8, 2022 response to the Commission, FTI again noted that the graduates' fear of taking the test is a factor impacting the pass rates. FTI provided the following description in this regard:

Unfortunately, trying to help these students presents the school with a serious problem of assisting them to practice the language for fluency throughout the program... it seems the nerves of testing and their insecurity in the language might get the most of them in the setting of the NCLEX. We are trying to find the best way to address this situation to best help this large group of what makes up most of South Florida... (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 12).

The Commission acknowledged that the school has identified this factor and what the school believes to be the impact on the exam rates; however, the school did not provide enhancements or modifications in its response to specifically address the graduates' fear and hesitation of taking the exam. In addition, the school did not provide an update regarding the language seminar that was previously mentioned in the October 26, 2021 school response and no additional discussion of potential solutions to address the specific needs of the student population which the school purports to serve and continues to recruit and admit.

The school has continued to identify whether students take the test in a timely manner as a primary factor contributing to low pass rates from the first Remediation Plan (2019-2020) going forward. The proposed strategies to assist students in taking the exam in a timely manner include the creation of an Alumni group to reach out to graduates who have tested or have yet to test as well as implementing Alumni group meetings to discuss testing strategies and holding open forums for graduates to ask questions. Additionally, the school implemented an action item of an NCLEX review course specifically targeting graduates from the 2018 and 2019 program cohorts. Yet, the school notes "[t]he data show that many of the graduates from the first two years of the Program still have not tested and will not come to the Alumni meetings to receive the remediation and support that they need. Unfortunately, the outcomes from those first two years are impeding the program for the later years" (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 165 of Exhibit 1). The school noted it will continue to reach out to these students and invite them to the Alumni group meetings. The school's efforts in this area notwithstanding, FTI has yet to provide the Commission with a clear plan of updated strategies to overcome the identified difficulties. Instead, the school proposes returning to the original remediation plan which offers a majority of the same action items as the more recent revised remediation plans with no evidence of having a positive impact on licensure examination pass rates.

Additionally, the school identified access to clinical sites have been severely affected due to COVID-19, limiting the number of students able to complete the clinical component, leading to decreased enrollment in the program as an additional factor impacting the pass rates. FTI also noted its "small reach" to potential students. In particular the school identified its student population as one "looking for a school that can offer smaller class ratios for more interaction with, assistance from, and one [on] one interaction with the students, as well as a less intimidating complete process, campus, access to administration and staff, etc., due to the lack of experience with such processes in their country of origin or their lack of confidence in English as a Second Language" (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 13). The school's response, however, falls short of explaining or showing with evidence how the school can adequately serve this population and the exceedingly low NCLEX pass rates support a pattern that the school cannot adequately serve its students.

The Commission acknowledged that the school assigned a new Interim ADN Program Director as of February 7, 2022 in addition to transitioning the 3-day Hurst NCLEX Review program to an internal review program led by a faculty member. FTI believes this will allow the school to offer further assistance that is more targeted to the demographic and particular needs. The school stated, "the program director, and the Academic Team are aware of the current state of the program and have started to take serious and critical views at all aspects of how the remediation plan has been followed, changed, and/or executed since the

original implementation and how any of the changes have truly served the program” (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 15). The Commission remains concerned regarding the school’s length of time on Licensure Reporting and the school’s continual low pass rates as well as what the Commission determined to be a failure to develop an effective plan that identifies and reflects the needs of the student population and demonstrates success and an improvement trend. This concern is bolstered by the school’s admission that only recently has it begun to take a serious and critical view of the issue at hand while low examination pass rates have been persistent for some time.

Additionally, the Commission noted that the school appears to provide a statement referencing a promise of employment in its catalog. In the catalog section “ADN Program Outcomes” the school stated, “Fifty percent of graduates will be employed within 12 months of graduation” (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 285 of Exhibit 1). Given the low NCLEX examination pass rates, the Commission questioned the veracity and accuracy of this statement. Accrediting standards clearly state that a school may not make an “implied” claim or guarantee of employment and that all claims must be truthful and accurate and avoid leaving any false, misleading, misrepresenting, or exaggerated impressions with respect to the school and its training (*Section IV (B)(1&2) Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*).

Moreover, the school also appears to have provided conflicting information regarding whether the school offers programs via distance education. In the school’s documentation submitted in response to an update of the progress in receiving accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (“ACEN”), the school stated that the Professional Nursing (ADN) program is offered via distance education (April 8, 2022 FTI Response, p. 7 of Exhibit 7 of ACEN Candidacy Eligibility Application Exhibit). The Commission noted, however, that the school is not currently approved by ACCSC to offer this program via distance education. The Commission further noted that FTI requested to withdraw the school’s Application for Initial Distance Education Approval on April 26, 2021 for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program, thus the application was withdrawn and not processed.

Finally, the school’s response states that a *Readiness Admission Assessment* is administered prior to the start of the core nursing courses and after the completion of the general education courses. The school explained that if a student fails the first attempt of the readiness assessment, the student will be allowed to take the assessment a second time. If the student fails a second time, the school will create a remediation plan, but it is not clear if the students will then have to retake the *Readiness Admission Assessment* a third time or continue to the core nursing courses, or another course of action. The Commission questioned the school’s sequence of admitting students into the program having yet completed an admission’s assessment for the nursing program.

Given the school’s history of reporting significantly low pass rates for the NCLEX exam, combined with the school’s failure to demonstrate effective planning enhancements, modifications, and improvements in this regard, the Commission has heightened concerns about the school’s ability to prepare students for the NCLEX exam and the school’s ability to analyze and address the factors impacting the licensure rate. The Commission found that the school did not offer a sufficient plan or evidence of the efficacy of its efforts to date to give the Commission confidence that the school could address to achieve ongoing and sustained compliance with state and accreditation requirements. The school was also unable to demonstrate a level of improvement that would increase the program’s rates of licensure/certification pass rate to an acceptable rate of 70% – or higher as required by the state of Florida – of students that take the exam attain a passing score, as required.

November 2022 Meeting Review and Action

Subsequent to the Commission's June 24, 2022 Warning Order, FTI submitted a Teach-Out Plan which indicates that the school intends to close at the end of December 2022. The Commission reviewed the teach-out plan which includes a transfer agreement with New Professions Technical Institute (NPTI), accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.

At the November 2022 meeting, the Commission also reviewed FTI's Warning Order response and Licensure Report for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program. *Section VII (D)(5)(a)(iii), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* states that:

(t)he Commission will review and take appropriate action as allowed under these Rules regarding the accreditation status of any school for which the Commission has received information from an appropriate state agency that the school is subject to an action potentially leading to the suspension, denial, withdrawal/revocation, or termination of the school's eligibility to participate in any state student financial aid program.

Furthermore, for those programs where a governmental entity requires the attainment of a passing score on a licensure exam in order to work in a particular field, the Commission determines a program's licensure exam pass rate to be acceptable when at least 70% of the students that take the exam attain a passing score (*Section VII (B)(1)(b)(iii), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*). The Commission noted that FTI remains on Probation with FBON for failure to obtain the minimum exam passage rates on the NCLEX, as required. Due to the failure to improve the passage rates and satisfying the requirements for removal from Probation, the school is now operating on a provisional license through March 2023 (October 12, 2022 FTI response, p. 6).

In response to the Commission's June 24, 2022 Warning Order, FTI provided a quarterly update of the school's most recent NCLEX pass rate; the school's percentage pass rate for the first two quarters of 2022 is 30.77%. The Commission found that this rate continues to fall significantly below the acceptable passage rate for the NCLEX exam in the state of Florida. The Commission also noted "the school submitted its institutional Teach-Out/Closure plan to all governing agencies. Based on the school planning on ceasing operations as of December 31, 2022, the administration has determined it is no longer necessary to pursue [sic] ACEN Accreditation" (October 13, 2022 FTI response, p. 7).

Based on the foregoing and the school's continued low licensure pass rates the Commission voted to continue FTI on Warning through the completion of the institution's teach out and cessation of operations on December 31, 2022. The Commission also determined that the teach-out plan meets ACCSC's requirements. However, in approving this teach-out plan ACCSC expects that the school will adhere to the *Standards of Accreditation*, meet all deadlines, and pay all fees due through the entire period of the teach-out and until the final closure date. The Commission's records will be updated to reflect that the school closed on December 31, 2022. If the school does not complete the teach-out as approved by ACCSC, the Commission may take action to withdraw the school's accreditation.

In accordance with *Section VII (Q)(3), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the school must delete all references to and claims of ACCSC accreditation from catalogs, advertising, and promotional materials no later than 30 days after the effective date of the closure. The school will remain accredited through the date of closure, for the sole purposes of completing the education of currently enrolled students scheduled to graduate by December 31, 2022 and may not enroll any new students.

Cease Enrollment

Pursuant to *Section VII (R), Rules of Process and Procedure and Section VII (B)(2)(c), Substantive Standards of the Standards of Accreditation*, due to the school's history of Licensure Reporting and lack of demonstrated improvement in the licensure pass rates for the NCLEX exam for the Professional Nursing (ADN) program, the Commission did not lift the programmatic action to require the school to cease enrollment in the Professional Nursing (ADN) program. The cease enrollment directive remains in effect through the completion of the teach out of students and closure of the school.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission directs FTI to submit the following:

- a. An update on the status of all teach-out students listed in the teach-out plan and
- b. An update regarding the school's compliance with close out procedures required by CIE and the U.S. Department of Education, where applicable.

Warning Restrictions

Pursuant to *Section VII (K)(9), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the Commission will not consider substantive changes, a change of location/relocation, or additions (i.e., separate facilities, new programs) to a school or its separate facilities while the school is under a Warning.

Notification to Students

The Commission requires the school to inform current and prospective students in writing that the school has been placed on Warning and to provide a summary of the reasons for the Warning Order (*Section VII (K)(8) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

Response Requirements

By applying for accreditation, a school accepts the obligation to demonstrate continuous compliance with the *Standards of Accreditation*. While the Commission employs its own methods to determine a school's compliance with accrediting standards, the burden rests with the school to establish that it is meeting the standards. The Commission's deliberations and decisions are made on the basis of the written record and thus a school must supply the Commission with complete documentation of the school's compliance with accrediting standards.

Future-Tech Institute must provide a response to the items expressed above that provides the information requested along with any additional information that the school believes supports a demonstration of compliance with accrediting standards.² If the school's response contains documentation that includes personal or confidential student or staff information that is not required for the Commission's review (e.g., social security numbers, dates of birth, etc.), please remove or redact that information.

Future-Tech Institute must upload the school's electronic response directly to ACCSC's College 360 Database. The ACCSC College 360 database can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Please note that the password utilized by the institution to access the Annual Report Portal is the same to access the School

² ACCSC has issued two modules of the **Blueprints for Success Series** – [Organizing an Effective Electronic Submission](#) and [Preparing a Comprehensive Response for Commission Consideration](#) – which provide a framework for submitting a well-documented, organized, electronic response for Commission consideration. ACCSC encourages the school to review these modules when formulating its response to this letter. More information is available in the [Resources section](#) at www.accsc.org.

Submission section of the College 360 database. The Instructions for Electronic Submission can be found [here](#). A detailed overview on how to upload a school submission can be found [here](#).

Keep in mind, the school’s response must be prepared in accordance with ACCSC’s Instructions for Electronic Submission (e.g., prepared as one Portable Document Format (“PDF”) file that has been prepared using Adobe Acrobat software (version 8.0 or higher) and which has a .pdf extension as part of the file name). The school will receive an e-mail confirmation that the file has been received within 24 hours of the submission.

The school’s response must also include a signed certification attesting to the accuracy of the information and be received in the Commission’s office **on or before December 22, 2022**. If a response, the required fee,³ and the certificate of attesting to the accuracy of the information is not received in the Commission’s office **on or before December 22, 2022**, the Commission will consider further appropriate action.

For assistance with the password or for any other questions regarding the electronic submission requirements, please contact [REDACTED]. Please note that any password requests to access College 360 must be made by the school director, or designated member of the school’s management team, via e-mail.

For further assistance or additional information, please contact [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Alanna Marx M.A., M.B.A.
Director of Institutional Review and Development

c: Florida Commission for Independent Education

[REDACTED]
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Florida Board of Nursing

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Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training

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U.S Department of Education

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³ ACCSC assesses a \$500 processing fee to a school placed on Warning.