



7777 Leesburg Pike Suite 314 N. · Falls Church, Virginia 22043
Tel. 703-917-9503 · Fax 703-917-4109 · E-Mail info@abhес.org

MEMORANDUM

To: ABHES-Accredited Institutions and Programs
Recognized Accrediting Agencies
State Departments of Education
Dr. Nancy Regan, U.S. Department of Education
Interested Parties

From: Carol Moneymaker, Executive Director
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

Date: July 2, 2009

Subject: Important Notice – *Accreditation Manual*, 16th Edition

On behalf of the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), I am pleased to announce that the *Accreditation Manual*, 16th edition, has been finalized, effective **January 1, 2010**, and is attached and posted at www.abhes.org. Those institutions or programs undergoing site visits during the first cycle of 2010, and completing the Self-Evaluation Report due this year, will be evaluated based upon the current standards they followed for completion of the Self Evaluation Report. However, it is the expectation of ABHES that over the next six months all currently accredited institutions and programs will work diligently toward full compliance with these new standards by January 1, 2010.

As described in the Important Notice dated January 9, 2009, the substantive revisions to the accreditation standards include the following:

- The separation of administrative and educational standards into a new Chapter IV (administrative and applicable only to institutionally-accredited members or those seeking institutional accreditation) and a new Chapter V (educational standards applicable to each educational program, whether institutionally- or programmatically-accredited or seeking accreditation). Degree standards now fall under Chapter VI.
- Updated programmatic standards (medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, and surgical technology), now under one chapter (Chapter VII).
- Updated program-specific standards, currently diagnostic medical sonography only, with additional standards coming soon. The program-specific standards also fall under one chapter (Chapter VIII).

Accreditation Manual, 16th Edition
Page 2
July 2, 2009

In developing the revised accreditation standards, ABHES' Standards Review Committee and the Commission considered carefully the comments to all proposals. The Commission is confident that this new *Accreditation Manual* is a culmination of best practices for accreditation of health education institutions and programs. The revisions focus more on each individual program's outcomes; a focus crucial to the future success of the student.

Complimentary orientation sessions will continue to be provided by ABHES throughout the country through 2010 to assist institutions and programs as they amend internal practices to comply with the new standards. The next session is being held in **Atlanta, Georgia, on July 29, 2009**. The workshop registration form is attached and posted at www.abhes.org. Currently accredited institutions and programs and those seeking initial accreditation are urged to take advantage of these sessions.

Finally, ABHES wishes to thank Elsevier Health Sciences for its comprehensive and timely editing of the *Accreditation Manual*.

Attachments (*Accreditation Manual*, 16th Edition; Workshop Registration Form)