



ABHES BULLETIN

To: ABHES-Accredited Institutions and Programs

From: India Y. Tips, Executive Director

Date: December 4, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 – Expiration of Temporary Distance Education Approval

As the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to affect our institutions and their operations, institutions should continue to execute their emergency preparedness protocols and continuity education/operation plans. Institutions must continue to maintain documentation of any temporary waivers of regulations received from federal, state or other regulatory bodies governing the operation of the institution and/or its program(s).

ABHES has advised institutions granted temporary distance education approval that should they wish to continue using such distance education methods beyond December 31, 2020, they must seek ABHES formal approval through submission of the appropriate distance education application¹. There has been no change to that requirement.

Please note that when submitting a distance education application, institutions must also provide evidence that the institution's continued offering of new or expanded distance education does not conflict with any state law or regulation. Therefore, evidence of required state approval, exemption or regulatory waiver, or temporary approval from any regulatory oversight body required to operate specific programs (e.g., nursing) within the state is a required exhibit of a distance education application. **Applications must be submitted by December 31, 2020.** As long as the application is received by December 31, 2020, temporary approval to offer distance education will remain in place until the application has been approved.

As an accommodation to institutions seeking formal approval of initial distance education, the *Application for Initial Distance Education* is being modified to allow for multiple programs for one flat fee. Similarly, the fee for the *Application for Modification of Distance Education Delivery* has also been amended for those seeking approval of an expansion of distance education for multiple programs. **Updated versions of the two applications will be available by 12:00 p.m., ET, on Monday, December 7, 2020.** Visit the ABHES website to download the updated applications at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Applications>. Applications must be submitted in accordance with ABHES Submission Requirements at https://abhes.org/news_item/new-submission-requirements/.

Should you have any questions about the content of this notice, feel free to contact Crystal Calarusse, Associate Executive Director of Program Development & Innovation at ccalarusse@abhes.org or (703) 917- 9503.

¹ See [ABHES Bulletin](#) dated April 6, 2020.