



ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS | ABHES

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Transmitted by electronic mail only: [REDACTED]

August 6, 2025

ID#: I-257

[REDACTED]  
President

Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies  
345 S. Texas Boulevard  
Weslaco, TX 78596

Dear [REDACTED]

The Commission, at its July 2025 meeting, reviewed the record<sup>1</sup> of the institution's application for a renewed grant of institutional accreditation. Based on review and discussion, the Commission deferred action on the application for a continued grant of accreditation and directed the institution to **show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn**. The current grant of accreditation has been extended through **February 28, 2026**.

The Commission issues this show cause directive because the institution did not demonstrate compliance with the standards outlined below. This constitutes notice to the institution that, absent corrective action and information by and from the institution that demonstrates compliance with the standards, its accreditation may be withdrawn. The institution is being provided with the opportunity to respond to the following findings of non-compliance based on the standards set forth in the *Accreditation Manual*.

#### **Procedural History**

The institution underwent a team visit in February 2024 as part of its application for a renewed grant of institutional accreditation for consideration at the Commission's July 2024 meeting. Several areas of concern were identified that required the institution's response to the visit reports.

The institution's fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, required submission of audited financial statements to ABHES by June 30, 2024. The institution did not submit that financial audit for consideration

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<sup>1</sup> The accreditation record includes the Application for Accreditation, December 2023 Self-Evaluation Report, February 2024 visit reports, the institution's April 2024 response to the visit reports, the Commission's August 7, 2024 and February 12, 2025 deferral letters and the institution's responses, the institution's financial history, and other relevant correspondence and documentation.

at the Commission's July 2024 meeting. Further, the Commission noted the institution's U.S. Department of Education Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2) status.

At its July 2024 meeting, the Commission determined that the missing FY 2023 audit constituted non-compliance with standards III.A.10.b. and IV.B.1. In a letter dated August 7, 2024, the Commission deferred the institution's application and directed it to address four standards: two resulting from the February 2024 visit and two related to the missing FY 2023 audit and the institution's HCM2 status.

By January 2025, the institution submitted its FY 2023 audited financial statements but remained on HCM2 status. At its January 2025 meeting, the Commission resolved the two standards stemming from the visit reports; however, in a letter dated February 12, 2025, the Commission again deferred action and requested an update on the institution's financial capability based on the HCM2 status.

At its July 2025 meeting, the Commission noted that, per a letter dated March 14, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education changed the institution's heightened cash monitoring status from HCM2 to HCM1. However, the institution again did not submit its audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. This constitutes non-compliance with standards III.A.10.b. and IV.B.1.

#### **Reasons for the Show Cause**

1. Institutions accredited by ABHES must submit externally audited financial and other statements to the Commission within six months after the completion of their fiscal year or 30 days after an audit is released, whichever is earlier (III.A.10.b.); and, an institution demonstrates that it has the financial resources to ensure continuity of operation and to fulfill its obligations to students and employees (IV.B.1.).

The institution did not submit its audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, which were due by June 30, 2025. ABHES sent the institution a reminder email on July 1, 2025. In a letter dated July 3, 2025, the institution was informed that the audit had not been received and was assessed the Audit Financial Statement Late Fee. The institution paid the late fee but did not submit the audited financial statements. Paying the late fee does not absolve the institution of its obligation to submit the audited financial statements.

The institution, therefore, is directed to submit additional information and documentation to demonstrate compliance with the standard, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, which demonstrate the institution has revenues and assets available to meet the institution's responsibilities, including continuity of service and the accomplishment of overall educational objectives. The financial statements must evidence one or more of the following: a ratio of current assets to current liabilities that is at least 1:1 for the most recent operating year, a history of operating surpluses for the most recent two years, and a positive net worth for the most recent operating year.

- An explanation for why the institution did not submit the required fiscal year-end (FYE) audit by the deadline for a second consecutive year and an update on the implementation of the institution's administrative plan, which it submitted previously to ABHES. The update must include: 1) a description of the effectiveness of the plan, and an analysis of its successes and failures; and 2) a description of any changes or new initiatives the institution is taking to ensure subsequent audits and other requested financial reports are submitted in a timely manner.

Additionally, based on information provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the institution is on Heightened Cash Monitoring 1 (HCM1) status. Accordingly, the Commission requires an update on the institution's HCM1 status, including copies of all correspondence between the institution and the United States Department of Education between May 1, 2025, and October 15, 2025.

### **Maximum Timeframe for Compliance**

The maximum period of time the Commission may allow for an institution to demonstrate compliance with accreditation requirements is stated in III.C.1.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*. The Commission first identified the findings of non-compliance set forth above in its letter dated August 7, 2024. The Commission may withdraw accreditation at any time if it determines that an institution or program is not complying with its policies or standards. Alternatively, the Commission may, in its discretion, provide the institution with an opportunity to demonstrate compliance within a maximum timeframe, which would require a final response due November 1, 2025, for review at the Commission's January 2026 meeting.

The Commission will review the institution's response to this letter and assess its progress toward attaining compliance with the standards at its January 2026 meeting. At that time, the Commission may find that the institution does not comply with ABHES accreditation standards or policies and may withdraw the institution's accreditation or, for good cause, extend the period for demonstrating compliance.

The institution may request a good cause extension by submitting a completed *Request for Good Cause Extension* form available for download at <https://abhes.org/resources/#Forms>, with its response due on November 1, 2025. If approved, the Commission will limit the timeframe to no longer than 12 months from the institution's original maximum timeframe. This would require a final response in time for consideration at the Commission's January 2027 meeting.

### **Submission Procedures and Requirements**

The institution is directed to submit the following:

#### **1. Teach-Out**

By **August 20, 2025**, the institution must submit online via [REDACTED] its updated Teach-Out Plan and the corresponding form available for download from the ABHES website at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Forms> for all active programs.

## 2. Student disclosure

By **August 20, 2025**, the institution must submit online via [REDACTED] evidence that it has published a new student disclosure notice **within seven business days of the date of this letter**, informing enrolled and prospective students of the Show Cause action as the reason the updated Teach-Out Plan or Agreement is required.<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Additional information regarding the standard-related directives

By **November 1, 2025**, the institution must submit, online via [REDACTED], its response to the standard-related directives identified within this letter. The file must be named "*I-257\_RSP to Aug 2025 SC Letter\_112025*."

**The response must be submitted according to the format and content instructions outlined in the [Preparing Your Response](#) Guide. Failure to adhere to the instructions or the due date will result in a late-fee assessment in accordance with Appendix G of the *Accreditation Manual*.**

### Appearance

If, as part of its response to this directive, the institution wishes to appear before a panel of the Commission via teleconference, its request to appear must be submitted to ABHES online via [REDACTED] by **August 18, 2025**. The file must be named "*I-257\_Request to Appear\_82025*." A teleconference appearance fee of [REDACTED] will be assessed in accordance with Appendix G, Fees, of the *Accreditation Manual* upon receipt of the institution's request to appear. **The required fee must be remitted within five business days.** Failure to remit the timely payment of the appearance fee may hinder or delay the scheduling of the appearance.

### Disclosures

ABHES will not consider, review, or process substantive changes (as defined in III.B.2.b. of the *Accreditation Manual*) while the institution is under a show cause directive, unless the institution demonstrates that the substantive change is likely to resolve the show cause directive. An institution's request for acceptance of the application must include justification for the change and its effect on the institution's operation.

The U.S. Department of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, the appropriate accrediting agency, and the public have been notified of this action as required under 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 602.26 *et seq* and set forth in Chapter III of the *Accreditation Manual*.

The Commission conducts its evaluation of institutions and programs in an objective and confidential manner. To ensure objectivity, impartiality, and integrity in the accreditation process, Commissioners do not participate in considerations of institutions or programs that present or appear to present a conflict of interest. The list of ABHES Commissioners is posted at <https://www.abhes.org/board-of-commissioners/>.

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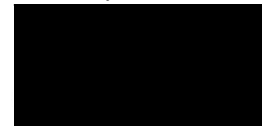
<sup>2</sup> This disclosure is also required under 34 Code of Federal Regulations § 668.43(a) (19) which states: "If the institution is required to maintain a teach-out plan by its accrediting agency, notice that the institution is required to maintain such teach-out plan and the reason that the accrediting agency required such plan under § 602.24(c)(1). . ."

August 6, 2025

Each Commissioner serves a defined term, which expires June 30, and is held responsible to a strict Code of Ethics. An institution may object to a current Commissioner considering an impending accreditation matter on the basis of a possible conflict of interest, indicating the reason(s) for the objection per the examples listed in I.A.4 of the *Accreditation Manual*. An objection must be submitted in writing to the ABHES Executive Director within five business days prior to a scheduled Commission meeting via email at [info@abhes.org](mailto:info@abhes.org).

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact the staff liaison, De’Vante Allen, at [dallen@abhes.org](mailto:dallen@abhes.org) or (571) 282-0077.

Sincerely,



India Y. Tips  
Executive Director

c:      DAPIP, U.S. Department of Education  
         Blair Mosley, Texas Workforce Commission  
         Kristin Benton, Texas Board of Nursing