

September 17, 2019

RE: Proposed Midwifery Program at Georgia College

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to notify you of Georgia College School of Nursing's request for a programmatic pre-accreditation review and site visit from the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) in the of fall 2019. This review is to support our proposal to begin a Midwifery Program. Georgia College School of Nursing received permission early January of 2019 from the University System of Georgia to pursue a Midwifery Program with an anticipated start date of May 2020. The proposed addition of a midwifery program has the full support of the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and the administrative team of the university. The stakeholders in rural Georgia approached the School of Nursing with a request to begin a midwifery program in order to address the shortage of providers in this area.

Georgia College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees. Georgia College holds the distinction of being Georgia's only designated public liberal arts university. Midwifery would be an added concentration to our already extremely successfully Master of Science in Nursing program which offers the following concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Educator. The School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The school currently has many preceptors and clinical sites in the community supporting our other programs. We are presently exploring other opportunities to expand these sites to midwifery.

Located in Milledgeville, Georgia College is in close proximity to a number of rural and medically underserved counties. In Georgia, there are 79 counties without an OB/GYN provider. At times, a single provider is covering up to eight counties or over 2,500 square miles. In 2014 it was reported that 7.8% of live births in Georgia were to women receiving late or no prenatal care. This was up from 7.4% in 2013, and 6.9% in 2012. America's health rankings indicate that of the 50 states, Georgia ranks 44th in women's health, and 48th in infant health. This gap in quality care is partially due to a national shortage of providers of primary reproductive, gynecologic, and obstetric health care for women. Due to a decline in the number of graduates from OB/GYN medical residency programs, a 25% shortage of women's health care providers is predicted by the year 2030. Georgia College is well positioned to help address this critical shortage in our state.

This letter is to provide you an opportunity to comment directly to ACME regarding Georgia College's proposal to begin a nurse midwifery program.

*Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)
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Attention Heather Maurer, Executive Director ACME*

Sincerely,



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