9355 - 113th St. N, # 7709
Seminole, FL 33775-7709
Phone: 727-210-2350
www.caahep.org

January 22, 2024

Carter File, PhD
President
Hutchinson Community College
1300 North Plum Street
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Dear Dr. File:

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is pleased to inform you of its **January 18, 2024** decision to award **continuing accreditation** to the Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic program at Hutchinson Community College, Newton, KS. CAAHEP accreditation is awarded due to the program's demonstrated compliance with the Standards. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program, including a site visit, is scheduled to occur no later than **2029**.

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) conducts comprehensive and annual reviews of the program's compliance with the Standards and submits recommendations regarding accreditation status to CAAHEP. CoAEMSP monitors the program's outcomes through the program's annual report and supporting documentation (Standard IV.B.). Profession-specific CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines can be found on the website, www.caahep.org.

CAAHEP publishes the accreditation award letters and accreditation actions summaries on its website. Award letters are accessible within the individual program listings in the "Find an Accredited Program" section of the CAAHEP website. CAAHEP categorizes programs according to the profession-specific Standards and Guidelines used to evaluate the program.

The accreditation standards are established by CAAHEP, CoAEMSP, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Ambulance Association, American College of Cardiology, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians, National Association of Emergency Medical Services Educators, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, and National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

The commission recognizes your organization's commitment to continuous quality improvement in health professions education, as demonstrated by your participation in CAAHEP programmatic accreditation.

Sincerely,



Donald Balasa, JD, MBA
President

cc: Tricia Paramore, PhD, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Clifford Moore, MBA, EMT-P, Program Director
Lori Burns, MSN, RN, Chair, CoAEMSP
George W. Hatch Jr., EdD, LP, EMT-P, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

Commission on Accreditation

of Allied Health Education Programs

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), verifies that the following program

Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic

Hutchinson Community College

Newton, KS

is judged to be in compliance with the nationally established standards and awarded Continuing accreditation on January 18, 2024.



Donald Balasa JD, MBA
President, CAAHEP



Lori Burns, MSN, RN
Chair, CoAEMSP

The Final Step in the CAAHEP Accreditation Process

Congratulations! Now that your program has earned CAAHEP accreditation, there is just one more item to be done to complete the accreditation process. Within a week, the **program director** will receive an email with a link to an electronic Accreditation Process Assessment Survey. Response to this brief survey will complete the accreditation process and give CAAHEP valuable feedback about your program's experience.

In this packet you will find:

- This congratulatory notice, which includes information on CAAHEP
- A Certificate of Recognition
- Policy 302 Public Use of CAAHEP Accreditation Status by Programs and Institutions

If you are missing any of the above items, if an error was made, or if you have any questions, please contact us at 727-210-2350 ext. 104 or via email at Katie@caahep.org.

Some important notes:

- The CAAHEP website receives numerous visits every day from potential students looking for accredited programs. Please check the accuracy of your program's data by reviewing the list of Accredited Programs. If an error is found, please email the correction to updates@caahep.org**.** Also, keep this information handy if your web address, phone number, dean, program director, or other key contact information changes. Please help CAAHEP keep its website accurate by keeping your program's information up to date.

- In accordance with CAAHEP's recognizing body, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), CAAHEP provides public accessibility to information about the accreditation process, the results of the accreditation reviews, and student achievement. An individual who is reviewing an accredited program's record on the CAAHEP website will find the Program Director's name and contact information as well as the address of the program, its current accreditation status, the degree(s) and concentrations or tracks offered, the most recent CAAHEP award letter, and the URL to the program's outcomes on the program's website. If any of this information changes, please provide the correct information to updates@caahep.org.

- In order to comply with the need for public disclosure, CAAHEP publishes a summary of accreditation actions taken at each of its meetings. The summary includes actions identified by profession, status awarded, date of the next evaluation, and whether a progress report (to improve program compliance with Standards) is required. Summaries can be found on the CAAHEP website.

- In promoting your CAAHEP accreditation, if your institution would like to establish a link to our website, you have permission to do so. Please use the URL http://www.caahep.org.

  Publication of a program's accreditation status must include specific language, including the full name of CAAHEP and a link to the CAAHEP website, and may include CAAHEP's mailing address and telephone number. Please refer to Policy 302 Public Use of CAAHEP Accreditation Status by Programs and Institutions which is attached, and can also be found in the CAAHEP Policies and Procedures Manual.

- In addition, your program and institution are welcome to use the CAAHEP logo in marketing materials. The logo can be downloaded from the CAAHEP website.

  The logo must be used in accordance with CAAHEP **Policy 303 Use of CAAHEP Logo by Programs and Sponsoring Institutions.** This policy requires that any use of the logo and any reference to CAAHEP **must** be accurate. Remember, CAAHEP accreditation is programmatic, so there should be no reference that implies other programs or the institution itself is "CAAHEP-accredited."

Be sure you have CAAHEP's current address:

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- If your program experiences any type of substantive change as defined in the CAAHEP Standards under Section **V.E. Fair Practices-Substantive Change** or **Appendix A, A.3. Program and Sponsor Responsibilities-Administrative Requirements for Maintaining Accreditation** these changes must be shared with the appropriate Committee on Accreditation and CAAHEP immediately. Failure to do so may result in a withdrawal of accreditation.

(Please refer to the appropriate set of Standards and Guidelines, found on the CAAHEP website.)

Background Information on CAAHEP

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) was incorporated as a non-profit organization on July 1, 1994. Prior to the formation of CAAHEP, the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) performed its allied health accrediting functions. CAHEA was both sponsored by and housed within the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA continued to be CAAHEP's primary sponsor through a three-year transition period, ending on December 31, 1996. Currently, the AMA is one of CAAHEP's approximately 70 sponsoring organizations.

CAAHEP accredits educational programs that prepare health professionals in a variety of disciplinary areas. Accreditation is one step in a process that is meant to protect the public and ensure a supply of qualified health care professionals. Programs are accredited when it is determined that they meet the educational Standards and Guidelines established by the profession.

The 31 CAAHEP professions are:

- Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography
- Anesthesia Technology
- Anesthesiologist Assistant
- Art Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Cardiovascular Technology
- Clinical Research
- Cytotechnology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic
- Exercise Physiology
- Exercise Science
- Inclusive Rehabilitation Sciences
- Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring
- Kinesiotherapy
- Lactation Consultant
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Illustration
- Neurodiagnostic Technology
- Orthoptics
- Orthotist and Prosthetist Assistant
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician
- Perfusion
- Personal Fitness Training
- Polysomnographic Technology
- Recreational Therapy
- Respiratory Care
- Specialist in Blood Bank Technology/Transfusion Medicine
- Surgical Assisting
- Surgical Technology

CAAHEP is the accrediting body. However, 25 committees on accreditation (each representing one or more of the CAAHEP accredited professions) do the day-to-day work of accreditation. These committees are composed of professionals from the individual disciplines. Each committee on accreditation is responsible for reviewing self-studies, performing on-site reviews, and making recommendations to the CAAHEP Board of Directors for final action.

For more information about CAAHEP or the Committees on Accreditation with whom CAAHEP works, visit our website at www.caahep.org or call 727-210-2350.

302 Public Use of CAAHEP Accreditation Status by Programs and Institutions

CAAHEP requires institutions and programs to be accurate in reporting to the public the program's accreditation status.

Publication of a program's accreditation status must include the full name of CAAHEP and a link to the CAAHEP website, and may include CAAHEP's mailing address and telephone number.

CAAHEP requires a program to inform all current students and applicants in writing of the program's accreditation status in cases of Probation or Withdrawal (Voluntary and Involuntary).

A. Except for paragraphs 2 and 3 below, if a program has not yet been accredited by CAAHEP and has not yet been scheduled for an initial site visit by the appropriate Committee on Accreditation, no mention of CAAHEP accreditation may be made.

1. Once a site visit has been scheduled by the appropriate Committee on Accreditation, a program may publish the following statement:

   "The *[name of program]* at *[institution]* has a site visit scheduled for pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org). This step in the process is neither a status of accreditation nor a guarantee that accreditation will be granted."

   There should be no claims of timelines or when accreditation will be achieved.

2. If a program has been issued a Letter of Review by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) they may publish that fact with the following statement:

   "The EMT-Paramedic program at *[institution]* has been issued a Letter of Review by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). This letter is NOT an accreditation status; it is a status signifying that a program seeking initial accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation Standards through the Letter of Review Self-Study Report (LSSR) and other documentation. Letter of Review is recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for eligibility to take the NREMT's Paramedic credentialing examination(s). However, it is NOT a guarantee of eventual accreditation."

3. If a program has been issued a Letter of Review or Candidacy status by another Committee on Accreditation, it may publish that fact with the following statement:

   "The [name of profession] program at *[institution]* has been issued a Letter of Review/Candidacy status by the [name of CoA]. This is NOT an accreditation status; it is a status signifying that a program seeking initial accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation Standards to warrant that status. However, it is NOT a guarantee of eventual accreditation."

B. If a program has CAAHEP accreditation, the sponsor must use the following language when referring to that accreditation:

1. In at least one of its comprehensive publications customarily used to officially convey institutional information, it must state:

   "The *[name of program]* is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of *[name of Committee on Accreditation].*

   Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
   www.caahep.org

   The program may also include the address and phone number:
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2. Provided the requirements of paragraph B.1 have been met, when the sponsor additionally publishes the accreditation status of the program, it must state:

"The *[name of program]* is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of *[name of Committee on Accreditation]*.

3. Provided the requirements of paragraph B.1 have been met, the sponsor may choose, but is not required, to include the program accreditation statement in small publications such as newspaper ads, flyers, pamphlets, etc.

C. If a program has been placed on Probationary Accreditation by CAAHEP, it must inform all students and applicants in writing, and must disclose this status whenever reference is made to its accreditation status, by including the statement:

   "The *[Name of program]* is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of *[name of Committee on Accreditation]***.** The program has been placed on Probationary Accreditation as of *[date of Probation action]*."

Since Probationary Accreditation is a temporary status, publications that are published less frequently than once a year (e.g., catalogues) are not required to carry the above wording. However, whenever such publications are distributed to the program's current students or potential applicants, they must include an insert containing the above language. Any promotional pieces, print advertisements or areas on the program's website that make reference to an accreditation status must include the above language about Probationary Accreditation.

D. All CAAHEP accredited programs must maintain, and make available to the public, current and consistent summary information about student/graduate achievement that includes the results of one or more of the outcomes assessments required in these Standards. Each CoA has adopted a policy about which outcome(s) they require their programs to publish. The program should keep CAAHEP informed of the appropriate URL where the public can find the outcomes(s).