

May 3, 2016

Dr. Norval L. Wellsfry, Vice President
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204
Novato, California 94949

CORRECTED LETTER

Dear Dr. Wellsfry:

After attending the ACCJC's Informational Webinar on the Baccalaureate Degree, SJVC is providing the following information as a supplement to its addendum to the Substantive Change Proposal to Offer a Baccalaureate Degree Completion program in Respiratory Therapy.

1. Faculty Qualifications

SJVC has established appropriate faculty qualifications for teaching assignments in the baccalaureate degree program, including possession of a master's degree (or higher), discipline expertise, and teaching experience.

As explained in SJVC's addendum, individuals have been identified for teaching assignments in the baccalaureate program. Each of instructor's qualifications (education and experience) was aligned to the learning outcomes established for their assigned courses.

Exhibit 6 in SJVC's Addendum provides resumes for each of these individuals.

Provided below is the rationale for the establishment of the faculty qualifications for the baccalaureate degree program.

- **Upper-Division Core Courses:** Discipline expertise for the program's core courses is established by possession of the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.¹ The RRT credential demonstrates that the holder possesses the requisite knowledge required to deliver instruction in respiratory therapy at the baccalaureate degree level.

¹ Please refer to SJVC's Addendum for more information on the RRT credential.

As indicated above, a master's degree is required in order to teach in the baccalaureate degree program. SJVC is not requiring a specific major for the master's degree requirement as graduate degrees held by respiratory care practitioners are in a variety of different majors such as public health, education, health science, and management.

The diversity of graduate degree education for respiratory care practitioners is seen in the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care's (CoARC) 2015 Annual Report on Respiratory Care Accreditation. The report provides a breakdown of the degree levels and types held by the Program Directors and Directors of Clinical Education of their accredited institutions. The master's degree in respiratory care is not included in the many different types of masters degrees represented in these lists.

The exclusion of respiratory care in the above-referenced lists is most likely due to the fact that a very small pool of individuals hold a master's degree in respiratory therapy. Currently, there are only four Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredited institutions in the United States that provide respiratory care education at the master's degree level.² These four institutions represent only 1% of the CoARC accredited programs in the United States. These four institutions produced a combined total of 45 graduates in 2014.³

The RRT credential, along with the depth, breadth and rigor of education gained through a master's degree level education, and the program's experiential requirements (5 years of professional and 2 years of instructional experience) provides the necessary foundational knowledge to instruct baccalaureate degree respiratory care courses.

These qualifications are consistent with the faculty qualifications in place at other regionally accredited institutions that offer a baccalaureate degree in respiratory therapy. For example, see the respiratory care instructor job posting for Skyline College's baccalaureate degree program <https://jobs.smccd.edu/postings/1722>.

- **Upper Division General Education Courses:** Following are the faculty identified for the upper-division general education courses:

² CoARC 2015 Report on Accreditation in Respiratory Care Education, Programs by Degree Offered (page 15) <http://www.coarc.com/>

³ Ibid (See Report RC Graduates by Degree Offered, page 59)

Course	Instructor
ENG 321	Anastasia Kenrick
HUM 325	Anastasia Kenrick
HST 301	Patrick O'Brien

Each of these individuals has the necessary educational and experiential requirements SJVC has established for these courses, including appropriate discipline expertise. Copies of their resumes are provided in Exhibit 6 of the addendum.

2. Minimum Upper-Division Unit Requirements

SJVC is prepared to meet the 45 upper division unit requirement of ACCJC's proposed Policy on Baccalaureate Degrees. SJVC has added 12 units to the program to meet this requirement, as described below:

- **PSY 302: Group Dynamics:** This course, which was one of the initial general education (GE) courses considered for the program, has been added.

Exhibit 1: PSY 302: Group Dynamics Course Outline (4.0 units)

- **RCP 440, RCP 470, and ENG 321:** These courses have been enhanced to increase the depth, breadth, and rigor of the program's research components.

Exhibit 2: RCP 440: Research and Evidence-Based Practice in Healthcare Course Outline (5.0 units)

Exhibit 3: RCP 470: Research Proposal Course Outline (4.0 units)

Exhibit 4: ENG 321: Writing for Research Course Outline (4.0 units)

- **RCP 480: Research Project (4.0 units):** This course was added to provide opportunity to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills learned in the program on improving patient outcomes.

Exhibit 5: RCP 480: Research Project Course Outline (4.0 units)

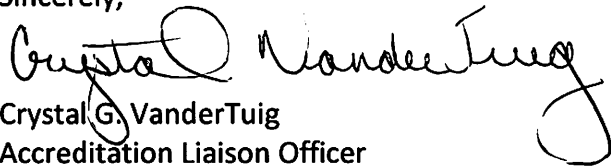
With the addition of the new GE and core courses and the enhancement of existing core courses, SJVC now meets the 45 degree upper-division unit requirement. The program's tuition has been adjusted from \$12,250 to \$15,750 to include the additional 12 units.

N. Wellsfry
May 3, 2016
Page Four

SJVC appreciates the information provided by the Commission in the webinar and anticipates working with the Commission to better serve SJVC's respiratory care graduates through the baccalaureate degree completion program.

If you have any questions or require anything further, please contact me at (559) 734-9000, ext. 21802. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal G. VanderTuig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

Crystal G. VanderTuig
Accreditation Liaison Officer

Encls. (5)