



NLN Commission for Nursing  
Education Accreditation

VIA EMAIL

MAILED June 23, 2026  
June 23, 2026

Theresa Vigil, MSN, RN  
Practical Nursing Program Director  
Pima Medical Institute - Albuquerque  
4400 Cutler Ave, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear Theresa Vigil:

This letter serves to acknowledge that the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) Board of Commissioners reviewed the Focused Site Visit Report and supporting documentation submitted for the Practical/Vocational Nursing Program with Pre-licensure Track at Pima Medical Institute - Albuquerque during the **June 9-11, 2026** meeting.

Your Report regarding Quality Indicators I-D, III-A, III-D, and IV-A has been accepted and the following quality improvement concerns have been removed. The Quality Indicators state:

**Standard I, Quality Indicator I-D.** The program achieves expected program outcomes related to graduates' performance on licensure and certification examinations.

**Standard III, Quality Indicator III-A.** The program's faculty are qualified, diverse, and adequate in number to meet program goals.

**Standard III, Quality Indicator III-D.** Faculty demonstrate individual and collective achievement of the program's expected faculty outcomes.

**Standard IV, Quality Indicator IV-A.** The institution and program provide student services that are student centered; culturally responsive; inclusive, and readily accessible to all students, including those enrolled in distance education; and guide students through the processes associated with admission, recruitment, retention, progression, graduation, and career planning. Student services are evaluated for effectiveness and ability to satisfactorily meet diverse student needs through a process of continuous quality improvement.

However, the Board noted ongoing concerns with Quality Indicators I-A and I-E. This letter will serve as formal notification of actions taken by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) at the **June 9-11, 2026** Board of Commissioners' meeting. After Board review of the Mid-cycle Report, Mid-cycle Follow-up Report, and Focused Site Visit Report, the Board of Commissioners identified substantial and ongoing noncompliance concerns with the following Standards and Quality Indicators: **I-A, I-E**. The Standards and Quality Indicators state:

**Standard I, Quality Indicator I-A.** "Faculty and staff assess and evaluate achievement of identified program outcomes by engaging in an ongoing, systematic, evidence-based process" (2021, p. 9).

Regarding Standard I, Quality Indicator I-A, the Board noted the systematic evaluation plan (SEP) does not meet all NLN CNEA requirements. For example, the SEP is missing

data.

**Standard I, Quality Indicator I-E.** “The program achieves expected program outcomes related to graduate employment rates in the area of nursing program preparation” (2021, p. 12).

Regarding Standard I, Quality Indicator I-E, the Board noted inconsistencies with benchmarks and data reporting.

**Accordingly, the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners has changed the accreditation status for the Pima Medical Institute, Albuquerque, NM Practical/Vocational Nursing Program to Probationary Status for a period of 18 months effective immediately (June 11, 2026 to December 31, 2027).**

The Board may act to grant a good cause extension if the Program has demonstrated substantial progress in addressing the identified deficiencies and requires only a limited period of time to finish resolving the deficiency. The Board will consider a good cause extension if the Program has provided documented evidence of substantial progress toward resolution of the deficiency, definitive plans to achieve resolution within a specified timeline subject to approval by the Board, and the Program demonstrates that student outcomes are not compromised.

If the Program is not able to resolve the identified deficiencies and demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards within the allotted time frame, the Board must act to withdraw accreditation from the Program.

**The Program has an on-site program evaluation visit scheduled for February 2027 and the Probationary Status will be re-evaluated with the June 2027 Board decision regarding continuing accreditation.**

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations and in accordance with Section 6-I. A of the NLN CNEA Policy Handbook, the NLN CNEA will make this decision public via the NLN CNEA website and through the dissemination of this notice to relevant stakeholders, including the U.S. Department of Education, Secretary of Education, state regulatory agencies of the Program (the state board of nursing), and the institutional accreditation agency (Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools).

According to Section 3-VII of the NLN CNEA Accreditation Handbook: Policies and Procedures, the Program is required to develop and submit to NLN CNEA a teach-out plan that provides for the equitable treatment of students if the Program ceases to operate before all enrolled students have completed their Program of study. Submit this plan by **July 23, 2026**, via the accreditation electronic portal at <https://cneaaccreditation.nln.org/>.

In addition, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education requirements, the NLN CNEA requires the Program to inform all currently enrolled and prospective students the decision to place the Program on probationary status within seven (7) business days of receipt of this letter. **We ask that you provide the specific notification sent to current and prospective students as well as how the information was sent to us via email at [cneaaccreditation@nln.org](mailto:cneaaccreditation@nln.org) no later than July 2, 2026 that such notice has been timely made.** The Program must also accurately reflect their accreditation status (Probation) on their website and other publications. Please update the accreditation status on your Program's website or other publications by **July 2, 2026** and notify us via email at [cneaaccreditation@nln.org](mailto:cneaaccreditation@nln.org) once done.

Finally, the Program may provide comments regarding this decision and submit them via email to [cneaaccreditation@nlh.org](mailto:cneaaccreditation@nlh.org). These comments will be placed on the NLN CNEA website. The Program does not have to comment.

Failure to submit the requested documentation may affect the Program's accreditation status with the NLN CNEA. If there are any questions about this request, please contact Dr. Teresa Shellenbarger at [tshellenbarger@nlh.org](mailto:tshellenbarger@nlh.org).

We thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality nursing education. Please contact me if you have any questions or if the NLN CNEA can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Shellenbarger".

Teresa Shellenbarger, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEcl, ANEF, FAAN  
Executive Director, NLN CNEA

CC:           Andy Andress, MBA, CEO, Pima Medical Institute - Albuquerque  
              Stacey Fort, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, Director of Education and Practice,  
              New Mexico State Board of Nursing  
              India Tips, Executive Director, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools  
              Elizabeth Daggett, Director Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education  
              Brooke McAtee, Ph.D., MSN, RN, Chair, Board of Commissioners, NLN CNEA