



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## Memo

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President  
Date: September 19, 2023  
Re: Health Sciences Programs – Accreditation Updates

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Northwest Florida State College's Medical Laboratory Technology and Nursing (RN to BSN) programs have exciting news about program-specific national accreditation. Accreditation processes provide valuable external feedback to support continuous improvement of programs, and recognition of accreditation awards serve as a confirmation of program excellence. The College is pleased to share the following updates regarding achievement of accreditation milestones during the past month.

The Medical Laboratory Technology program is seeking initial accreditation through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). The program hosted site visitors in April 2023 and recently received notification of its recommendation for 5-year accreditation (the highest possible for an initial accreditation cycle). The College anticipates the recommendation being approved and final at the September NAACLS Board of Commissioners meeting.

The RN to BSN program has been accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) since 2008 and is in place through June 2024. Because approximately 75% of the RN to BSN students are graduates of the NWFSC Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN-RN) program, the decision was made to change to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the organization that accredits the ASN-RN program. This allows nursing faculty to develop a seamless progression for students from one program to the next by focusing on the next level of the same foundational student learning outcomes, making the RN to BSN program a natural extension of the ASN-RN program. Additionally, this change will ultimately save money for the College because future site visits by ACEN will occur simultaneously for the two programs. The RN to BSN program hosted ACEN site visitors in late August, and the exit briefing confirmed that the visitors found the program to be in compliance with all standards. The recommendation for 5-year accreditation (the highest possible for an initial accreditation cycle) will be reviewed by the Accreditation Review Panel and finalized by the Board of Commissioners in April 2024. The College anticipates that this recommendation will be upheld, and upon an affirmative vote, the next site visit for reaffirmation of accreditation for both nursing programs will take place in 2028.