



February 6, 2017

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

This letter comes to provide notification of the College of Coastal Georgia's intention to offer a new baccalaureate degree program – Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences – **beginning Fall Semester 2017**. The College anticipates receiving approval at the May 2017 meeting of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents to offer this new baccalaureate degree program. A copy of the Chancellor's letter of approval will be sent to you immediately thereafter.

With the current baccalaureate degrees in Nursing and Health Informatics and career associate degrees in Nursing and Radiologic Science at capacity, the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences would provide a viable baccalaureate pathway and many career opportunities for students interested in health care.

According to the US Department of Labor, career opportunities in healthcare and social assistance – including private hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and individual and family services – will grow by 32.4 percent and add 4.4 million new jobs. Employment growth will be driven by increasing demand for health care and social assistance because of an aging population and longer life expectancies.

The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences would provide preparation for most of the prerequisites for careers or graduate work in exercise science, entry-level nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, physician assistance, physical therapy, physical therapy assistance, and radiologic science. This degree would build off of our current degree options while creating a viable pathway for the large number of students that cannot be accommodated in our current health sciences-related degree programs.

In summation, the new baccalaureate program will meet the academic goals of our students and the documented needs of our region, as well as our local and regional business and industry employers. The faculty resources and the instructional facilities will be in place to ensure the program's success.

Thank you, your staff and the Commission for your leadership and mentorship. We look forward to your direction on next steps.

Sincerely,

Gregory F. Aloia, Ph.D.
President

cc: Dr. Nuria Cuevas, SACSCOC Institutional Liaison
Dr. Tracy Pellett, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
✓Dr. Jim Lynch, Accreditation Liaison