COMMISSION ON
COLLEGIATE NURSING
EDUCATION

655 K STREET NW
SUITE 750
WASHINGTON DC 20001

202-887-6791

CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

October 30, 2026

Courtney B. Ross, DHA, MS, MSN, RN, CNL, NE-BC
Dean
School of Nursing
Georgia Southwestern State University
800 GSW State University Drive
Americus, GA 31709

Dear Dr. Ross:

On behalf of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), I am pleased to advise you that the CCNE Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on September 29-October 2, 2026, to grant accreditation to the **post-graduate APRN certificate program** at Georgia Southwestern State University for 10 years, extending to December 31, 2036. The accreditation action is effective as of March 9, 2026, which is the first day of the program's recent CCNE on-site evaluation. You should plan for the next on-site evaluation to take place in the spring of 2036.

The program was considered by the Board using the CCNE *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (*Standards*) (2024). However, please note that CCNE revised its *Standards* in 2026, and the 2026 *Standards* go into effect on January 1, 2027.

At its meeting, the Board determined that the program substantially complied with all four accreditation standards. The Board additionally determined that there are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements.

As is required for all accredited programs, a continuous improvement progress report (CIPR) must be submitted at the midpoint of the accreditation term. Please note that the CIPR needs to demonstrate the program's substantial compliance with the CCNE standards and key elements that are in effect at the time of its submission. The deadline for submitting the CIPR to CCNE is December 1, 2031. For more information about CIPRs and the report review process, please refer to the CCNE procedures.

As you know, the team report and the program's response to the team report are available to the institution in the CCNE Online Community. We hope that the results of the self-study process and the team report will be useful to the continued growth and development of the nursing program. The certificate of accreditation will be mailed to you in the coming weeks.

In accordance with CCNE policy, if a program or institution elects to make a public disclosure of a program's accreditation status with CCNE, the program or institution must disclose that status accurately. The program or institution disclosing the information must identify the nursing program and its affiliation with CCNE. Please refer to CCNE's disclosure policy and the statements CCNE has approved for use, as well as information on use of the CCNE accreditation seal, at http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/Seal-Policy/Baccalaureate-Graduate. Please ensure that the institution's website and other materials are updated to reflect this language, as appropriate.

As noted above, CCNE's *Standards for Accreditation for Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (2026) go into effect on January 1, 2027. All programs are expected to substantially comply with the CCNE standards and procedures that are in effect

throughout the period of accreditation. These documents are available at https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/Accreditation-Resources/Standards-Procedures-Guidelines. Information on advising CCNE in the event of a substantive change affecting the nursing program is available at https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/What-We-Do/Bacc-Graduate-Change-Notifications. Substantive change notifications must be received by CCNE no earlier than 90 days prior to implementation or occurrence of the change, but no later than 90 days after implementation or occurrence of the change. These reporting requirements are described further in the CCNE procedures.

Thank you for your participation in the CCNE accreditation process. The Commissioners join me in expressing our very best wishes as you continue to promote excellence in nursing education.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Escallier

Lori Escallier, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN
Chair, CCNE Board of Commissioners

cc: President Kerry Palmer
CCNE Board of Commissioners
CCNE Accreditation Review Committee
CCNE Evaluation Team