



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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February 16, 2016

Mr. William Diello  
203 Coulter Pine Lane  
Columbia, South Carolina 29229

Dear Mr. Diello:

We received your letter, forwarded by the Governor's office, regarding your daughter, Amy Diello. Due to FERPA laws, we are unable to speak specifically about the student's academic progression except with the student directly, or with his/her express permission. However, we can provide the following general information that pertains to all such considerations. The Commission ensures that institutions maintain minimal admissions standards. Still, each institution sets its own standards, and the Commission cannot intercede to overturn an admissions decision. To do so may impose a risk on a postsecondary institution's accreditation status because of undue influence from an external agency.

Matriculation as a transfer student into highly competitive programs such as nursing, where the number of applicants regularly exceeds the number of spaces available, is very difficult. As a result, often institutions give priority to their own currently enrolled students seeking formal admission to the nursing program.

Options to continue studies include the following:

- Appealing the decision and re-applying for admission for the next semester.
- Seeking formal admission to the bachelor's program offered where she has already completed undergraduate studies for nursing.
- Pursuing an Associate of Science degree in nursing at one of the technical colleges, such as Midlands Technical College in Columbia. Once a student completes the associate degree in nursing program and is licensed as a registered nurse, he/she could then enroll in a BSN program. Many institutions now offer BSN completion programs online (i.e., for those students who are licensed registered nurses already). Both the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina offer accelerated online options that can be completed in approximately a year.

Should you or your daughter have additional questions, please contact me directly at [jlane@che.sc.gov](mailto:jlane@che.sc.gov) or 803-737-0141.

Sincerely,

John Lane, DMA  
Director, Academic Affairs

Cc: Mr. Hal Peters, Office of the Governor