

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

IN THE MATTER OF NA5686  
ISSUED TO: SANDSTONE UNIVERSITY-  
TUCSON

SANDSTONE UNIVERSITY-TUCSON  
2900 E. MILBER STREET  
TUCSON, AZ 89714

RESPONDENT

**CONSENT AGREEMENT  
AND  
ORDER NO. 010101NA5686**

The Arizona State Board of Nursing (“Board”) and SANDSTONE UNIVERSITY-TUCSON CNA Program, NA5686, (“Respondent”) seek to resolve allegations that Respondent violated the Nurse Practice Act. In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above-captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 (F)(5), the undersigned parties enter into this Consent Agreement as a final disposition of this matter.

Based on the evidence before it, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent holds Board-issued program approval for a Nursing Assistant program, operating in Tucson, Arizona, receiving its original approval in 2023. Respondent’s last program approval was on January 23, 2023.

2. Respondent’s first time student pass rate on the State of Arizona mandated written and manual skills certifying examinations were below the minimum requirement as required in Arizona Administrative Code (“A.A.C.”) R4-19-801(E) in 2022. Based upon this information, the Board initiated an investigation.

3. Respondent’s Nursing Assistant (NA) program’s first time student pass rate on the written and the skills certifying examinations, are below the minimum requirement as

required in R4-19-801(E). Specifically according to D&S Diversified Technologies, the approved test vendor, Respondent's annual pass rate for the written exam in 2023 was 67% and the skills was 33%. The Arizona State average for the 2023 calendar year was 85% for written and 79% for the manual skills exam. Programs falling below the standard are those with less than 65% on the written exam and 59% on skills. Program tested 6 students.

4. Respondent failed to notify the Board of a change in status of the programs Coordinator within 30 days, violating R4-19-801 (A) (11) (a), after Coordinator Jinkee Sarah Beltran was terminated on 3/16/2023. This also caused a delay in Respondent responding to Respondent Questionnaires sent on 1-16-2024 and 2-12-2024, violating R4-19-805 (B) (8).

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1606, 32-1663 and 32-1664, the Board has subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this matter.

The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute violations of A.R.S. § 32-1663 (D) as defined in correctly cited as § 32-1601(27) "Unprofessional conduct" includes the following whether occurring in this state or elsewhere: (d) Any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of a patient or the public and (j) Violating this chapter or a rule that is adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter (effective August 9, 2017); and A.A.C. R4-19-801 (E) Certifying Exam Passing Standard: A training program and each site of a consolidated program under R4-19-802(E) shall attain, at a minimum, an annual first-time passing rate on the manual skill and written certifying examinations that is equal to the Arizona average pass rate for all candidates on each examination minus 20 percentage points. The Board may waive this requirement for programs with less than five students taking the exam during the year. The Board shall issue a notice of deficiency under A.A.C. R4-19-805 to any program with five or more students taking the exam that fails to achieve the minimum passing standard in any calendar year. R4-19-801 (A)(11)(C) A. 11. A training program shall submit written documentation and information to the Board regarding the following program changes within 30

days of instituting the change: a. For a change or addition of an instructor or coordinator, the name, RN license number, and documentation that the coordinator or instructor meets the applicable requirements of R4-19-802(B) and (C) for NA programs. R4-19-805. (B) Unprofessional program conduct. A notice of deficiency or a disciplinary action including denial of approval or rescission of approval may be issued against a training program for any of the following acts of unprofessional conduct:(2) Any violation of this Article; (8) Failing to comply with Board requirements within designated timeframes;

However, in lieu of a hearing, Respondent agrees to issuance of the following Order and waives all rights to a hearing, rehearing, appeal or judicial review relating to this matter. Respondent further waives any and all claims or causes of action, whether known or unknown, that Respondent may have against the State of Arizona, the Board, its members, officers, employees and/or agents arising out of this matter.

Respondent admits to the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Respondent understands that the admissions in the Findings of Fact are conclusive evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

Respondent understands the right to consult legal counsel prior to entering into this Consent Agreement and such consultation has been either obtained or is waived.

Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement is effective upon its acceptance by the Board or its designee and by Respondent as evidenced by the respective signatures thereto. Respondent's signature obtained via facsimile shall have the same effect as an original signature. Once signed by Respondent, the Agreement cannot be withdrawn without the Board's approval or by stipulation between Respondent and the Board's designee. The effective date of this Order is the date the Consent Agreement is signed by Respondent and accepted by the Board or its designee.

Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.

Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

*Deedee Ramon*

Signature or Approved Respondent Representative  
SANDSTONE UNIVERSITY-TUCSON

*6/7/2024*

Date

*Deedee Ramon - Regional Director of Ops*

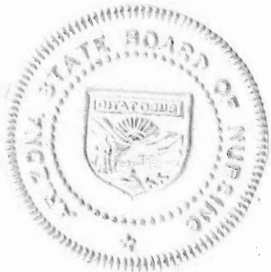
Print the signer's name AND title

*Joey Ridenour R.N. M.N. F.A.A.N.*

Joey Ridenour, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.  
Executive Director  
ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Dated:

*6/11/2024*



**ORDER**

In view of the above the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and the consent of Respondent, the Board hereby issues the following Order:

- A. Respondent's consent to the terms and conditions of this Order and waiver of hearing is accepted.

B. It is ordered that a DECREE OF CENSURE be entered against program approval no. NA5686 held by Respondent.

Board Date: May 17, 2024

*Joey Ridenour R.N. M.N. F.A.A.N.*

Joey Ridenour, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.  
Executive Director  
ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Dated: 6/11/2024

JR/CG:sb

Transmitted this day May 29, 2024, via Adobe Sign to:

DeeDee Ramon Sandstone University-Tucson dramon@sandstonehc.com  
Also sent via US Mail and US Certified Mail (7020 1970 0000 91216341) to:

Sandstone University-Tucson  
2900 E. Milber Street  
Tucson, AZ 89714

By: Sarah Burton  
Administrative Assistant III

Fully Executed copy sent this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June via US Mail and US Certified Mail (7021 1970 0000 9121 6624) to:

Sandstone University-Tucson  
2900 E. Milber Street  
Tucson, AZ 89714

By: Sarah Burton  
Administrative Assistant III