

August 02, 2023

University At Buffalo
Office of the Dean, School of Nursing
3435 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214

Subject: Urgent Request for Reexamination of Dismissal & Discussion on Program Challenges

Dear Dr. Wysocki, Dr. Chang, Dr. Dickerson, Mr. Mahon, Dr. Paplham, and Dr. Sessanna,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is George Ulloa, and I am a former student of the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program 2023 summer session at the University at Buffalo School of Nursing. I'm writing to you today to bring forth two interrelated issues that concern not only my academic journey, but also the broader educational environment within the ABS Program at The University at Buffalo.

Firstly, I am seeking your attention and assistance regarding an unresolved grievance with my recent dismissal from the ABS program. The situation stemmed from a decision to place me on academic probation based on a borderline grade in NSG 312. The impact of this decision extends beyond academics; it means the end of my long-cherished dream of becoming a nurse, and the cumulation of years of hard work and sacrifice, but the real pain is that of lost potential.

Despite my persistent attempts to challenge this decision through the established Academic Grievance Procedures, I was informed that a formal consultation could not take place until Fall or Spring. This effectively translates to an irreversible dismissal. Waiting a full year to then restart the program entirely, is not congruent with the more traditional concept of probation. It is with this in mind that I write this letter with a sense of urgency.

In my sincere efforts to understand and rectify the situation, I have conducted a thorough examination of the program over the past few weeks. This leads me to the second, and closely related, issue I wish to bring to your attention.

My findings suggest that certain structural and pedagogical aspects of the ABS program may inadvertently present significant barriers to student success. Some of these challenges include a lack of accommodations for diverse student needs, an excessively high workload, inconsistent teaching instruction, truncated learning due to over-abundance of information, and lack of vetting prerequisite courses such as pharmacology and physiology.

This appears particularly pronounced for students like myself - older, first-generation learners, transitioning careers, and with limited prior healthcare experience. While my intention is not to discredit the efforts made to align the course with the NCLEX requirements, it seems pertinent to evaluate whether the rapid changes might have inadvertently compromised the program's effectiveness.

Attached is a detailed PDF that encapsulates my experiences, evidence, and reflections on the above issues. My objective in sharing this is twofold: firstly, to urge a reconsideration of my dismissal; and secondly, to stimulate a conversation about potential improvements in the ABS program, so other students may not have to face the same challenges.

Despite these difficulties, my commitment to nursing and my desire to give back to my community remain unwavering. It is my hope that we can collaborate to not only resolve my personal situation, but also to strengthen the ABS program to produce the best nursing professionals possible, especially in these times when they are needed the most.

I kindly request that we arrange a meeting during the week of August 7th through 11th to discuss these matters in person. Time is of the essence to ensure that, if possible, I can rejoin the program in time for the fall semester.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am optimistic that, together, we can turn these challenges into opportunities for improvement and growth.

Sincerely,



George Ulloa

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