

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2005 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION  
 PASS RATES, REVIEW OF 2005 ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF SELF STUDY  
 SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE AT LEVELLAND  
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirements to be met for South Plains College at Levelland Vocational Nursing Education Program based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2005, review of the 2005 Annual Report, and review of the May 15, 2006 self study report.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

| YEAR | Approval Status | NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate | Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total) |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| 2005 | Full            | 73.68%              | 14/19  |
| 2004 | Full            | 94%                 | 17/18  |
| 2003 | Full            | 92%                 | 12/13  |

- The Vocational Nursing Education Program at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas has been in operation since September 1958.
- Due to the 73.68% pass rate on the 2005 NCLEX-PN® examination, the program was required to submit a self study report that evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Self Study Report was received in the Board office on May 15, 2006.

**PROS AND CONS:**

Pros-

- The program conducted a comprehensive self study and identified several areas of concern:
  - A low number of graduates decreased the program's passing percentage.
  - Increased number of student attrition rates.
  - Personal issues of students such as long work hours, little or no support impacted their performance in the program.
  - No prior college experience of students impacted their performance in the program.
- Corrective measures planned and/ or implemented:
  - Refer at risk students to counseling center and learning center prior to entering the program or at the time the problem is identified.
  - Institute total testing of achievement exams for the student throughout the program with required remediation to progress to the next level and graduate from the program.
  - Student referrals to the counseling center and/or the learning center who is at risk due to personal issues and no prior college experience.
- The Total Program Evaluation Plan does have all broad areas required by the rule with numerical indicators included in the plan.

Cons -

- None noted

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to continue full approval status for South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program, accept the Self Study Report, and issue requirements to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

July 24, 2006

Sue Ann Lopez, MSN, RN, Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
South Plains College at Levelland  
1401 College Ave.  
Levelland, Texas 79336

Dear Ms. Lopez:

At the July 20-21, 2006 meeting, members of the Board of Nurse Examiners discussed the approval status of South Plains College at Levelland Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2005, review of the 2005 Annual Report, and review of the May 2006 Self-Study Report. The members of the Board wish to thank [ ] for being available to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue full approval status and issue the following requirements.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Rule 214.6(h)(1-4) related to Administration and Organization requires in pertinent part that “The Director or coordinator shall have the authority to direct the program in all its phases, including approval of teaching staff, selection of appropriate clinical sites, admission, progression, probation, and dismissal of students”..... A review of the May 2006 Self-Study Report revealed that the report contains ongoing corrective measures. **Therefore**, the program director shall be responsible for the implementation and continuing evaluation of ongoing corrective measures identified in the Self-Study Report and shall submit an evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures to the Board office with the 2006 Annual Report.

2. Rule 215.13(a) related to Total Program Evaluation requires that “There shall be a written plan for the systematic evaluation for the program.” The plan shall include evaluative criteria, methodology, frequency of evaluation, assignment of responsibility, and indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness. The following broad areas shall be periodically evaluated: (1) organization and administration of the program; (2) philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes; (3) program of study, curriculum, and instructional techniques; (4) education facilities, resources, and services; (5) affiliating agencies and clinical learning activities; (6) students' achievement; (7) graduates' performance on the licensing examination; (8) graduates' nursing competence; (9) faculty members' performance; and (10) extension programs. **Therefore**, the program director shall revise the TPE to include the evaluation of corrective measures proposed in the report and shall submit this revised copy of the TPE to Board Office with the current data with the 2006 Annual Report.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-7658.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

Dorothy Joy, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Kelvin Sharp, EdD., President, South Plains College