

**CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2005 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION
 PASS RATE, REVIEW OF 2005 ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF SELF-STUDY
 VALLEY GRANDE INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirement to be met for the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies 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 letter of explanation dated May 4, 2006.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2005	Full	66.67%	2/3
2004	Full (10/22/04)	87.50%	14/16
2003	Conditional	68.75%	22/32

- Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program opened in spring 1993 as a part of the Valley Grande Academy (high school) curriculum.
- In 2000 the approval status was changed from full to conditional due to a 71% NCLEX-PN examination pass rate for 1999.
- At the June 2001 Board meeting, the Board issued a recommendation that the program limit enrollment to one class per year not to exceed 40 students per class.
- The program remained on conditional status until October 2004 when the approval status was changed to full.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- Over the years, the program has endeavored to comply with Rules & Regulations by responding to Board requirements and recommendations.

Cons-

- The program has had a history of turnover in faculty and director positions.

PROGRAM EXPLANATION REGARDING LOW 2005 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE:

Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies did not have graduates from the vocational nursing education program during 2005 since they are on a 15-month schedule. Three (3) students in the graduating class for 2004 had eligibility issues and were not given clearance to test until 2005. Two (2) of the three (3) students passed the exam giving the program a 66.67% pass rate for 2005. If the students had tested with their classmates, the program's pass rate for 2004 would still have been above 80% required by Rule 214. The next class will graduate from the program on May 6, 2006.

Because of the unusual circumstances, the program was given the option of writing a letter of explanation rather than a self-study report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program based upon the program's 2005 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, review of the 2005 Annual Report, and letter of explanation regarding the 2005 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

July 24, 2006

Irene Elizalde, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Education Program
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
414 S. Missouri
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Ms. Elizalde:

At the July 20-21, 2006 meeting, the members of the Board of Nurse Examiners discussed the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2005, review of the 2005 Annual Report, and consideration of the explanation regarding the 2005 examination pass rate. Members of the Board wish to thank you and for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue the Full Approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program. If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Mrs. Anabell Cardona, President, CEO, Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies