

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROGRAM APPROVAL STATUS  
BASED ON THE 2009 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE  
AND REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT  
CAREER POINT COLLEGE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider proposed change of the approval status from Initial to Full for Career Point College in San Antonio, Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program based on the 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the first graduating class and the report of the March 4, 2010 survey visit.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates Who Tested (Passed/Total)</b>
Career Point College Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program	2009	Initial	100%	8/8

- Board staff conducted a site visit on March 6, 2008 prior to program approval.
- In April 2008, the Board granted Initial approval for Career Point College to establish a vocational nursing educational program. Classes began in Fall 2008 with an initial enrollment of eighteen (18) students.
- The program has appropriately addressed the previously issued Board requirements.
- The program's first cohort of nine (9) students graduated in September 2009 and began taking the NCLEX-PN® examination in October 2009. However, one (1) student decided not to pursue a career in nursing and declined to take the NCLEX-PN® .
- Of the eight (8) candidates who tested in 2009, eight (8) passed the NCLEX-PN® examination and the program's overall pass rate for the 2009 testing period is 100%.
- Board staff conducted a survey visit of the program on March 4, 2010 and a summary of the survey visit is included in this report (See Attachment # 1).

**SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:**

- The school administrator, the VN program director and VN faculty are dedicated to the success of the program and the success of the students.
- The faculty organization, consisting of the VN Program Director, nine (9) full-time faculty and six (6) part-time faculty, routinely meet on a monthly basis.
- Of the total fifteen (15) faculty, eight (8) have BSN degrees and one (1) has an MSN degree. Additionally, three (3) faculty are currently enrolled in masters programs. Career Point College administration is paying the tuition costs for each faculty member.
- The students are provided a wide variety of direct patient care clinical learning experiences, including acute care, long term care, and short term rehabilitation, subsequent to the VN program director's

diligent efforts.

- The program utilizes the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Entrance Test, Assessment Test and Virtual ATI (NCLEX preparation).
- During interviews with students in the program, positive comments were verbalized regarding all aspects of the program.
- Faculty share a workroom as office space. The situation does not provide adequate space for privacy for student conferences or for individual work. Faculty also share one (1) desktop computer and one (1) printer.
- Students in the nursing program must share one (1) computer lab with students from the other programs at Career Point College.
- The nursing skills lab is small and while it is presently adequate for the current small class size, it will not be adequate to meet the future needs of larger classes.

Pros:

- The program's 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate is 100%.
- The program has appropriately addressed the previously issued Board requirements.
- Interviews with faculty and students indicate that the administration and faculty are dedicated to students' success.
- The students are provided a wide variety of clinical learning opportunities.
- The director is very well qualified and has the autonomy to direct all phases of the nursing program.
- The faculty are well qualified as evidenced by the fact that eight (8) of the fifteen (15) faculty have BSN degrees, and one (1) has an MSN degree.
- The nursing program has strong support from Career Point College administration.
- Administration and the VN program director demonstrate a commitment to student success as evidenced by the fact that all prospective students must be interviewed by the director prior to admission, and students are eligible for a 100% tuition refund if they withdraw from the program within the first three (3) weeks after enrollment.
- All students are eligible to participate in an Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) NCLEX-PN® Review Course without charge. The school also pays the students' NCLEX-PN® fees.

Cons:

- Faculty share a workroom as office space. The situation does not provide adequate space for privacy for student conferences or for individual work. Faculty also share one (1) desktop computer and one (1) printer, and as a result faculty must often complete lesson plans at home due to congestion in the work room and inadequate computer and printer availability.
- The nursing program currently shares one (1) computer lab with the other programs at Career Point College. As a result, the nursing students do not always have adequate access to computers.
- The nursing skills lab is small and while it is presently adequate for the current small class size, it will not be adequate to meet the future needs of larger classes.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to change the program approval status of Career Point College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas from Initial Approval to Full Approval based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the 2009 test period and the report of the March 4, 2010 survey visit, and issue the commendations, recommendation, and requirement as indicated in the attached letter ( Attachment # 2).

**SURVEY VISIT  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM:** Career Point College in San Antonio, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program

**NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Sheila Savell, MSN, RN

**REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT:** Focused survey visit to evaluate the program's compliance with Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to initial approval status

**DATE(S) OF SURVEY VISIT:** March 4, 2010

**SURVEY VISITOR(S):** Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, Board Staff  
Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN, Board Staff

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING (BON) APPROVAL STATUS:** Initial

**DATE OF LAST BON SURVEY VISIT:** March 6, 2008 prior to Texas BON approval of the program

**NAME OF ACCREDITING/ LICENSING AGENCIES:** Career Point College is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

**SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:**

Activities During Survey Visit:

- Met with the school administrator and VN program director;
- Interviewed VN students and VN faculty;
- Reviewed records and documents (student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and other program documents);
- Toured skills lab, classrooms, nursing offices and other related parts of the campus; and
- Conducted a summary conference with the school administrator and the VN program director.

**SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:**

**ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION:**

- The program director has the authority to administer all aspects of the program. The written job description for the program director lists the responsibilities described in Rule 214. Career Point College supports ongoing faculty development and advanced educational preparation to ensure excellence, demonstrated by Career Point College funding three (3) faculty currently enrolled in higher education. The director has provided strong leadership during the initial year of the vocational nursing educational program.

**FACULTY:**

- Required written policies for faculty are included in the Faculty Handbook. Faculty files provide evidence that policies related to faculty qualifications, faculty development, and faculty evaluation are followed. Faculty meeting minutes were reviewed and documentation regarding faculty actions, as well as rationale for decision-making, was evident.
- The program presently has nine (9) full time and six (6) adjunct faculty members for one hundred thirty (130) students. Eight (8) of the fifteen (15) faculty have BSN degrees and one (1) faculty has an MSN degree. Career Point College is funding the education for all faculty who wish to further

their nursing education, and three (3) faculty are currently enrolled in graduate programs. Additionally, Career Point College provides continuing education for faculty on a regular basis.

- Interviews with faculty and students indicate that the faculty are extremely dedicated to the students. Faculty expressed excitement about teaching the students and helping them change their lives through higher education.

#### **STUDENTS:**

- Nine (9) of the original eighteen (18) students graduated in September 2009. The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the first year (2009) was 100% with eight (8) students taking and passing the examination. One (1) student decided not to pursue a nursing career and did not take the NCLEX-PN®. There are currently one hundred thirty (130) students enrolled in the VN program. Enrollment occurs every eight (8) weeks for the day program and on a quarterly basis for the weekend program.
- Signed receipts of students' receiving policies and eligibility information are in the student files. Students are required to sign any policy changes that occur and documentation is maintained in student files.

#### **PROGRAM OF STUDY:**

- The VN curriculum is sound and logically organized. Test questions are taken from a test pool and are structured in a manner to familiarize students with the NCLEX-PN® test questions. The ATI is utilized for both formative and summative evaluations. The clinical evaluation tools for the three (3) levels indicate progression of student performance throughout the curriculum. Remedial education is implemented in a timely manner.

#### **CLINICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES:**

- Graduates reported positive learning experiences under faculty supervision in all clinical agencies. There is a vast variety of clinical learning experiences provided in the vocational nursing program of study.
- Simulation activities are utilized, as well as skills lab activities. The skills lab is available to students during off-times with faculty supervision.

#### **FACILITIES, RESOURCES, AND SERVICES:**

- The program has an administrative assistant to assist with organization and management of records. As office space, faculty share a work room. The situation does not provide for privacy for conferences with students or for individual work. The faculty also share one (1) desktop computer and one (1) printer and as a result, faculty often find it necessary to complete lesson plans and other office work from home. Board staff observed that the nursing skills lab is small and will not be adequate to accommodate program growth. Currently, students in the nursing program must share a computer lab with students from the other programs at Career Point College. This situation limits the access that students have to computers.

#### **RECORDS AND REPORTS:**

Student and faculty files contained all documents required by Rule 214.

#### **TOTAL PROGRAM EVALUATION PLAN:**

The Total Program Evaluation Plan is exemplary in that numerical benchmarks are provided in all categories. The plan is actively used in decision making and includes an evaluation of the evaluation methods.

**DRAFT LETTER**

April 23, 2010

Sheila Savell, MSN, RN  
Director of Vocational Nursing  
Career Point College  
485 Spencer Lane  
San Antonio, Texas 78201

Dear Ms. Savell,

At the April 22-23, 2010 Board meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status of Career Point College Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program in San Antonio, Texas, based on the 2009 NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate and the report of the March 4, 2010 survey visit conducted by Board staff Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN and Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN. The Board wishes to thank you for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the review, it was the decision of the Texas BON to move the Career Point College Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program approval status from Initial to Full Approval, accept the survey visit report, and issue the following commendations, recommendation, and requirement.

**COMMENDATIONS:**

1. Administration of Career Point College is commended for the support of higher education for faculty.
2. The director is commended for securing a wide variety of clinical learning opportunities for the vocational nursing students.
3. The administrators and VN program director are commended for their commitment to student success.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration is encouraged to provide increased space for the nursing skills laboratory and to purchase additional computers and printers for students and faculty.

**REQUIREMENT:**

Rule 214.11(d)(2) related to *Facilities, Resources and Services* requires, in pertinent part, "Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work". **Therefore**, the administration shall provide additional faculty office space that allows for a private conference area as well as uninterrupted work. The Director shall provide pictures that supply clear evidence that these accommodations are provided, and the pictures shall be submitted to board staff by September 1, 2010.

A recommendation is a specific suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing. Requirements are mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Documentation of the address of the above requirements to be met shall be submitted to the Board office at the times identified in each requirement.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board staff by e-mail at [robin.caldwell@bon.state.tx.us](mailto:robin.caldwell@bon.state.tx.us) or by phone at 512.463.4631.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
Board President

Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC  
Nursing Consultant for Education

cc: TWC  
ACICS