

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
West Coast University in Dallas, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the West Coast University proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was made available online to members of the Board. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- West Coast University (WCU) is a private, degree-granting, post-secondary educational institution administered by a board of trustees. WCU was originally chartered in California in 1909 as an ophthalmology school. During World War II the university developed a reputation for its programs in the mathematical and physical sciences, including engineering and applied physics. In 1953, WCU became one of the first schools to offer evening-only programs that allowed working adults to earn baccalaureate degrees.
- Associate degrees in science and a variety of master's degree programs were introduced between 1965 and 1979. In 1981, the university reorganized into three distinct colleges: the College of Business and Management, the College of Engineering, and the College of Letters and Sciences.
- In May 1997, the Los Angeles campus of WCU was reorganized under new management and accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The new leadership was committed to focusing the institution's program offerings on high-demand health care-related programs that would be beneficial to working adults, including nursing, dental hygiene, and health care management.
- In 2004, educating health care professionals became the singular focus of WCU. The WCU branch campus in Orange County opened in September 2007, and the university launched its first online classes to provide greater flexibility for students. An additional branch campus in Ontario, California began offering classes in November 2008.
- Dates of interest regarding the WCU nursing education program:
 - In 2008, WCU became the first privately held university in California approved to offer a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
 - In 2009, WCU achieved accreditation for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
 - In 2010, WCU received approval to award a master's degree in nursing.
 - In 2010, the global studies program launched in Oxford, England.
 - In 2010, the advanced Simulation Center for Nursing opened at the Orange County campus.
- The university currently offers four baccalaureate degree programs, including the generic BSN, RN to BSN, LVN to BSN, and the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene.
- In addition, the university offers four master's degree programs, including the generic MSN, RN to MSN, MSN with nurse educator certificate, and Master of Science in Health Care Management.

- NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates at existing WCU campuses offering the associate degree:

	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Pass Rate</u>
2006-2007	99	82	82.83%
2007-2008	243	211	86.83%
2008-2009	328	288	87.81%
2009-2010	608	522	85.85%

- 2011 NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates at newly-established WCU campuses offering the baccalaureate degree:

	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Pass Rate</u>
Los Angeles	1	1	100%
Orange County	81	76	94%
Ontario	22	22	100%

- A review of demographic data of WCU's established nursing programs reveals a population comprised of 25% male students and 80% minority students.
- A well-developed, comprehensive first draft of the proposal was received in the Board office in September 2011 and, subsequently, reviewed by Board staff.
- A site visit was conducted on December 9, 2011, by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- WCU proposes to establish a new generic BSN Education Program in Dallas, Texas. In addition, WCU will provide a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to BSN track.
- A first cohort of 40 students is projected for a February 2012 enrollment and the program proposes to admit five cohorts of 40 students each year in February, April, June, August, and November.
- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be April 2015.
- The program is designed to be delivered through face-to-face courses and faculty-supervised hands-on clinical learning experiences in a variety of health care settings.
- The degree can be completed in 39 months, including all general education and nursing course requirements, without requiring college prerequisite courses.
- The proposed 120 credit hour curriculum for the generic BSN track consists of 52 hours in general education and 68 hours in nursing. The generic program will be provided during eight 20-week semesters. WCU's course delivery spans two 10-week terms within a 20-week semester, with instruction occurring 9 of those 10 weeks.
- Students enrolled in the LVN to BSN program follow the same core curriculum as generic BSN students, including general education courses, with the addition of one course, the RN Skills Lab. LVNs receive 13 advanced placement credits for competencies achieved in an approved LVN program that meet the requirements for professional nursing.
- Classes will be conducted at the WCU Dallas campus with clinical experiences in health care facilities in Dallas. Clinical affiliations include the Methodist Hospital System, the North Texas Veterans Administration Hospital, University Behavioral Health at Denton, Cook Children's Health Care System, and HealthSouth facilities.
- A two-week Summer Program in Oxford, England will be offered to a select group of nursing students who are in the top third of their class per campus, have completed the nursing prerequisites, and have exhibited strong academic standing plus exemplary classroom conduct and attendance. The program

is designed to provide nursing students an opportunity to encounter the latest developments in health care on a global scale. In addition to the opportunity to study at Oxford, WCU offers travel and clinical opportunities in developing countries and on Native American reservations.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data presented in the proposal indicate a need for this professional nursing program in the Dallas area.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicated available clinical space will accommodate and support WCU nursing students.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the Dallas area indicate support for the proposed nursing program.

Administration and Organization:

- WCU holds programmatic accreditation from CCNE.
- WCU is accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees. ACICS issued WCU an 8-year grant of accreditation, valid through December 31, 2013.
- In 2010, WCU applied for eligibility from the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). WASC determined that WCU was eligible to proceed with its application for candidacy for accreditation. WCU submitted its comprehensive self-study for regional accreditation with WASC in June 2011 and completed a site visit on September 9, 2011. The Commission awarded a 5-year initial regional accreditation to WCU effective November 4, 2011.
- In January 2011, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) issued a Certificate of Authorization to WCU to grant bachelor's and master's degrees.
- The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) granted a Certificate of Approval to WCU on August 2, 2011.
- WCU is owned and operated by West Coast University, Inc., a California corporation located in Irvine, California. West Coast University, Inc. is owned by the David Pyle Trust. David A. Pyle is executive chairman of the board of trustees. Dr. Barry Ryan is president and chief executive officer of WCU, serving under the guidance of the university's board of trustees.
- The proposed dean, Carole R. Eldridge, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, is fully qualified. Dr. Eldridge recently served as president of Chamberlain College of Nursing, Houston, Texas, and dean of St. John's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Southwest Baptist University, Springfield, Missouri. Prior to those appointments, Dr. Eldridge served as the Director of the MSN in Nursing Leadership graduate program at the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing in Galveston, Texas.
- In addition, WCU employs an associate dean of Clinical Education Services for the proposed Dallas campus, Becky Small, RN-BC, BSN, MS, EdD, CNOR, who will oversee the clinical learning experiences received by students. Dr. Small has 25 years of nursing experience with 17 years in clinical risk management, patient safety, and quality improvement, including four years as a health system CNO executive.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- WCU's faculty recruitment plans include the placement of job advertisements in local nursing magazines, local and national nursing and health care websites, and educational and generic job websites. Exhibits and job booths will be set up at local career fairs and at nursing and healthcare conferences. WCU has had success in finding, recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified faculty for its three California campuses using the aforementioned strategies.

- WCU faculty member Jeanette Vaughan has over 15 years of teaching experience in graduate and undergraduate nursing programs, along with 28 years of hospital-based practice and education. Ms. Vaughan's clinical background is in critical care and emergency department, and she holds CCRN and Clinical Nurse Leader certifications.
- The Nursing Faculty Handbook provides new faculty orientation/mentoring plans and checklists.
- The Nursing Faculty Handbook describes faculty organization and functions.
- The program has received commitments for adequate clinical sites and experiences from multiple health care institutions in Dallas, most notably the Methodist Hospital System, Methodist Dallas Medical Center, North Texas Veterans Administration Health Care System, University Behavioral Health in Denton, Millwood Hospital, Vibra Specialty Hospital, Cook Children's Health Care System, and HealthSouth facilities.
- After Texas Board of Nursing approval, WCU will join the North Texas Consortium and use the opportunity to further engage in cooperative planning for the use of potential affiliate agencies and clinical practice settings with the directors of existing nursing programs.

Financial Support and Resources:

- Financial stability is shown in the audited balance sheet provided by Almich & Associates included in the proposal.
- Balance Sheets from West Coast University, Inc. are presented in the proposal, documenting financial stability of the parent organization.
- The Secretary of the WCU Board of Trustees, Bob Alter, provided a certificate of authorization for the WCU expansion into Texas.
- The survey visit indicated that the requirements of Board Rule 215 regarding facilities, resources, and services are completely addressed, if not exceeded, in all categories.

Program of Study:

- The mission of the WCU College of Nursing is to provide evidence-based and innovative nursing education to culturally diverse learners, preparing nurses to provide quality and compassionate care that is responsive to the needs of the community and the global society.
- The philosophy of the WCU College of Nursing is that education is a continuous process occurring in phases throughout an individual's lifetime. Nurses are lifelong learners and critical thinkers.
- The nursing curriculum evolves from the College of Nursing mission and philosophy and is organized using the following conceptual threads: nursing process, research, therapeutic care, teaching/learning, communications, and role development. Learning is sequenced so students progress from the care of (1) individuals, to (2) older adults, to (3) developing families, to (4) patients with complex health problems, to (5) aggregate groups and communities.
- Gordon's 11 basic functional health patterns (1993) are essential components of the College of Nursing's conceptual and curricular framework, providing a system for learning and organizing nursing assessment and focusing data collection across the curriculum.
- The proposed degree plan enables students to earn a BSN in eight 20-week semesters. The program includes a track for LVNs to earn a BSN in seven 20-week semesters. The degree plan contains a total of 120 semester credits, including general education courses, didactic nursing courses, and lab and clinical experiences.
- Significant clinical practice hours are planned throughout the program of study to promote the proficiency in skills necessary for competent nursing practice.

- The nursing curriculum is progressive or leveled. This allows for the development of values, knowledge, judgment, and skills beginning in the first courses and building throughout the program. Progressive development is demonstrated in WCU's clinical evaluation tool which is leveled to evaluate course learning outcomes throughout the curriculum.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan is well developed and provides measurable indicators of achievement.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Staff met with administration and with the proposed dean of the program. The WCU campus is located in a spacious, modern building with ample parking and access to public transportation. The nursing program has a sophisticated, state-of-the-art nursing skills lab which is fully equipped and furnished.

Pros:

- The administration have committed the resources to the implementation of this new program.
- The campus is spacious and modern with sophisticated, state-of-the-art skills laboratories.
- Comprehensive and diverse clinical learning experiences have been secured.
- The proposed dean is qualified and experienced in prelicensure professional nursing education.

Cons:

- None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to West Coast University to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, with an initial cohort of 25 students in February 2012 with four subsequent cohorts of 25 students each to begin in April, June, August, and November 2012 (five cohorts per year with an annual enrollment of 125 students), based upon the proposal and survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Professional Nursing Educational Programs

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: West Coast University, Dallas, Texas

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Carole R. Eldridge, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Proposed Dean

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal DATE: December 9, 2011

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
<p>(a) The controlling agency/governing institution shall be responsible for providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing educational program. 	<p>The West Coast University(WCU) campus is located in leased space at 8435 N. Stemmons Freeway, in Dallas, Texas. The building consists of 11 floors, and contains approximately 220,000 square feet of interior office space.</p> <p>There is both covered and surface parking available for students and faculty, with 528 spaces guaranteed for WCU's use.</p> <p>WCU occupies 46,305 square feet, including an admissions and reception suite on the first floor and all of floors 5 and 6. WCU's instructional space consists of 5 classrooms, 2 science labs, 2 nursing skills labs, 2 study/meeting rooms, 2 student lounges, 4 informal student gathering spaces, a break room, a quiet room with a refrigerator for lactating mothers, 4 internet bars, a computer lab which doubles as an additional classroom when needed, a computer testing center, a library with student computer workstations, and a Simulation Center.</p> <p>Support services include academic advising and tutorial assistance, career services assistance to aid services in finding desirable employment, and reasonable accommodations per ADA. The university also maintains a list of outside services to assist students with personal needs, such as childcare, transportation, and other areas not directly related to their academic program of study.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
<p>(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program.</p> <p>(1) the laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water.</p> <p>(2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment.</p>	<p>The 2 nursing skills labs each contain 5 hospital beds with privacy curtains, equipped headwalls, bedside tables, overbed tables, and a Laerdal VitalSim medium-fidelity simulator in every bed. The skills labs each have a sink with hot and cold running water, a Virtual IV® haptics device with computer, storage cabinets, and a variety of models, teaching devices, and practice supplies. A storage room provides additional space. The 2 science labs are equipped with commercial refrigerators and freezers, chemical hoods, flammable cabinets, acid cabinets, incubators, sinks, storage cabinets, eye wash/showers, anatomical models, and teaching supplies.</p> <p>The Simulation Center contains 10,000 square feet, including 4 medical-surgical nursing simulation suites, 1 pediatric suite, 1 obstetrics suite, 1 mental health/community health suite, a storage room, and a preparation room with a commercial refrigerator, washer, dryer, storage cabinets, and a copier/fax/scanner/printer.</p> <p>Ample storage space for equipment and supplies is provided in each laboratory. Additionally, multiple storage rooms are available to accommodate the extensive equipment and supplies.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(c) The dean/director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>There is one full time administrative assistant for the nursing program.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
<p>(d) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body.</p> <p>(1) The dean/director shall have a private office.</p> <p>(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.</p> <p>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>The dean of the nursing program has a private office. There are multiple conference rooms available in the building where faculty may meet with students.</p> <p>Faculty offices are housed in the nursing education suite, the general education suite, and the Simulation Center. The nursing education suite contains 2 private offices for the dean and associate dean, a private meeting room, 12 faculty cubicles with locking sliding doors, 6 faculty workstations, 2 administrative assistant workstations, and a copy machine workroom.</p> <p>There are 165 computers available for student use in the computer lab and internet bars located throughout the building. All of the classrooms, skills labs, science labs, and the computer lab contain SmartBoards with teaching computers and projectors. The classrooms and science labs have monitors for close viewing.</p> <p>Restrooms have 2 ADA-accessible stalls for both men's and women's restrooms, with minimum clearance requirements at or exceeding ADA guidelines.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
<p>(e) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>In addition to a reference library on campus, the WCU library provides electronic access to the collection catalog, resource databases, and internet resources. The online library is a web-enabled information center. It provides access to research articles in full text, links to scholarly and professional websites that support the curriculum, access links to web resources, and links to e-book sites. These resources have been selected by the faculty and educational administration. Specific databases which students have access to are LexisNexis, Library and Information Resources Network (LIRN), EbscoHost, and Ebrary. Online access to library services and online databases allows students to access most reference and research materials and services from their personal computer or from computers available in the university's library or classrooms. The online library is available 24 hours a day.</p> <p>West Coast University adheres to all Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, all local building code regulations, and the Texas Accessibility Standards.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
§215.12 Records and Reports		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) faculty records;</p> <p>(3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>WCU has implemented a record retention and offsite storage policy that meets the ACICS Standards of Accreditation, Texas state law, and federal regulations and statutes relating to participation in the Title IV programs.</p> <p>Records of enrolled students are maintained onsite. These records are subject to privacy protections under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) rules. Student records that are maintained onsite remain in locked fireproof cabinets in a secure room. Keys for access to the records are limited to the campus executive director, the academic dean, the registrar, and the dean of nursing.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school.</p>		<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>		<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>		<p>Criterion met</p>

DRAFT LETTER

January 23, 2012

Carole R. Eldridge, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Dean of Nursing, Dallas Campus
West Coast University
8435 N. Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75247-3900

Dear Dr. Eldridge:

At the January 19-20, 2012 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the West Coast University Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, and the report of the December 9, 2011, survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and-----
----- for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to West Coast University in Dallas, Texas, and allow the admission of an initial cohort of 25 students in February 2012 with four subsequent cohorts of 25 students each to begin in April, June, August, and November 2012 (five cohorts per year with an annual enrollment of 125 students).

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board staff at (512)305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President of the Board

Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: CCNE
ACICS
WASC
TWC

Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of West Coast University, Dallas, Texas

For approval to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO:

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 19th day of January 2012, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Patricia Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Verna Kathleen Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP, Representing Advanced Practice

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering a Baccalaureate Degree.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of West Coast University is approved having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program to prepare professional nurses.

The program is authorized to admit an initial cohort of 25 students in February 2012 with four subsequent cohorts of 25 students each to begin in April, June, August, and November 2012 (five cohorts per year with an annual enrollment of 125 students).

DATED THIS 19th day of January, 2012.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN

President

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from West Coast University

To Establish A

Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

in Dallas, Texas

Date and Time: January 19, 2012 at 2:00 PM

Place: Hobby Building

333 Guadalupe Street

Tower 2, Room 225

Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal.

Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by January 7, 2012.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942