

**Report of Routine Survey Visit  
College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the report of the routine survey visit to the College of the Mainland (COM) Vocational Nursing Program in Texas City, Texas, on June 19, 2013, conducted by Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, Nursing Consultant for Education (See Attachment #1.) The previous survey visit was conducted in June, 2005.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The COM was established in Texas City, Texas, in 1970.
- There are two (2) nursing programs on the campus, an ADN program that began in 1972, and the VN program that received initial Board approval in October 2004.
- The College of the Mainland is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the table below:

**College of the Mainland VN Program in Texas City, Texas**

<b>Exam Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>
2012	85.71%	18/21	Full
2011	100%	11/11	Full
2010	100%	12/12	Full
2009	100%	13/13	Full
2008	100%	25/25	Full

- Gay Reeves, EdD, BSN, RN, has been serving as VN Program Director since the program began. The coordinator for the VN program is Misty Jones, BSN, RN.
- Dr. Reeves also serves as director of the ADN program but has no direct teaching responsibilities in either program so that she may have adequate administrative time to devote to both programs.

**Pros and Cons from the Survey Visit:**

Pros:

- The program director has full authority to direct the program.
- The program has strong administrative support from the College of the Mainland.
- The program has a curriculum that meets the requirements in Rule 214, effective clinical evaluation tools, and a Total Program Evaluation Plan that facilitates the use of data for program review and revision.
- The program provides an opportunity for residents in this community to begin a career in nursing.

Cons:

- The VN faculty are relatively new necessitating their need for faculty development activities and time to gain experience in the role of nursing faculty. (A faculty workshop focused on teaching strategies and test construction is planned for the fall.)

**Rationale for Recommendations:**

The College of the Mainland Vocational Nursing Program was found to be in compliance with Rule 214. The curriculum is well-organized with detailed and comprehensive syllabi. The director and coordinator provide strong leadership for the program.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings from the routine survey visit to the College of the Mainland Vocational Nursing Program in Texas City, Texas

**Summary of Routine Survey Visit  
College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education**

**Purpose of Survey Visit:** routine survey visit

**Date of Visit:** June 19, 2013

**Board Staff Conducting Visit:** Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, Nursing Consultant for Education

**Board Staff met with:**

- Gay Reeves, EdD, MSN, RN, Director of the VN Program
- Dr. Beth Lewis, College President
- Dr. Amy Locklear, Vice President for Instruction
- Dr. Vickie Stanfield, Vice President for Student Services
- Ms. Lisa Templer, Vice President for Finance
- Carl Gordon, Director for Student Finances
- Ms. Carla Anderson, Dean, Career Services and Allied Health

**Board Staff:**

- reviewed the curriculum materials including all syllabi;
- reviewed the Student and Faculty Handbooks;
- reviewed the clinical evaluation tools;
- reviewed the total program evaluation plan and minutes;
- reviewed student files;
- reviewed clinical schedules;
- reviewed faculty list;
- toured educational facilities, nursing classroom and skills/simulation labs; and computer testing room;
- met with 23 students and 3 VN faculty; and
- conducted exit interview.

**Summary of Findings:**

Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes

- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies for Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs* (DECs) have been woven into the curriculum and are the basis for the clinical evaluation tools.
- A conceptual framework has guided the development of the curriculum with an emphasis on caring.
- A set of program outcomes is tailored to each course and students are evaluated on these outcomes in the clinical evaluation tools.

Administration and Organization

- The administration expressed strong support for the VN program.
- Administration expressed their commitment to provide the resources to support the program.
- The officials in the Student Finances Office have made special efforts to seek financial assistance for students.
- Administration expressed great respect for Dr. Reeves and appreciation for her leadership.
- The program director possesses strong leadership skills and has a variety of experiences as a faculty member and leader in nursing programs in major universities in Mississippi and Florida.
- The director is active in state organizations.

Faculty

- Three full time faculty and the program director provide instruction for the program.
- Board Staff talked through the entire curriculum with faculty, discussing how each course is taught and evaluated.
- The extensive Faculty Handbook not only describes the policies and organization of the Nursing Department, but provides instructional helps and guidance for faculty. All required policies are included in the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook is reviewed by faculty annually for revision.
- Faculty carry out the business of the nursing program through committee structure. In addition, the faculty of the VN and ADN program meet together for joint decisions and goal-setting.

- One of the VN faculty has been employed for only six (6) weeks but is very enthusiastic about teaching. She has a background in nursing management as well as a specialty in maternal/neonatal practice.
- A second faculty has been employed by the program for about eighteen (18) months. The third faculty will be replaced in July with a new faculty member.
- Faculty expressed that challenges include time management and handling course preparation.
- The faculty are interested in faculty development activities to assist them in instructional strategies and in test construction. The director is already planning a workshop to meet this request.
- The coordinator is eager to have more stability and longevity in the faculty group. The faculty feel there is a good working environment in the Nursing Department and see this as an asset.
- The coordinator is enrolled in a Master's Degree in Nursing Education.
- Faculty salaries are competitive and provide a positive aspect to teaching at the COM.

### Students

- Board Staff met with all students currently enrolled in the VN program.
- Students expressed satisfaction with instruction, clinical opportunities, syllabi, and courses.
- Students named the Skills Course and the Medication Administration Course as favorites.
- Students also indicated the clinical evaluation tools are fair.
- Students described the clinical experiences of the week. They seemed appropriate and effective. They also discussed the post-conferences and view them as good learning experiences.
- Areas recognized as strengths during the conversations were clinical practice settings including pre- and post-conferences, faculty supervision during clinical experiences, and lab/simulation experiences.
- The students admitted that the program is rigorous and challenging for them. A few of them work and many of them have children.
- The admitting class in January was 28 students. The present group of 23 students is a diverse group in ethnicity and age. A few are Certified Nurse Aides. Most indicated they plan to go further in their education to become registered nurses.
- Students said they would like opportunities for more practice in the skills lab and more time to ask questions in class. They like a team-teaching approach.
- Students stated that they chose COM because of location, tuition, and reputation.
- The student representative to faculty governance introduced herself.
- The administration has made successful efforts to obtain financial assistance for nursing students.

### Program of Study

- The coordinator had prepared exhaustive exhibits (files) demonstrating how the program meets every rule requirement in Rule 214.
- Course notebooks for each course include all course materials and documents. These notebooks are kept for three (3) years for reference and documentation of instruction and student performance.
- The curriculum is logically organized with sound educational principles.
- Board Staff reviewed all syllabi and additional course information. All syllabi are detailed with objectives, descriptions and grading criteria for assignments, clear grading rubrics for each course, assigned readings, and correlation of course content/objectives with the DEC's.
- The program uses standardized testing throughout the program.
- The faculty continually evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum through course evaluations and comments from students and faculty. They readily make changes when warranted.
- The program is basically a face-to-face format with the use of online for announcements and helps.
- The VN program has a tutor and lab coordinator to assist faculty.
- The web site for the VN program provides an excellent overview of the admission requirements and process.

### Clinical Learning Experiences

- The VN program has contracted with excellent clinical affiliating agencies, but has difficulty establishing clinical practice opportunities with pediatric and maternity patients. The coordinator is responsible for clinical placement and scheduling. The clinical schedule for every student is planned for the entire semester.
- The coordinator facilitates obtaining clinical contracts and scheduling clinical assignments for each student.
- The clinical evaluation tools show progression in cognitive, psychomotor, and affective behaviors across the curriculum. A point system is used on the evaluation tools to validate the final letter grades.
- Modern high-fidelity simulation labs provide opportunities for students to perfect nursing skills prior to caring for actual patients in clinical settings.

- Simulation manikins include a birthing manikin, adult and baby manikins, and low fidelity manikins.

#### Facilities, Resources, and Services

- The nursing department is spacious and provides a good learning environment for students.
- Faculty have separate, well-equipped offices convenient to classrooms and labs.
- Two employees provide secretarial assistance.
- Another office in the building will soon be available to the program.

#### Total Program Evaluation

- The total program evaluation plan includes all required aspects in Rule 214.13 and there is evidence that the plan is used.
- Board Staff suggested including more data in the minutes to provide better evidence of decision-making by the faculty.

**DRAFT LETTER**

October 21, 2013

Gay Reeves, EdD, MSN, RN, Director  
Vocational Nursing Program  
College of the Mainland  
1200 Amburn Road  
Texas City, Texas 77591

Dear Dr. Reeves:

At the October 17-18, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the report of the June 19, 2013 survey visit to the College of the Mainland Vocational Nursing Program in Texas City, Texas. Based upon the discussion and review of the survey report, it was the decision of the Board to accept the findings from the survey visit and congratulate the program on its successes.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President of the Board

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

copy: Dr. Beth Lewis, President  
Misty Jones, BSN, RN, Coordinator