

**Report of Survey Visit
Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the routine six (6) year survey visit to the Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The visit was conducted on June 3, 2013 by Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator (see Attachment #1).

Historical Perspective:

- Wharton County Junior College was established in 1946.
- The college has campuses in Wharton, Richmond, Palacios, Sugar Land, El Campo, and Bay City. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing (VN) Program began in 1952.
- The VN Education Program is located on the main campus in the M. G. & Lillie A. Johnson Health Occupations Center.
- The VN program is part of the Division of Allied Health which also includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN), Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Human Services Program, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiology Technology, and Surgical Technology.
- Elizabeth Rohan, RN, was appointed VN Program Director in 2008. Ms. Rohan served as faculty for the program from August 2004 until 2008.
- Two (2) full-time and two (2) adjunct faculty members teach in the VN program. One (1) additional full-time faculty member will be hired before August 2013.
- Ms. Rohan is only responsible for the VN program and has teaching responsibilities.
- The program admits one (1) cohort every August with the number varying based on qualified applicants.

The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the following table:

Examination Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2012	100%	19/19	Full
2011	89.66%	26/29	Full
2010	95.45%	21/22	Full
2009	100%	26/26	Full
2008	96.67%	29/30	Full

Summary of Survey Visit:

- The Program Evaluator identified many strengths of the program.
- Findings from the survey visit indicate the program is in compliance with Board Rule 214.

Pros:

- The VN Program Director is an experienced nurse educator and is respected by administration, faculty, and students. In interviews with the Program Evaluator, the director indicated she has adequate time to fulfill the director responsibilities, even though she carries a teaching load.
- In interviews with Program Evaluator, administration and faculty credited the director for her strong leadership of the program.

- Administration expressed strong support for the VN program and stated that the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a continued need in community.
- Faculty appear to be a cohesive, dedicated group that voiced high satisfaction with their roles.
- Students interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program and stated that they believe faculty members are committed to their success.
- The majority of VN graduates plan to enroll in the Wharton Junior College ADN program.
- The curriculum is developed according to Board Rules and the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* objectives.
- The program of study incorporates creative methods for course delivery, including frequent communication with faculty, face-to-face instruction, student centered learning activities, and the utilization of simulation.
- All clinical learning experiences are faculty supervised, with direct-patient care in hands-on clinical settings. Preceptors are utilized in the program. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.
- The program has a number of active contracts with clinical affiliating agencies that provide a wide variety of rich clinical learning experiences.
- Professional development for the director and faculty are appropriate and adequate.

Cons:

- The program has one (1) full-time faculty position that has been vacant since November 2012.

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Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

The Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program is in full compliance with Rule 214 and prepares graduates for employment in a variety of settings.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) year survey visit to the Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program (See draft letter in Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
Wharton County Junior College, Wharton, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey visit: Routine six (6) year survey visit

Date of Visit: June 3, 2013

Program Evaluator Conducting Visit: Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator

Program Evaluator met with:

- Leigh Ann Collins, Vice President of Instruction
- Carol J. Derkowski, RDH, MAIE, Chair, Allied Health Division
- Elizabeth Rohan, RN, Vocational Nursing (VN) Program Director
- Linda Bear, RN, VN Faculty
- Yvonne Bonnie Mascheck, RN, VN Faculty
- Twenty (20) VN Students

Activities Carried Out by Program Evaluator During Survey Visit:

- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook;
- Reviewed exams and clinical evaluation tools;
- Toured campus and facilities housing the nursing program;
- Interviewed twenty (20) students;
- Held initial conference with director and administration;
- Met with faculty members;
- Reviewed records and documents including: student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan; and
- Conducted exit interview with director and administration.

Summary of Findings:

Administration:

- Administration indicated the nursing program adds value to the college and continues to fulfill a need in the local community.
- The VN program is in the Division of Allied Health which also includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN), Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Human Services Program, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiology Technology, and Surgical Technology.
- Elizabeth Rohan, RN, VN Program Director, has been the director of the VN Program since 2008.
- Ms. Rohan reported that she is comfortable fulfilling her program director duties as well as carrying a teaching load since she was previously faculty for the program and has dedicated faculty and strong administrative support.
- Clear channels of communication between the director and administration were evident.
- According to the Vice-President of Instruction, the Division Chair, and the VN Program Director, VN graduates are able to obtain employment in local clinical agencies as well as in the Houston area.

Program of Study:

- The twelve (12) month program of study is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters.
- The program is comprised of a total of 1544 clock hours: 704 didactic hours and 840 clinical hours including lab hours, simulation hours and direct hands-on patient care.
- The program of study is well organized and includes all Board required content.

- The curriculum is designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting and includes IV therapy. The nursing skills are presented in the first semester.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)* have been fully incorporated into the curriculum.
- Evaluation methods and tools to measure progression are according to Board Rule 214.9 and Board Education Guideline 3.7.3.a.
- Online delivery is utilized for medical terminology and for one (1) basic nursing skills class. Faculty members are fully trained prior to teaching by this method.
- Standardized testing is part of the admissions process.
- Students can easily articulate from the VN to the ADN program.

Faculty:

- In addition to the program director, one (1) full-time RN faculty member and one (1) adjunct faculty member provide the VN instruction.
- Faculty members meet Board qualifications and offer a rich diversity in their education and clinical backgrounds.
- The new adjunct faculty member is being mentored throughout her first year.
- Faculty reported they receive strong support from one another, the Chair of Health Professions, and the college administration.
- Faculty members report they are engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty has regular meetings and decision making is collaborative.
- Review of faculty meeting minutes reveals that documentation regarding faculty actions and rationales were not consistently evident.
- The Faculty Handbook includes written policies as required.
- The program director and faculty report a generous faculty development program that more than meets their needs.
- Faculty files provide evidence of faculty qualifications, responsibilities, and faculty evaluations.

Students:

- The program admits one (1) cohort of students each year in August.
- According to the director, the program has the capacity to admit forty-two (42) to forty-five (45) students annually. In August 2012, thirty-nine (39) students were accepted. The program currently has twenty (20) students enrolled of the thirty-nine (39) who were admitted.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of the convenient location and the program's strong reputation.
- Students agreed the program of study is preparing them well for clinical practice and they cited clinical learning experiences as being the most rewarding part of the program.
- All students reported they plan on continuing their education to become registered nurses.
- Student policies are well-defined and written.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies that provide rich clinical opportunities for the curriculum. Skills lab and simulation lab activities are also utilized.
- Faculty provides supervision during all clinical learning experiences.
- Board faculty-to-student ratios are maintained.
- Clinical learning experiences are scheduled to correlate with didactic content.
- Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined in writing.
- The clinical evaluation tools are based upon course content, the DECs, and measure progression of the student throughout the program.
- The skills/simulation labs are available to students for practice with faculty supervision.
- Clinical preceptors are used and guidelines are well-written.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The VN Program is located on the main campus in the M. G. & Lillie A. Johnson Health Occupations Center.
- A full array of student services is offered on the Wharton County Junior College campus.
- A library, ample computer resources, and learning resources are evident.
- There is ample, open parking available that is adjacent to the program building.
- The facilities housing the VN program are spacious and equipped with numerous classrooms and two (2) well equipped skills/simulation labs. Audiovisual equipment is available in every classroom.
- The Program Director and full-time Faculty are provided with fully furnished private offices.
- The program has full-time clerical and secretarial support.
- The Director and Faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.

Records and Reports:

- The program has a well-written Total Program Evaluation Plan that is used for decision making.
- Meeting minutes are well documented, indicate when decisions are made, and are prepared in a legible format.
- Student and faculty files contain all documents required by Rule 214.
- Clinical Affiliation agreements are up to date and easily accessible.
- Storage of files meets the requirement of Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

October 21, 2013

Elizabeth Rohan, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488

Dear Ms. Rohan,

At the October 17-18, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered a report of the June 3, 2013 routine survey visit to the Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The program was found to be in compliance with all aspects of Rule 214. Therefore, it was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit.

If you have questions or if we may provide assistance, please contact Board Staff at Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

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

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

Copy: Carol J. Derkowski, RDH, MAIE, Chair, Allied Health Division