

**REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT  
 TEXARKANA COLLEGE  
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the report of the September 14, 2006 survey visit to the Texarkana College Vocational Nursing Program at Texarkana.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2005	Full	89%	90 / 101
2004	Full	89%	84 / 94
2003	Full	92%	57 / 62

- Texarkana College has operated a vocational nursing program since September 1956.
- The program has two enrollment cycles per year, August and February.
- The program was surveyed in 2000 and completed a Compliance Audit in 2003.
- There were no outstanding Requirements or Recommendations.
- The survey conducted on September 14 2006 was routine.

**SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT (see Attachment 1 for complete report):**

The program director, Carol Hodgson, RN, PhD and Ms. Kim Penny, RN, BSN, Coordinator were present during the survey visit and provided additional information to board staff. Student and faculty interviews also facilitated the survey. See attachment one for complete survey findings.

- 214.1 General** Requirements-faculty were not familiar with current BNE rules for Vocational Nursing Education
- 214.4 Approval** - Criteria Met
- 214.5 Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes** -criteria met
- 214.6 Administration and Organization-**
  - The faculty verbalize a desire to incorporate web based instruction in the program. However, the infrastructure and people resources necessary to implement the project are not available.
  - The Coordinator, who has been in place for a year, has not attended a BNE Dean, Director, Coordinator Orientation
- 214.7 Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization -**
  - The faculty is revising current test writing strategies to raise the level of test questions from Bloom’s Cognitive level of knowledge to that of application.
  - The faculty has not fully developed inter-rater policies.
  - Faculty minutes are not fully developed so that essential elements are captured for the Total Program Evaluation
- 214.8 Students-** Criteria met
- 214.9 Program of Study-**
  - Program syllabi contains outdated references
- 214.10 Management of Clinical Learning Experiences and Resources** - Criteria met.

**214.11 Facilities, Resources and Services-**

- A formal weeding and acquisition policy exists for text holdings. This has not been extended to media holdings.
- The program utilizes a professional nurse to run the Auto Tutorial Lab (skills and tutoring lab). The program director indicates the salary is below that of other professional nurses employed by the program and is inadequate to meet the maintain the position should the current person leave the program.

**214.12 Records and Reports- Criteria Met**

**214.13 Total Program -Criteria Met**

- There are multiple evaluation tools.

**PROS AND CONS**

**Pros:**

- The administration demonstrates support for the program
- The faculty is committed to improvements to continue the quality of the program
- The program has increased outreach efforts to local high schools

**Cons:**

- The level of support available for web based instruction is minimal.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to accept the report of findings of the survey visit for Texarkana College Vocational Nursing Program and issue the commendations, recommendations, and requirements to be met based on staff recommendation, as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment Two).

**Attachment One**

**BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS  
 SURVEY VISIT REPORT  
 (VN Education Programs)**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texarkana College

DIRECTOR OR COORDINATOR: Carol Hogdson, Kim Penny

REASON FOR BNE SURVEY: Routine 6 year site visit

DATES: September 14, 2006

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Betty Sims, RN, MSN Robbin Wilson RN, MSN

BNE APPROVAL STATUS: FULL DATE OF LAST BNE SURVEY VISIT: June, 2000 (Compliance Audit 2003)

OTHER (Name of Accrediting Agency):

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: N/A

NLNAC: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ACCREDITATION (Initial, Full, Warning, etc.)

DATE OF MOST RECENT VISIT:

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§214.1 General Requirements		
(a) The Director or Coordinator and faculty are accountable for complying with the Board's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act.	Interview with faculty members indicate a global knowledge deficit of the current education rules for vocational nursing.	Requirement 1. Rule 214. 1 related to <u>General Requirements</u> , states, "The Director or Coordinator and faculty are accountable for complying with the Board's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act." Interview with faculty members indicate a global knowledge deficit of the current education rules for vocational nursing. Therefore the program director shall implement measures to introduce faculty members to current education rules.
§ 214.4 Approval		
(c)(2)(A) Eighty percent (80%) of first-time candidates who complete the program of study are required to achieve a passing score on the NCLEX-PN examination.	2005 89% 2004 89% 2003 92%	Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§ 214.5 Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes		
(a) The philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes of the vocational nursing education program shall be consistent with the philosophy/mission of the controlling agency. They shall reflect the diversity of the community served and shall be consistent with professional, educational, and ethical standards of nursing.		Criteria met
(b) Program objectives/outcomes derived from the philosophy/mission shall reflect the <i>Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate Degree (Dip/ADN), Baccalaureate (BSN), September 2002.</i>		Criteria met
©) Clinical objectives/outcomes shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall serve as a mechanism for evaluating student progression.		Criteria met
(d) The conceptual framework shall provide the organization of major concepts from the philosophy/mission of the program that provides the underlying structure or theme of the curriculum and facilitates the achievement of program objectives/outcomes.		Criteria met
(e) The faculty shall periodically review the philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes and shall make appropriate revisions to maintain currency.		Criteria met
§ 214.6 Administration and Organization		
(a) The controlling agency shall be licensed or accredited by a Board-recognized agency.  (b) There shall be an organizational chart indicating lines of authority between the vocational nursing education program and the controlling agency.		Criteria met
(c) The program shall have comparable status with other educational units within the institution (controlling agency).	The program utilizes a professional nurse in the ATL laboratory. The role of the ATL person is to provide skills review with students, tutoring and counseling of both vocational and professional nursing students. Review of the budget and interview with the program director and administrative personnel indicate that the salary is significantly lower than other professional nurses employed in the program. The program director verbalizes that the position could not be filled if the current employee leaves the position.	Recommendation 1  The college administration should investigate mechanisms to elevate the ATL staff position to be comparable with other professional nurses in the program and thereby retain a valuable resource.

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(d) The controlling agency shall:</p> <p>(1) be responsible for satisfactory operation of the vocational nursing program;</p> <p>(2) meet rules and regulations as stated in this chapter;</p> <p>(3) provide the number of faculty necessary to meet minimum standards set by the Board and to insure a sound educational program;</p> <p>(4) provide for suitable classroom and clinical facilities;</p> <p>(5) provide secretarial assistance;</p> <p>(6) provide sufficient funds for operation and maintenance of the program to meet requirements set by the Board; and</p> <p>(7) select and appoint a qualified registered nurse director or coordinator for the program who meets the requirements of the Board. The director shall:</p> <p>(A) hold a current license or privilege to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas;</p> <p>(B) have been actively employed in nursing for the past five years, preferably in supervision or teaching. If the director has not been actively employed in nursing for the past five years, the director's advanced preparation in nursing, nursing education, and nursing administration and prior relevant nursing employment may be taken into consideration by the Board staff in evaluating qualifications for the position;</p> <p>(C) have a degree or equivalent experience that will demonstrate competency and advanced preparation in nursing, education, and administration; and</p> <p>(D) have had five years of varied nursing experience since graduation from a professional nursing education program.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(e) When the director or coordinator of the program changes, the director or coordinator shall submit to the Board office written notification of the change indicating the final date of employment. The controlling agency shall ensure that:</p> <p>(1) a new director or coordinator qualification form is submitted to the Board office for approval prior to being hired at an existing program or a new program;</p> <p>(2) the director may have responsibilities other than the program provided that an assistant program coordinator/lead instructor is designated to assist with the program management;</p> <p>(3) a director with responsibilities other than the program shall not have major teaching responsibilities; and</p> <p>(4) written job descriptions exist which clearly delineate responsibilities of the director, coordinator and lead instructor, as appropriate.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(f) In a fully approved vocational nursing education program, if the individual to be appointed as director or coordinator does not meet the requirements for director or coordinator as specified in subsection (d)(7) of this section, the administration is permitted to petition for a waiver of the Board's requirements, according to Board guidelines, prior to the appointment of said individual.</p>		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(g) A newly appointed director or coordinator of a vocational nursing education program shall attend the next scheduled orientation provided by the board staff.	At the time of the survey visit, the coordinator has been in the position for one year and has not attended an orientation	Ms. Penny attended the September 22, 2006 Dean, Director, Coordinator Orientation.
(h) The director or coordinator shall have the authority to direct the program in all its phases, including approval of teaching staff, selection of appropriate clinical sites, admission, progression, probation, and dismissal of students. Additional responsibilities include but are not limited to: (1) providing evidence of faculty expertise and knowledge to teach curriculum content; (2) acting as agent of the Board and issuing temporary permits to eligible graduates, upon completion of the program; (3) verifying student's completion of program requirements on the Affidavit of Graduation; and (4) completing and submitting the Annual Report to the Board office by the required date.		Criteria met
§ 214.7 Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization		
(a) There shall be written personnel policies for nursing faculty that are in keeping with accepted educational standards and are consistent with the policies of the controlling agency. Faculty policies shall include, but not be limited to: qualifications, responsibilities, performance evaluation criteria, and terms of employment. (1) Policies concerning workload for faculty and the director or coordinator shall be in writing. (2) There shall be written plans for faculty orientation, development and evaluation. (3) There shall be orientation of new faculty members at the onset of employment. (4) A variety of means shall be used to evaluate faculty performance such as self, student, peer and administrative evaluation.	All policies are in place, with the exception of Inter rater reliability.  Policies include a comprehensive Peer Review Policy, a Mentoring guideline and a policy addressing faculty clinical development.	Requirement 2  <u>Rule 214. 7 related to Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization</u> , states, "There shall be written personnel policies for nursing faculty that are in keeping with accepted educational standards....". Interrater reliability policies are absent. Therefore , the program director and faculty shall develop policies to include strategies to achieve inter rater reliability in grading of skill, clinical supervision, clinical evaluation and grading of required clinical documents.  Commendation 1 The program has initiated a clinical development plan for faculty. The program works with clinical facilities to provide exposure to current nursing care strategies. The plan individualized to each faculty member.
(b) Minimum Teaching Personnel - there shall be a minimum of one full-time nursing instructor for the program A director/coordinator without major teaching or clinical responsibilities shall not be considered a full-time instructor. Use of part-time instructors is permissible.		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(c) Faculty Qualifications and Responsibilities.            (1) Documentation of faculty qualifications shall be included in the official files of the program. Each faculty member shall:            (A) hold a current license or privilege to practice nursing in the State of Texas;            (B) have been actively employed in nursing for the past three years. If the instructor has not been actively employed in nursing for the past three years, the instructor's advanced preparation in nursing, nursing education, and nursing administration, and prior relevant nursing employment may be taken into consideration in evaluating qualifications for the position; and            (C) have had three years varied nursing experiences since graduation.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(2) In fully approved programs, if an individual to be appointed as faculty member does not meet the requirements for faculty as specified in subsection (c) of this section, the director or coordinator is permitted to petition for a waiver of the Board's requirements, according to Board guidelines, prior to the appointment of said individual.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(3) Faculty shall be responsible for:            (A) supervision of students in clinical learning experiences;            (B) all initial nursing procedures in the clinical area and ascertain that the student is competent before allowing the student to perform an actual nursing procedure independently;            (C) developing, implementing, and evaluating curriculum; and            (D) participating in the development of standards for admission, progression, probation, dismissal of students, and participation in academic guidance and counseling.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(4) Non-nursing faculty are exempt from meeting the faculty qualifications as long as the teaching assignments are not nursing didactic or clinical courses.</p>		N/A
<p>(5) Clinical preceptors shall be responsible for providing clinical instruction and/or supervision when a program faculty member is unavailable in clinical sites. The clinical preceptor shall meet the requirements of Rule 214.10(k)(1).</p>		Criteria met
<p>(6) Substitute faculty may be employed to meet emergent program needs. Substitute faculty beyond ten consecutive working days and/or on an interim basis shall meet qualifications as specified in Rule 214.7(c)(1).</p>		Criteria met
<p>(7) Part-time faculty may participate in all aspects of the program. Clear lines of communication of program policies, objectives and evaluative criteria shall be included in policies for part-time faculty.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(8) Military faculty - Federal laws and regulations regarding licensure of military nursing personnel shall apply to Texas based military faculty members functioning within vocational nursing programs.</p>		N/A

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(d) The faculty shall meet regularly and function in such a manner that all members participate in planning, implementing and evaluating the nursing program. Such participation includes, but is not limited to the initiation and/or change in program policies, personnel policies, curriculum, utilization of affiliating agencies, and program evaluation. Minutes of faculty organization and meetings shall document the reasons for actions and the decisions of the faculty and shall be available for reference.	Minutes are available for all faculty committees. However, the minutes are not formatted to allow the capture of critical data for the Total Program Evaluation	Recommendation 2 Revise format of minutes to reflect activities related to data collection, evaluation and implementation of changes
§214.8 Students		
(a) The program shall have well defined student policies based upon statutory and Board requirements.		Criteria met
(b) Individuals enrolled in approved vocational nursing education programs preparing students for licensure shall be provided verbal and written information regarding conditions that may disqualify graduates from licensure and of their rights to petition the Board for a Declaratory Order of Eligibility. Required eligibility information includes: (1) Texas Occupations Code §§ 301.252, 301.257, and 301.452-469; and (2) Sections §§213.27-213.30 of the Texas Administration Code (relating to Good Professional Character, Licensure of Persons with Criminal Convictions, Criteria and Procedure Regarding Intemperate Use and Lack of Fitness in Eligibility and Disciplinary Matters, and Declaratory Order of Eligibility for Licensure).		Criteria met
(c) Admission requirements shall be stated in the student policies. Programs shall set reasonable educational requirements for admission. Applicants shall present evidence of being able to meet objectives/outcomes of the program. All students shall be pretested. Tests shall measure reading comprehension and mathematical ability.		Criteria met
(d) Reasons for dismissal shall be stated in student policies.		Criteria met
(e) Copies of the student policies shall be furnished to all students at the beginning of the school year. The school shall maintain a signed receipt of student policies in all students' records. It is the school's responsibility to define and enforce student policies.		Criteria met
(f) The number of students admitted to the program shall be determined by the number of qualified faculty, adequate educational facilities and resources, and the availability of appropriate clinical learning experiences for students. Programs shall not accept admissions after the third day of class.		Criteria met
(g) Students shall be allocated at least 18 days leave for vacation and/or holidays. All scheduled holidays are to be observed on the holidays designated by the controlling agency. Vacation time shall be scheduled at the same time or all students.		Criteria met



STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(h) Students shall meet the requirements of Rule 214.9(e) related to Program of Study to be eligible for graduation from an approved vocational nursing education program.		Criteria met
(i) Acceptance of transfer students and evaluation of allowable credit for advanced placement remains at the discretion of the coordinator or director of the program and the controlling agency. Upon completing the program's requirements, the individual is considered to be a graduate of the school.		Criteria met
(j) Records of student conferences shall be kept and made available to the student involved and all faculty members. Students shall be provided written documentation of all conferences.		Criteria met
(k) Students shall have the opportunity to evaluate faculty, courses, and learning resources and these evaluations shall be documented.	There is strong evidence of administrative and program support for student success.	Criteria met Commendation 2 The college administration supports the Rising Star Scholarship program. Students are involved in the MASH project. The MASH project is a connection between the nursing program and high school students.
§ 214.9 Program of Study		
(a) The program of study shall be: (1) a minimum of 1,398 clock hours; 558 hours for classroom instruction and 840 hours for clinical practice. Class hours shall include actual hours of classroom instruction in nursing and non-nursing Board-required courses/content. Clinical practice shall include actual hours of practice in clinical areas, clinical conferences, and/or simulated lab experiences;  (2) scheduled with the placement of courses or course content throughout the entire length of the program; (3) organized by subject and content to meet the needs of the program; (4) based on the philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes; (5) based on sound educational principles; (6) designed to prepare graduates to practice according to The Nursing Practice Act, Standards of Nursing Practice, Unprofessional Conduct Rules, and other laws and regulations which pertain to various practice settings; (7) designed and implemented to prepare students to demonstrate the <i>Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate Degree (Dip/ADN), Baccalaureate (BSN), September 2002</i> ; and (8) designed to teach students to use a systematic approach to clinical decision making.	A majority of test questions reviewed are written at the knowledge level. However, faculty have attended recent seminars on test development are are revising tests.	Criteria met  Recommendation 3 Continue efforts to elevate tests to the level of the NCLEX-PN .

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(b) The faculty shall be responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum based upon the following guidelines:</p> <p>(1) Framework. The philosophy/mission shall be the basis for curriculum development and shall reflect the purpose of the organization, faculty beliefs, and education concepts. Clinical learning objectives/outcomes derived from the philosophy/mission shall be representative of the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate Degree (Dip/ADN), Baccalaureate (BSN), September 2002 for preparation of a vocational nurse graduate. Clinical and course objectives/outcomes shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall serve as the mechanism for student progression. The conceptual framework shall define the internal and external influences impacting vocational nursing education and shall identify the educational method and focus.</p> <p>(2) Design and Implementation. The curriculum shall be designed and implemented to prepare students to demonstrate the <i>Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate degree (Dip/ADN), Baccalaureate (BSN), September 2002</i>. The curriculum design shall allow for flexibility to incorporate current nursing education theories and the implications of current developments in health care and health care delivery to assist graduates in meeting professional, legal, and societal expectations. Educational mobility shall also be a consideration in curriculum design.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(3) Specific Provisions. Instruction shall be provided in biological, physical, social, behavioral, and nursing sciences, including body structure and function, microbiology, pharmacology, and nutrition; signs of emotional health; and human growth and development. Vocational adjustments and nursing skills shall also be included. Courses may be integrated or separate. The selection and organization of the learning experiences in the curriculum shall provide continuity, sequence, and integration of learning. Didactic and skills laboratory experiences shall be concurrent. Correlated didactic and clinical practice shall be provided in the following areas, but not necessarily in separate courses:</p>		Criteria met
<p>(A) Nursing Care of Children. Experiences shall include care of children and meeting their needs in a variety of age groups in both the acute and non-acute care setting. Day care and clinic settings may be utilized as supplementary experience. Common health deviations, physical, psychological, and neurological handicaps, and nutritional needs shall be emphasized. Students shall have opportunities to develop understanding of normal growth and development and the influences of the family, home, church, school, and community. Student practice in caring for and understanding the needs of newborn infants shall also be included.</p>		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(B) Maternity Nursing. Opportunities shall be provided for students to gain an understanding of the psychological and physiological aspects of pregnancy, labor, and puerperium. Assisting mothers in the care of their infants shall be emphasized. A variety of settings, including clinics, organized maternity units, and maternity cases in non-segregated units, may be utilized for provision of maternity nursing experience.		Criteria met
(C) Nursing Care of the Aged. Opportunities shall be included for the care of individuals experiencing specific changes related to the aging process. Students shall develop an understanding of the physical and mental changes associated with aging and the implications of aging in planning nursing care.		Criteria met
(D) Nursing Care of Adults. Opportunities shall be provided to the student through the use of various resources to care for adults who have health deviations. Resources used shall include learning experiences to illustrate the individual as a member of the family, the responsibilities and functions of the community in the provision of nursing care, and the types of agencies where nursing is practiced. Preventive, therapeutic, and rehabilitative aspects shall be provided. Experiences shall also include the physical, psychological, and spiritual components of health and disease. Experience shall include, but not be limited to, the acute care settings.		Criteria met
(E) Nursing Care of Individuals With Mental Health Problems. Learning opportunities shall include an understanding of personality development, human needs, common mental mechanisms, and factors influencing mental health and mental illness. Common mental disorders and related therapy shall be included. Clinical experience in a unit or facility specifically designed for psychiatric care is optional.		Criteria met
(c) Classroom instruction shall include organized student/faculty interactive learning activities, formal lecture, audiovisual presentations, and simulated laboratory instruction.		Criteria met
(d) The curriculum plan, including course outlines, shall be kept current and available to faculty and Board representatives.	Syllabi contain out dated references.	Recommendation 4 Review and revise syllabi to remove outdated references such as lab values from 1978.
(e) A system of grading shall be in place which does not allow grades of less than a "C" on any subject area required for licensure eligibility listed in this chapter.		Criteria met
(f) Major revisions to the curriculum must be submitted to the Board office following Board guidelines for review and approval prior to implementation. Major revisions include: (1) changes in philosophy/mission; (2) revisions in program hours; and (3) addition/reduction of courses in the program of study.		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(g) All programs implementing a curriculum change shall provide an evaluation of the outcomes of these changes and submit them with the Annual Report through the first graduating class.		Criteria met
(h) There shall be provision for continuous development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.		Criteria met
(i) Programs may allow individuals to challenge the vocational nursing education curriculum, and shall develop and define such policies to meet theory and practice requirements for challenging credit.		Criteria met
(j) Adaptation to the calendar in the college catalog is permissible.		Criteria met
(k) Programs shall apprise the Board office of any program changes.		Criteria met
§ 214.10 Management of Clinical Learning Experiences and Resources		
(a) Faculty shall be responsible for student clinical practice evaluations. Clinical practice evaluations shall be correlated with level and/or course objectives including formative and summative evaluation. Students shall receive a minimum of three clinical evaluations during the program.	<p>Clear clinical guidelines facilitate the process of evaluation</p> <p>Current clinical grading is pass/fail.</p>	Criteria met
(b) Clinical practice shall include actual hours of practice in clinical areas, clinical conferences, and/or simulated lab experiences.		Criteria met
(c) Clinical experiences shall include the administration of medications, health promotion and preventive aspects, nursing care of persons throughout the life span with acute and chronic illnesses, and rehabilitative care. Students shall participate in instructor supervised patient teaching. Students shall also be provided opportunities for participation in clinical conferences. The focus of clinical conferences shall be student experiences in the clinical setting. Simulated laboratory experiences may also be utilized as a teaching strategy in classroom and clinical settings to meet objectives.		Criteria met
(d) Scheduling of student time and clinical rotations shall be made by the program faculty. Selected clinical learning experiences will remain unchanged unless a client's condition demands reassignment. Reassignment must be approved with prior consent of faculty.	The program director participates in a Clinical Scheduling Council to ensure that clinical needs are met.	Criteria met
(e) The student's daily client assignment shall be made in accordance with clinical objectives/outcomes and learning needs of the students. The total number of daily assignments shall not exceed five clients.		Criteria met
(f) Consideration of selection of a clinical site shall include: (1) client census in sufficient numbers to meet the clinical objectives/outcomes of the program; and (2) evidence of collaborative arrangements in those facilities, which support multiple nursing programs.		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(g) There shall be a written affiliation agreement between the controlling agency and the affiliating agency before the affiliation begins. The agreement shall outline the responsibilities of each agency entering the agreement. The agreement shall contain a withdrawal of participation clause indicating a minimum period of time to be given for notice of such withdrawal.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(h) Affiliation agreements are optional for those clinical experiences which are observation only.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(i) The affiliating agency shall:            (1) provide clinical facilities for student experiences;            (2) provide space for conducting clinical conferences for use by the school if classrooms are located elsewhere;            (3) provide assistance with clinical supervision of students, including preceptorships, by mutual agreement between the affiliating agency and controlling agency; and            (4) have no authority to dismiss faculty or students. Should the affiliating agency wish to recommend dismissal of faculty or students, such recommendation(s) shall be in writing.</p>	<p>The program has a clinical facility survey to aide in selection of clinical sites.</p>	Criteria met
<p>(j) The faculty member shall be responsible for the supervision of students in clinical learning experiences.            (1) When a faculty member is the only person officially responsible for a clinical group, then the group shall total no more than ten (10) students. Patient safety shall be a priority and may mandate lower ratios, as appropriate. The faculty member shall supervise that group in only one facility at a time, unless some portion or all of the clinical group are assigned to observational experiences in additional settings.            (2) Direct faculty supervision is not required for an observational experience. Observational experiences may be used to supplement, but not replace patient care experiences, and must serve the purpose of student attainment of clinical objectives.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(k) Faculty may use clinical preceptors to enhance clinical learning experiences and to assist faculty in the clinical supervision of students.            (1) Faculty shall develop written criteria for the selection of clinical preceptors.            (2) When clinical preceptors are used, written agreements between the vocational nursing education program, clinical preceptor, and the affiliating agency, when applicable, shall delineate the functions and responsibilities of the parties involved.            (3) Faculty shall be readily available to students and clinical preceptors during clinical learning experiences.            (4) The designated faculty member shall meet periodically with the clinical preceptors and student(s) for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating learning experiences.            (5) Written clinical objectives, evaluation criteria, and written description of expectations shall be shared with the clinical preceptors prior to or concurrent with the experience.</p>		Criteria met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(l) Clinical preceptors may be used to enhance clinical learning experiences after a student has received clinical and didactic instruction in all basic areas of nursing or within a course after a student has received clinical and didactic instruction in the basic areas of nursing for that course or specific learning experience.</p> <p>(1) In courses which use clinical preceptors for a portion of clinical learning experiences, faculty shall have no more than 12 students in a clinical group.</p> <p>(2) In a course which uses clinical preceptors as the sole method of student instruction and supervision in clinical settings, faculty shall coordinate the preceptorship for no more than 24 students.</p> <p>(3) the preceptor may supervise student clinical learning experiences without the physical presence of the faculty member in the affiliating agency or clinical practice setting.</p> <p>(4) The preceptor shall be responsible for the clinical learning experiences of no more than two students per clinical day.</p> <p>(5) The preceptor shall be accountable for evaluating the student using clinical objectives developed by vocational nursing faculty.</p> <p>(6) Clinical preceptors shall have the following qualifications:</p> <p>(A) competence in designated areas of practice;</p> <p>(B) philosophy of health care congruent with that of the nursing program; and</p> <p>(C) current licensure or privilege to practice nursing in the State of Texas.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(m) The total weekly schedule throughout the length of the program shall not exceed 40 hours per week including both class and clinical practice hours. Class and clinical practice hours shall be continuous. Students shall be assigned two consecutive non-class days off each week.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(n) Programs shall not permit utilization of students for health care facility staffing.</p>		Criteria met
<p>§ 214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services</p>		
<p>(a) Classrooms and nursing skills laboratory facilities shall be provided to accommodate the learning needs of the students.</p>		Criteria met
<p>(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. The laboratory shall have cabinets for storage of equipment.</p>	20 computers in ATL 12 beds	Criteria met
<p>(c) The director or coordinator and faculty shall have office space provided , other than the classroom. There shall be privacy for counseling of students.</p>		Criteria met

<p>(d) 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.  (1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.  (2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>The program has a formal weeding and acquisition policy for text holdings. There is no formal policy for media holdings. The program does have a mechanism to remove outdated videos (see pictures).</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 5</b>  Expand the formal weeding and acquisition policy to include media holdings.</p>
<p>(e) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives of the program.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p>(f) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p><b>§ 214.12 Records and Reports</b></p>		
<p>(a) Student Forms - Student records shall be maintained on all students and shall be accessible to all faculty members and to Board representatives. Record forms may be developed by an individual school. Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p>(b) Required Student Forms - The required student forms are the student application, evidence of student's ability to meet objectives/outcomes of the program, clinical practice evaluation, transcript, signed receipt of written student policies, evidence of student receipt of eligibility information, and statement of withdrawal.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p>(c) Record Storage - Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use. Records of all graduates must be complete prior to permanent storage. Records on students who withdraw from the program shall be completed up to the date of withdrawal.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p>(d) Retention of Student Records - All records shall be maintained for two years. At minimum, a transcript shall be retained as a permanent record on all students.</p>		<p>Criteria met</p>
<p><b>§ 214.13 Total Program Evaluation</b></p>		
<p>(a) There shall be a written plan for the systematic evaluation of the total program. The plan shall include evaluative criteria, methodology, frequency of evaluation, assignment of responsibility, and indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness. The following broad areas shall be periodically evaluated:  (1) organization and administration of the program;  (2) philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes;  (3) program of study, curriculum, and instructional techniques;  (4) educational facilities, resources, and services;  (5) affiliating agencies and clinical learning activities;  (6) students' achievement;  (7) graduates' performance on the licensing examination;  (8) graduates' nursing competence;  (9) faculty members; performance; and  (10) extension programs.</p>	<p>The program has multiple evaluation tools. The mandated criteria is reflected throughout the documents. The program may have a more valuable tool if all of the documents are consolidated.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 6</b>  Evaluate the efficacy of combining all evaluation tools into a master document which provides a comprehensive documents which meets the needs of the program and the requirements of the rule.</p>

<b>(b) All evaluation methods and instruments shall be periodically reviewed for appropriateness.</b>		<b>Criteria met</b>
<b>(c) Implementation of the plan for total program evaluation shall be documented in the minutes.</b>		<b>Criteria met</b>
<b>(d) Major changes in the nursing education program shall be evidence-based and supported by rationale.</b>		<b>Criteria met</b>





**Figure 1** Informal weeding policy for media holdings



**Figure 2** Beds and equipment



**Figure 3** Manikin and equipment



**Figure 4** Beds and equipment

## ATTACHMENT 2

October 25, 2006

Carol Hodgson, RN, PhD  
Vocational Nursing Program  
2500 North Robison Road  
Texarkana, Texas 75599

Dear Dr. Hodgson:

At the October 19-20, 2006 meeting, the members of the Board of Nurse Examiners considered the report of the survey visit to the Texarkana College Vocational Nursing Program.

It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the site visit and issue the following Commendations, Requirements and Recommendations:

### Commendations

1. The program has initiated a clinical development plan for faculty. The program works with clinical facilities to provide exposure to current nursing care strategies. The plan individualized to each faculty member.
2. The college administration supports the Rising Star Scholarship program. Students are involved in the MASH project. The MASH project is a connection between the nursing program and high school students.

### Recommendations

1. The college administration should investigate mechanisms to elevate the ATL staff position to be comparable with other professional nurses in the program and thereby retain a valuable resource.
2. Revise format of minutes to reflect activities related to data collection, evaluation and implementation of changes
3. Continue efforts to elevate tests to the level of the NCLEX-PN .
4. Review and revise syllabi to remove outdated references such as lab values from 1978.
5. Expand the formal weeding and acquisition policy to include media holdings.
6. Evaluate the efficacy of combining all evaluation tools into a master document which provides a comprehensive documents which meets the needs of the program and the requirements of the rule.

### Requirement

1. Rule 214. 1 related to General Requirements , states, "The Director or Coordinator and faculty are accountable for complying with the Board's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act." Interview with faculty members indicate a global knowledge deficit of the current education rules for vocational nursing. Therefore the program director shall implement measures to introduce faculty members to current education rules.
2. Rule 214. 7 related to Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization , states, "**There shall be written personnel policies for nursing faculty that are in keeping with accepted educational standards....**". Inter rater reliability policies are absent. Therefore , the program director and faculty shall **develop policies to include strategies to achieve inter rater reliability in grading of skill, clinical supervision, clinical evaluation and grading of required clinical documents.**

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rule. The program must respond in a method of the program's choice. Requirements are mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Please provide a complete response to findings no later than September 31, 2006. Board staff is available to address questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

Betty Sims MSN, RN  
Nurse Consultant, Education