

**CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2006 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATES,
REVIEW OF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT, AND REVIEW OF SELF-STUDY REPORT**

**VERNON COLLEGE AT VERNON
DAY AND EVENING
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirements to be met for the Vernon College at Vernon Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2006, review of the 2006 Annual Report, and review of the self-study report.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates Passed/Total
2006	Full	70.27%	26/37
2005	Full	94.44%	34/36
2004	Full	95%	19/20

- The Vernon College at Vernon Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program began operation in September 1972.
- The current program director was appointed to the director position in 1999.
- Due to the 66.67% pass rate on the 2006 NCLEX-PN® examination, the program was required to submit a self-study report that evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Self-Study Report was received in the Board office on September 14, 2007.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- The program conducted a comprehensive self-study and identified factors which may have contributed to the low pass rate:
 - personal problems that impacted students.
 - low GPA in nursing courses;
 - passing grades and previous failures in nursing courses of students that failed the NCLEX-PN® examination.
 - reluctance of students to seek or accept tutoring, failure to review or study for the NCLEX-PN® examination, and postponement of students' NCLEX-PN® examination dates;
 - low ATI Comprehensive scores;
 - lack of consistent instructors; and
 - need for more reliability and teamwork in blueprinting and revisions exams for all courses in the curriculum.
- Corrective measures to be implemented:
 - raise the GPA of minimally performing students through assessment and remediation;
 - establish a cohesive plan for maintaining currency in the curriculum, including implementing the ATI standardized tests throughout the curriculum and utilizing ATI reference books to update program curriculum; and
 - establish a reliable plan for blueprinting and revising program exams.

Cons-

A copy of the Total Program Evaluation Plan was included with the Self-Study Report and the required ten broad areas are included, but indicators (numerical benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for each area are not included.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status for the Vernon College at Vernon Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program, accept the Self-Study Report, and issue the requirements to be met as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2007

Lynn Kalski, RN, Director
Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program
Vernon College at Vernon
4400 College Drive
Vernon, Texas 76384

Dear Mr. Kalski:

At the October 18-19, 2007 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the approval status of the Vernon College at Vernon Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the Board staff's report regarding review of the 2006 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2006 Annual Report, and the September 14, 2007 self-study report.

Based upon the review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue the full approval status of the Vernon College at Vernon Day and Evening Vocational Nursing Education Program, accept the self-study report and issue the following requirements to be met. Although, Vernon College has made the decision to consolidate all the vocational nursing education programs at Vernon College into one program, effective October 1, 2007, the vocational nursing education program shall continue to implement the corrective actions resulting from the self-study and address the following requirements to be met..

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Rule 214. 6(h) related to *Administration and Organization*, states that "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 student." Rule 214.7(c)(3) related to *Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization*, states, in pertinent part, that "Faculty shall be responsible for: . . . (C) developing, implementing, and evaluating curriculum; and (D) participating in the development of standards for admission, progression, probation, dismissal of student, and participation in academic guidance and counseling." A review of the 2007 self-study report revealed that the report contains ongoing corrective measures. **Therefore**, the nursing program director shall be responsible for the implementation and continuing evaluation of ongoing corrective measures identified in the March 2007 self study and shall submit documentation with the Texas Board of Nursing 2007 and 2008 Compliance Audits as appropriate.
2. Rule 214.13(a) related to Total Program Evaluation, requires, in pertinent part, that "The plan shall include evaluative criteria, methodology, frequency of evaluation, assignment of responsibility, and indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness." A copy of the Total Program Evaluation Plan was included with the Self-Study Report and the required ten broad areas are included, but indicators (numerical benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for each area not included. **Therefore**, the nursing program director shall submit a copy of the revised Total Program Improvement Plan with indicators (numerical benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for each required area, along with current data and actions/decisions based on analysis of the data with the Texas Board of Nursing 2007 Compliance Audit.

Requirements are mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815 or by email at robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

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

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN, Nursing Consultant for Education

xc: