

**CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL STATUS  
 BASED ON 2007 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATES, REVIEW OF 2007 NURSING EDUCATIONAL  
 PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY (NEPIS) AND 2007 COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF NURSING  
 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP) AND REVIEW OF SELF STUDY**

**RANGER COLLEGE IN COMANCHE, TEXAS  
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider staff recommendation concerning the approval status, recommendation, and requirements to be met for Ranger College in Comanche, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for 2007, review of the 2007 Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS) and 2007 Compliance Audit of Nursing Educational Program (CANEP), and review of the February 2008 Self-Study Report.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Program	Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
Ranger College at Comanche (Consolidated) VN Program	2008 Preliminary Results through 09/30/08	Full	79.41%	27/34
	2007	Full	78.57%	44/56

Ranger College at Comanche VN Program	2006	Full	84.21%	16/19
	2005	Full	100%	10/10
	2004	Full	100%	9/9

Ranger College at Early VN Program	2006	Full	81.08%	30/37
	2005	Full	91.89%	34/37
	2004	Full	87%	38/44

- Ranger College has operated a vocational nursing (VN) educational program since 1987 when Cisco Junior College transferred administrative control of the Graham Branch of the their vocational nursing educational program to Ranger College.
- Records show that Ranger College (RC) successfully operated two separate programs, located in Comanche and Early, Texas, approximately thirty miles apart, for two years prior to deciding to consolidate the two programs into one program. This consolidation became effective on October 1, 2007 with the main campus of the program designated as the campus located in Comanche, Texas.
- Due to the 79.59% pass rate on the 2006 NCLEX-PN® examination, the program was required to submit a self-study report that evaluated factors that contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The February 2008 Self-Study Report was received in the Board office on June 17, 2008.

## **PROS AND CONS:**

### Pros-

- The program conducted a comprehensive self-study and identified factors which may have contributed to the low pass rate:
  - Faculty turnover;
  - Inadequate faculty orientation;
  - Ineffective use of the Total Program Evaluation Plan;
  - Course passing standard of 77%;
  - Admission of students with low raw scores on the Asset exam;
  - Lack of available tutoring or support classes; and
  - Length of time between graduation and the taking of the NCLEX-PN® examination.
  
- Corrective measures that were identified:
  - Raising the course passing standard to 80%;
  - Requiring a higher score on the Asset exam for students wanting to be admitted to the program;
  - Implementing tutoring classes for students;
  - More effective utilization of the Total Program Evaluation Plan;
  - Implementing tutorial classes for students;
  - Changing the exams to make the questions more like NCLEX-PN® style questions with an analysis level of questioning;
  - Allowing student input into faculty meetings; and
  - Implementation of an improved faculty orientation.

### Cons-

- Preliminary NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for 2008 are 79.41% with only one quarter remaining in the 2008 testing calendar. If additional graduates do not test and pass during the one remaining quarter, the program's pass rates will be below the required 80% for two consecutive years and will place the program's approval status in jeopardy.
- Changes to the course passing standard and changes to the Asset exam cannot be implemented until a proposal is submitted to the Dean of Instruction and approval for the changes are approved.
- The Master Plan for Total Curriculum Evaluation that was submitted with the self-study report does not include numerical indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for all the evaluative criteria.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to continue full approval status for the Ranger College Vocational Nursing Educational Program, accept the 2008 Self-Study Report, and issue the requirements to be met as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

## DRAFT LETTER

October 30, 2008

Patsy Davis, ADN, RN  
Vocational Nursing Department Head and  
Director of the Early Vocational Nursing Program  
P.O. Box 3035  
Early, Texas 76803

Dear Ms. Davis:

At the July 19-20, 2007 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) reviewed the approval status of the Ranger College in Comanche, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program based on the Board staff's report regarding review of the 2007 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, review of the 2007 Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS) and 2007 Compliance Audit of Nursing Educational Program (CANEP), and the February 2008 Self-Study Report.

Based upon the review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue the full approval status of the Ranger College Vocational Nursing Educational Program, accept the 2008 Self-Study Report and issue the following recommendation and requirements to be met:

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The program is strongly encouraged to begin intensive NCLEX-PN® examination preparation with all remaining graduates that might test during the remaining test period for 2008 and, in the future, consider mandating an NCLEX-PN® examination review course for all future graduates.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Rule 214.6(h) related to Administration and Organization, requires in pertinent part that in a vocational nursing educational program "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." A review of the 2008 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 February 2008 Self-Study Report and shall submit documentation of implementation of these corrective actions with the 2008 and 2009 NEPIS and CANEP as appropriate.
2. Rule 214.13(a) related to Total Program Evaluation, requires in pertinent part that "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." A review of the 2008 Self-Study Report revealed that the Master Plan for Total Curriculum Evaluation that was submitted with the self-study report does not include numerical indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for all the evaluative criteria. **Therefore**, the nursing program director shall revise the Master Plan for Total Curriculum Evaluation to include numerical indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness for all the evaluative criteria and submit a copy of the revised plan with current data and actions/decisions based on analysis of the data with the 2008 and 2009 NEPIS and CANEP as appropriate.

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rule. The program must respond, but 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. 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@bne.state.tx.us](mailto:robbin.wilson@bne.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

xc: James McDonald, President, Ranger College  
John Slaughter, Dean of Instruction, Ranger College