

**CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2007 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION
 PASS RATE, REVIEW OF 2007 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY
 (NEPIS) AND 2007 COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP),
 AND REVIEW OF SELF-STUDY
 TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE WEST TEXAS IN SWEETWATER, TEXAS
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirement to be met for the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) West Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program in Sweetwater, Texas based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2007, review of the 2007 VN-NEPIS and VN-CANEP, and review of the self-study report received July 16, 2008.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2007	Full	62.80%	103/164
2006 - Breckenridge	Full	88.89%	16/18
Sweetwater-Day	Full	83.33%%	75/90
Sweetwater-Evening	Full	83.33%	15/18
2005 - Breckenridge	Full	97.14%	34/35
Sweetwater-Day	Full	86.30%	63/73
Sweetwater-Evening	Full	80.00%	12/15

- TSTC-West Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program consolidated its three programs at Breckenridge and Sweetwater (Day and Evening programs) into one program effective April 30, 2007. The Board was notified of this consolidation at the April 19, 2007 meeting.
- The TSTC VN program at Sweetwater has been in operation since 1973. The VN program at the Breckenridge site began in 1991. An evening program at Sweetwater was added in 1995.
- Due to the 62.80% pass rate on the 2007 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.
- NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the previous two years are shown in the table as separate pass rates since it was prior to the consolidation.
- The self-study report was received in the Board office on July 16, 2008.
- A review of the VN program had already been begun by Lori Ferguson, MSN, RN, newly appointed Associate Vice President of Nursing Education at TSTC before the low pass rate was known.
- The review uncovered several problematic issues which prompted the resignation of the VN program director and the assistant program director.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- The self-study report submitted to board staff provided pertinent information and a comprehensive analysis of the program.
- The director stated that the self-study process provided an organized way to evaluate all parts of the VN program and was very beneficial in pinpointing areas of concern.
- The program has already begun to implement many of the corrective measures discussed in the self-study report.
- During the program evaluation, it was found that the faculty handbook was inadequate and it was rewritten.
- A more complete faculty evaluation plan was developed during the self-study process.

- The program recognized contributing factors which may have affected the program's pass rate:
 - Limited preadmission testing and open enrollment policy
 - Problems with test security and test administration
 - Use of extra credit and curving grades to increase student retention
 - High faculty turnover resulting in decreased consistency within the faculty
 - Outdated curriculum
 - Lack of formal orientation or mentoring plan for new nursing faculty
 - Poor quality of course content delivered online
 - Lack of policies for test blueprinting, test analysis and interrater reliability
 - Lack of program evaluation plan
 - Lack of remediation and retention strategies

- Corrective measures planned and being implemented:
 - Revised admission policies with preadmission testing is in place.
 - A testing system has been purchased for all testing in the VN program.
 - Enrollment will be limited as program adjustments are made.
 - Grading policies are now in place for consistency in grading.
 - Nursing faculty salaries were increased in January 2008.
 - A formal faculty orientation plan was adopted in January 2008.
 - The curriculum has undergone extensive review and revision
 - Clinical evaluation tools have been updated with a more exact grading rubric.
 - The use of supplemental online course content has been improved.
 - A new program evaluation plan has been written and is being used.
 - A nursing student retention and remediation specialist has been hired for the program.

Cons-

- The effects of these changes may not be seen until students under the corrections graduate from the program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status for the Texas State Technical College - West Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program, accept the self-study report, and issue the requirement as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT LETTER

October 27, 2008

Lori Ferguson, MSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
Texas State Technical College- West Texas
305 Booker St.
Brownwood, Texas 76801

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

At the October 23-24, 2008 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Texas State Technical College - West Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2007, review of the 2007 VN-NEPIS and VN-CANEP, and review of the July 2008 self-study report. Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue the Full Approval status of the Texas State Technical College West Texas Vocational Nursing Program, accept the self-study report, and issue the following requirement to be met:

REQUIREMENT:

Rule 214.6(h) related to Administration and Organization requires 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 students." A review of the July 2008 self-study report revealed that the report contains ongoing corrective measures. **Therefore**, the program director shall be responsible for the implementation and continuing evaluation of ongoing corrective measures identified in the self-study report and shall submit an evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective measures with the 2009 VN-CANEP.

In addition, please provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of the curriculum change with the VN-CANEP through graduation of the first class using the new curriculum.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must 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) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Michael L. Reeser, President, TSTC