

**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
 VALLEY GRANDE INSTITUTE IN WESLACO, TEXAS
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirement to be met for the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program in Weslaco, 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 September 10, 2008.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2008 - Preliminary 1/08-9/08	Full	77.23%	16/27
2007	Full	59.65%	34/57
2006	Full	82.93%	34/41
2005	Full	66.67%	2/3 (not a complete class)

- The Valley Grande Institute VN program at Weslaco, Texas has been in operation since 1992.
- The curriculum is delivered over a 15 month period and the program admits an average of 50 students during each enrollment period.
- Due to the 59.65% 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.
- The program was given an extension on the due date for the self-study report and it was received in the Board office on September 10, 2008.

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 was undertaken with the assistance of a consultant and that it represents a faculty effort to bring change, betterment and improvement to the total program.
- The program also outlined a timeline for program correction and revision with voluntary progress reports to the Board for consideration and feedback.

- The program recognized contributing factors which may have affected the program's pass rate:
 - grade inflation
 - lenient readmission policies
 - loss of experienced faculty
 - lack of mentoring plan for new faculty
 - lack of communication between faculty
 - lack of Faculty Handbook
 - inconsistent skills lab instruction which was not closely integrated with classroom instruction
 - no utilization of computerized testing
 - an outdated program evaluation plan (no benchmarking and no mechanism to continuously evaluate the plan)

- Corrective measures planned and/or implemented included:
 - a comprehensive review of the curriculum
 - review of student policies: grading policies, readmission policies
 - development of faculty handbook to include mentoring plan, faculty evaluation plan, and faculty development plan
 - implementation of effective testing process with adequate security and utilization of computerized testing
 - review/revise clinical evaluation tools
 - revision of total program evaluation plan with a method of continuous evaluation

- The program plans to submit progress reports to board staff according to the plan below:
 - December 2008 Faculty Policies; Faculty Development Plan
 - March 2009 Student Policies; Total Program Evaluation
 - June 2009

Cons-

- The preliminary NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate from January 1, 2008 to October 8, 2008 was 77.45%.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status for the Valley Grande Institute 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

Irene Elizalde, RN
Vocational Nursing Director
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
414 S. Missouri Ave.
Weslaco, TX 78596

Dear Ms. Elizalde:

At the October 23-24, 2008 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Educational Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2007, review of the 2007 PN-NEPIS and PN-CANEP, and review of the September 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 Valley Grande Institute 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 June 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 a revised total program evaluation plan which includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective measures with the 2009 PN-CANEP.

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: Anabell Cardona, President, CEO, Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies