

**REPORT OF ROUTINE SIX-YEAR SURVEY VISIT
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE AT KILLEEN, TEXAS
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the report of the routine six-year survey visit of the Central Texas College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Killeen, Texas conducted on October 1, 2008.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates Passed/Total
2007	Full	89.29%	50/56
2006	Full	92.00%	46/50
2005	Full	80.00%	40/50

- Preliminary NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2008 is 97.73% (43/44). The examination year ends December 31, 2008.
- Central Texas College Vocational Nursing Educational Program has been in operation since 1976.
- The last routine survey visit was conducted in May 2001.
- The Central Texas VN Program at Killeen was surveyed by BON visitors, Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, and Virginia Holmes, MSN, RN on October 1, 2008.
- The Central Texas VN Program at Brady was surveyed the following day on October 2, 2008 by Janice Hooper, PhD, RN since both programs use the same curriculum and Sandra Thomason, MSN, RN is director for both programs (see Agenda Item 3.2.4.b.).

SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:

- Central Texas College is located at 6200 W. Central Texas Expressway in Killeen, Texas.
- The program director is Sandra Thomason, MSN, RN and Patricia Teasley, MSN, RN is Coordinator.

Activities During Survey Visit:

Board staff:

- Met with College Administrators:
 - Dr. James Anderson, Chancellor
 - Bill Beebe, Special Assistant to the Chancellor/Director of Contracting
 - James Nixon, Dean Ft. Hood & Service Area Campus
- Interviewed Director: Sandra Thomason, MSN, RN; and Coordinator: Patricia Teasley, MSN, RN
- Interviewed about 60 Nursing Students and 8 Nursing Faculty
- Reviewed records and documents (student files, faculty files, clinical contracts, minutes, total program evaluation plan)
- Toured nursing classrooms, labs, computer lab
- Toured library and received orientation to online data bases and collections from the Dean of Library Services and the Reference Librarian
- Conducted a summary conference with administration and director

Survey Visit Findings

Positive Findings:

- Because of the military environment, the student population at Central Texas College is very diverse and this is seen as a strength of the campus.
- The program director is very organized and is open to innovative ideas to strengthen the program.
- The program has added several new roles to the department: Retention Specialist, Clinical Coordinator, and Lab Coordinator to conserve faculty time and to promote retention and good clinical experiences.
- Administration is very supportive of the nursing program.
- The faculty seem very cohesive and supportive of each other.
- A strong mentoring program is in place for new faculty.
- Faculty work together to ensure consistency in grading of student work and clinical experiences.
- VN faculty are employed under 12-month contracts.
- In a dialogue between newly enrolled students and students in Level III, board staff could see that a great learning curve had occurred in the more experienced students. Their growth and understanding of the VN nursing role was obvious when comparing the two levels of students. The Level III students were very positive in their comments about the program to the novices in the beginning level.
- The program is interested in seeking NLNAC accreditation.

Areas of Concern:

- Faculty minutes do not reflect decision making based upon data from the total evaluation plan.
- The first semester of the program involves 21 credits and a 3 credit course includes various content areas of science and nursing. The program director has considered looking at a change for this course.
- The program uses various combinations of printed syllabi, handouts and online supplemental materials for courses. All look appropriate but organization of the documents would provide clarity.

PROPOSED COMMENDATIONS:

1. The administration is commended for their strong support for the nursing program.
2. The program is commended for the dedication of the faculty, the students and the director.
3. The program is commended for the strength of the diversity of the student body and the ways in which this strength is appreciated by the college.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The director and faculty are encouraged to continue collaborative efforts with the ADN program to enhance the educational goals in both programs.
2. It is suggested that the faculty study the possibility of requiring Anatomy & Physiology as a program prerequisite instead of the required course, Health Science.
3. The faculty are encouraged to review the total curriculum in light of interest in seeking NLNAC accreditation to gain more consistency in syllabi formatting and in references to course documents online.

PROPOSED REQUIREMENT:

Rule 214.13 *Total Program Evaluation* requires that "There shall be a written plan for the systematic evaluation of the total systematic evaluation of the total program..."

The Total Program Evaluation Plan is well developed and benchmarks are in place for criteria. However, specific data is not included in the plan nor is there evidence that decisions in faculty meetings are based upon evaluative data. **Therefore**, the director and faculty shall include numerical data as they implement the Total Program Evaluation Plan and provide a revised Total Program Evaluation Plan with current data to board staff by November 1, 2009. **Additionally**, copies of minutes which reflect the use of data from the Total Program Evaluation Plan in decision-making shall be provided to board staff by November 1, 2009.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to accept the report of the routine six-year survey visit of the Central Texas College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Killeen, Texas and issue the commendations, recommendations and requirement to be met as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT LETTER

Sandra Thomason, MSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
Central Texas College at Killeen
6200 W. Central Texas Expressway
Killeen, Texas 76549

Dear Ms. Thomason:

At the October 23-24, 2008 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six-year survey visit of the Central Texas College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Killeen. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following commendations, recommendations and requirement to be met:

COMMENDATIONS:

1. The administration is commended for their strong support for the nursing program.
2. The program is commended for the dedication of the faculty, the students and the director.
3. The program is commended for the strength of the diversity of the student body and the ways in which this strength is appreciated by the college.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The director and faculty are encouraged to continue collaborative efforts with the ADN program to enhance the educational goals in both programs.
2. It is suggested that the faculty study the possibility of requiring Anatomy & Physiology as a program prerequisite instead of the required course, Health Science.
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A recommendation is a specific suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule 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 or by email at janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Dr. James Anderson, Chancellor, CTC
Bill Beebe, Special Assistant to the Chancellor/Director of Contracting, CTC
James Nixon, Dean Ft. Hood & Service Area Campus