

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Full to Full with Warning  
 Concorde Career Institute in Arlington, Texas  
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Concorde Career Institute Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Arlington, Texas, based upon the review of the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2010 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and Board Rule 214.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The Concorde Career Institute Vocational Nursing Program has been in operation since 1996.
- The program has remained on full approval for at least the past ten years.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past six years:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Change in Approval Status
2010	78.28%	209/267	Pending	April 2011
2009	79.55%	210/264	Full	
2008	81.67%	196/240	Full	
2007	85.52%	254/297	Full	
2006	86.70%	163/188	Full	
2005	88.69%	149/168	Full	

- The program currently offers two tracks: a 13-month full-time daytime track with an enrollment of 203 students, and a 20-month evening/weekend track with an enrollment of 128 students.
- The 13-month full-time daytime track enrolls four cohorts per year during odd years and five cohorts per year during even years. The evening/weekend track enrolls two or three cohorts per year depending upon how cohort start dates align with the calendar.
- The maximum number of students to be enrolled per cohort in the 13-month full-time daytime track is 50 students and the maximum number of students to be enrolled in the 20-month evening/weekend track is 32 students. Frequently, the maximum number of 50 enrollees per cohort in the full-time daytime track is not achieved due to a variety of reasons, including a lack of qualified applicants.
- The program is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) through December 2012.
- Subsequent to the 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, the school administrators initiated a comprehensive internal self-study to identify issues related to the 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates.
- The program implemented a number of corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, but the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate was 78.28%.
- The corrective measures included:
  - Completing the transition from four terms to five terms for each cohort subsequent to a Board approved curriculum change;
  - Increased rigor in the program of study with use of test blue printing based on the NCLEX-PN® detailed test plan regarding client needs with the incorporation of Bloom's Taxonomy;

- Use of item analyses on examinations;
- Changes in the entrance test requirements;
- Use of Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) rather than Educational Resources, Inc. (ERI) testing;
- Changes to the re-entry policy;
- Decreased cohort sizes;
- Increased numbers of computers available for student use, from 62 to 114 computers; and
- Additional cabinets and sinks added to a classroom to create an interchangeable classroom/skills laboratory space.
- A lease was executed to provide additional physical space for the program; the build-out is projected to be completed in 2011.

**Pros and Cons:**

Pros:

- The program submitted a comprehensive evaluation of factors that may have contributed to the lowered NCLEX-PN® pass rates.
- Corrective measures were timely instituted and evaluated.
- The administration and faculty conducted an extensive review and evaluation of the curriculum and testing processes.

Cons:

- It is not possible to determine if the corrective measures that were implemented to improve student performance are fully effective due to the limited time period from the dates of implementation of the corrective measures to the end of the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate year.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status of Concorde Career Institute in Arlington, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and authorize board staff to conduct a survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

May 2, 2011

Ione Scivally, MSN, RN, Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Concorde Career Institute  
601 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 200  
Arlington, Texas 76011

Dear Ms. Scivally:

At the April 28-29, 2011 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Concorde Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2010, review of the 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Board Rule 214. Members of the Board wish to thank you and <<INSERT AS NEEDED>> for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Concorde Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and authorize a survey visit in 2011. Board staff will contact you to schedule the survey visit.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512)305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN  
President

Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: TWC  
ABHES