

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval  
Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the request for change of approval status for Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) in Uvalde, Texas, from initial to full approval based upon compliance with Board rules, the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, and summary report of survey visit (Attachment #1).

**Historical Perspective:**

- The Associate Degree Nursing Education Program (LVN to ADN program) at SWTJC in Uvalde was approved by the Board in October 2007 to begin in 2008.
- The 2009 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate was 55.56% (10/18) for the first year.
- The director and faculty were required to write a Self-Study Report analyzing the factors which may have influenced the pass rate and suggesting corrective measures.
- The pass rate for 2010 is 80.65% (25/31). The program is eligible to move to full approval.
- Board staff conducted a survey visit to the program on November 29-30, 2010.
- A summary of the survey report is included in Attachment #1.

**Findings from the Survey Visit:**

Pros:

- The program has strong support from the administration at SWTJC.
- The director provides excellent leadership for the program and has implemented measures to facilitate the success of the students.
- The program has recruited 4 qualified faculty who are committed to the program.
- Staff in the local hospital express appreciation for the program in the community.
- Clinical experiences are provided in all areas to meet the program objectives.
- Students who travel to campus are able to complete some of the clinical experiences in their home areas but commute for clinical experiences not available within close proximity.
- Faculty are trained in providing organized simulation experiences with student evaluation and feedback.
- The program is engaged in "preceptor training" to potential preceptors in the clinical settings to enhance clinical instruction.
- The curriculum is logical, comprehensive and following sound educational practices.
- Student policies for readmission to the program are clear and provide a fair avenue for qualified students to reenter the program.
- Faculty and administration are discussing possibilities for strengthening science requirements for the program.
- The administration, director and faculty are considering the needs of the community as they plan changes to the curriculum.

Cons:

- The director, faculty and administration find that the students seem weak in their academic preparation in required science courses.
- Students suggested a longer course in pharmacology.
- Though the building for allied health is a large building, space is not used efficiently and there is inadequate storage space for lab equipment and supplies.

**Suggested Recommendations and Requirement:**Recommendations:

- The faculty are encouraged to evaluate the adequacy of the science courses in the program.
- The faculty are encouraged to participate in the delivery of the pharmacology course by providing content related to nursing implications and to integrate principles of pharmacology across the curriculum.
- The college administration and the program directors of the allied health programs are encouraged to evaluate the use of space in the shared building and to establish a more efficient use of space.

Requirement:

The administration is required to provide resources for adequate storage of lab equipment and supplies.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status of the Southwest Texas Junior College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Uvalde, Texas, from initial to full, accept the report of the November 29-30, 2010 survey visit, and issue the recommendations and requirement in the attached letter (See Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Program**

**Overview:**

- A survey visit to Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) in Uvalde, Texas, Associate Degree Nursing Education Program was conducted November 29-30, 2010, by Janice Hooper, Nursing Consultant for Education.
- The program director had provided the program syllabi and faculty meeting minutes in an electronic format for prior review by board staff. A previous survey visit was conducted May 12-13, 2008, prior to admitting students to the program.
- A summary of the focal areas of the November 29-30, 2010 visit follows:

Rule 215.1: General Requirements:

The director and faculty demonstrated accountability for staying abreast and complying with the Board's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act. These documents are available to faculty and they are familiar with the Board's web site.

Rule 215.6: Administration and Organization:

The administration of the college provide adequate financial support and resources to operate the program. The director indicated that the needs for resources for the program are met.

The director, Dr. Geraldine Goosen, authored the proposal and has been directing the program since it began. She provides strong leadership for the program in all aspects and has been responsive to needs for adjustments as the program has moved forward. Her commitment to the program in time and energy is evident. She is active in the state organization for deans and directors of nursing programs and continually plans for changes needed in nursing education at SWTJC. A good relationship between the director and administration was recognized.

Rule 215.7: Faculty:

The Faculty Handbook is currently in revision. There are currently four MSN-prepared nursing faculty who work well together and complement each other. They have past teaching experience and a variety of areas of practice expertise. One non-nursing faculty member (a doctorally prepared pharmacist) teaches Pharmacology and there is interest in involving the nursing faculty in providing more nursing application to this course. The same faculty teach both didactic content, instruct students in clinical practice, and provide individualized instruction to students. They provide immediate feedback to students in their clinical performance. The faculty are organized and meet each Wednesday evening through a video-conferencing format. Faculty are willing to use flexible hours to make the best use of space and technology.

Rule 215.8: Students:

The director stated that an optimal number of students would be 34; they currently have 28 students enrolled. The program teaches one cohort each year. SWTJC has campuses at Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Crystal City, and Uvalde. Currently the students travel to Uvalde for classes and complete their clinical experiences in the hospitals in the four communities. SWTJC currently uses streaming video for connecting courses in other disciplines and plans to extend the use of this format to the nursing courses in the spring. This will eliminate the expense of driving and the time spent in travel for students in the other locations. Nursing faculty live across the locations and can participate in teaching from the various campuses. By using this distance learning option, a more students may be attracted to the program.

Since the college administration and faculty have several years of experience with the video format for distance learning, they are well aware of the importance of maintaining good faculty-to-student relationships. One of their foci is for faculty to maintain rapport with students using with this format and they have developed techniques to effect this goal.

Board staff observed a nursing class in session where the faculty member was engaging the students in a case study of a terminally-ill patient. Following the class, board staff met with 26 students. The program is in compliance with requirements, including student policies, eligibility information, participation in governance, course and faculty evaluation. Students spoke very positively about the program and look forward to implementation of streaming video classes for nursing. They also expressed an interest in a longer course in pharmacology.

Rule 215.9: Program of Study:

The curriculum is well organized and based upon sound educational principles. The syllabi are complete and clear. Clinical courses are separate courses from the didactic courses, but accompany the related didactic content. The program is already beginning to incorporate the newly approved Differentiated Essential Competencies approved at the October 2010 Board meeting. All faculty are involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum. Board staff observed a healthy discussion among the faculty and director about the sequencing of the courses in the program.

The faculty and administration are engaged in an open dialogue about the adequacy of preparation in science courses. There is concern about whether the Anatomy and Physiology taught at the vocational nursing program level provides the depth in content in human biology appropriate for the associate degree program. Board staff joined the discussion about the issues and possible options.

Rule 215.10: Clinical Learning Experiences:

The director took board staff on a walking tour of the Uvalde Memorial Hospital to visit the clinical sites in one clinical setting. The director has excellent relationships with the administration and staff of the hospital. The clinical experiences in this facility are broad and offer the students rich opportunities. The program has recently been engaged in "training preceptors" for inclusion in the clinical learning experiences. Board staff met some of the preceptors who were excited about this experience. A Wound Clinic is near the hospital and provides another clinical experience for students.

The program has a well-equipped simulation lab and the faculty receive ongoing training in simulation. They have developed a notebook of simulation experiences and find it especially helpful to include experiences that students may not find in the clinical area during the program. Originally, SWTJC previously was awarded a large Department of Labor grant which helped equip the simulation lab.

Rule 215.11: Facilities, Resources and Services:

The education building for the allied health programs (radiology, vocational and professional nursing) is a spacious building, but there is competition for space. Several skills labs provide adequate space for teaching and practicing nursing skills. A recognized problem is the lack of adequate storage space for the nursing program equipment and supplies. Storage areas are crowded or non-existent, and some space is not used efficiently. The classrooms are adequate with modern teaching equipment. Each student desk area in the classrooms is equipped with a computer. There are lounges for students and for faculty.

Rule 215.12: Records:

A locked space is provided for records and files.

Rule 215.13: Total Program Evaluation:

The program plans to seek accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and will adjust their total program evaluation format to the one used by NLNAC.

Conclusion:

Overall this was a most positive experience. Board staff was impressed to see what had transpired since the previous visit in 2008 prior to enrollment of students. The program director and administration are keenly aware of the importance of considering the needs of the community as they plan for the future for the SWTJC nursing programs which are greatly appreciated by the health care facilities. The program has a strong Advisory Committee made up of community leaders.

DRAFT LETTER

January 31, 2011

Geraldine M. Goosen, PhD, RN, CNS, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Program  
Southwest Texas Junior College  
2401 Garner Field Rd.  
Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Dr. Goosen:

At the January 27-28, 2011 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Southwest Texas Junior College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Uvalde and the report of the November 29-30, 2010 survey visit. The Board wishes to thank you and ..... for being present to answer questions. Based upon the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, the program's compliance with the Board's rules and regulations, and the survey visit report, the Board changed the approval status from initial to full, and issued the following recommendations and requirement:

Recommendations:

1. The faculty are encouraged to evaluate the adequacy of the science courses in the program.
2. The faculty are encouraged to participate in the delivery of the pharmacology course by providing content related to nursing implications and to integrate principles of pharmacology across the curriculum.
3. The college administration and the program directors of the allied health programs are encouraged to evaluate the use of space in the building they share and to establish a more efficient use of space.

Requirement:

The administration is required to provide resources for adequate storage of lab equipment and supplies.

Please respond to these recommendations and requirement by May 1, 2011. 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 upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

The Board offers best wishes to the Associate Degree Program at SWTJC as the program plans to meet the future needs of the southwest Texas communities.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

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

copy: THECB