

**Consideration of Change of Approval Status from Full with Warning to Full
 Galveston College in Galveston, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of Galveston College in Galveston, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate; the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS); the 2011 Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Program (CANEP); report of the November 29, 2011 survey visit; and compliance with Board Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The Galveston College Vocational Nursing Education Program began in 1969.
- The NCLEX-PN examination pass rates for the past five years are provided in the table:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Change of Approval Status
2011	95.24%	20/21	Pending	
2010	54.55%	12/22	Full with Warning	April 2011
2009	71.43%	15/21	Full	
2008	91.67%	22/24	Full	
2007	85.71%	30/35	Full	

- The program admits one cohort annually in June of 20 to 30 students, depending upon the number of qualified candidates.
- Due to the 2009 NCLEX pass rate, the program was required to submit a self-study report that evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and included a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- One event that stood out as a contributing factor in the students' performance on the NCLEX was the impact of Hurricane Ike.
- The program has implemented a number of corrective measures to strengthen the program but it has taken time to realize the effects of these measures.
- Ms. Elaine Renola, MSN, RN serves as director of the VN and the professional nursing education program. She has in regular contact with Board Staff as the program has taken actions to support the students as changes as been implemented.
- A survey visit was conducted by Board Staff on November 29, 2011 (See Attachment #1).
- Findings from the survey visit indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214.
- The program's goal for the 2011 NCLEX pass rate was 100% and they achieved a 95.24%.

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- The VN program is taught by two Master's-prepared nursing faculty.
- The program has increased emphasis on evaluating individual student progression and providing remediation throughout the curriculum.
- The faculty and director are committed to the success of the students.
- The program meets a need in the community for a vocational nursing program.

Cons:

- Students stated they would like more acute care clinical experiences. This may also be seen as a pro.
- The college has experienced budget cuts as a result of financial losses from the hurricane.

Staff Recommendation:

Based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate; the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS); the 2011 Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Program (CANEP); report of the November 29, 2011 survey visit; and compliance with Board Rule 214; move to change the approval status of Galveston College Vocational Nursing Education Program from full with warning to full approval as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
Galveston College in Galveston, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey Visit: Focus visit to the Vocational Nursing (VN) Program related to approval status

Date of Visit: November 29, 2011

Board Staff Conducting Visit: Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, Education Consultant

Board Staff met with:

- Elaine Renola, MS, RN, Director, Nursing Programs
- Myles Shelton, EdD, President
- Vera Lewis-Jasper, Dean of Technical and Professional Education
- Pamela Britton, MS, RN, VN Program Coordinator and Faculty
- George Harbeson, MS, RN, VN Program Faculty
- Vocational Nursing Students
- Alumni of the VN Program

Board Staff reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi for the current semester.

Board Staff reviewed the Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and Clinical Contracts.

Board Staff toured the facilities housing the nursing programs.

Findings:

Elaine Renola, MS, RN was appointed director of the nursing programs at Galveston College in July, 2008. Ms. Renola's past experiences includes about six years teaching in nursing programs and many years in hospital administration.

The administration expressed strong support for the nursing programs. Galveston College offers other educational programs in health sciences including EMS programs, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, radiography, computerized tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging. The president noted that their initiatives are based upon the needs in the community.

Program of Study:

- The VN program is a 12-month 54-credit hour study based on sequential learning.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex, with the first semester laying the foundation for the program.
- The program has not implemented the DEC's yet but this is on their agenda for the near future.
- The curriculum includes IV therapy.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective.
- One of the planned initiatives identified by the director is to utilize more online testing in the program.

Faculty:

- The VN instruction is carried out by two Masters-prepared faculty.
- Ms. Britton has been with the program for ten years.
- Faculty provide didactic content and follow-through by supervising the students in clinical.
- The faculty are engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- Since Galveston College is a community college, it provides all student services for the nursing students.
- The building housing the nursing programs is spacious and welcoming.
- All faculty have fully-furnished private offices, meeting areas, and lounges.
- Classrooms and the nursing skills laboratory are equipped and provide a positive learning environment. Several mannequins and simulation models are available for teaching.
- The campus is well-kept and landscaped attractively.
- The director indicated their needs for resources are basically met. Following Hurricane Ike, there were some serious budget cuts in all disciplines.

Students:

- Twenty (20) students will graduate in May 2012.
- Students interacted with Board Staff during a class session. The instructor had been lecturing on growth and development in pediatrics.
- Students stated that they enrolled at Galveston College because of location, tuition costs, and the reputation of the program.
- Students indicated that an important focus in the curriculum is on safety in clinical.
- About half the students indicated they plan to seek further education to become a registered nurse.
- One student identified herself as the student body representative, and described an incident where her efforts resolved an issue of testing schedules.
- Students described skills lab activities and clinical experiences that have been meaningful.
- Students expressed they would like more NCLEX preparation activities. (The director will plan more experiences through the ATI testing.)
- Students also requested more acute care hospital clinical experiences. (Board Staff learned from the director and faculty that there are increasing challenges in securing acute care clinical experiences for the VN students, but they continue to explore new areas.)
- The program will admit 25 - 35 new students each June.
- Board Staff met one alumni of the VN program and she indicated the program prepared her well for her employment. (She was in the office to begin registration in the ADN program.)

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies which provide appropriate clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- The clinical experiences are scheduled to match related didactic in the classroom.
- Students must travel up to 25 miles to engage in some of the clinical experiences to meet all clinical objectives.
- The clinical evaluation tools are individually based upon the course content and measure progression of student behaviors across the curriculum.

DRAFT LETTER

Elaine Renola, MSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Galveston College
4015 Avenue Q
Galveston, Texas 77550

Dear Ms. Renola:

At the April 19-20, 2012 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Galveston College Vocational Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2011, review of the 2011 NEPIS and CANEP, report of the survey visit, and compliance with Rule 214. Members of the Board wish to thank you and Pam Britton, VN Coordinator, 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 Galveston College Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full with Warning to Full approval. Board members congratulate you on this success. The program received commendations for the 2011 NCLEX-PN examination pass rate of 95.24%.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

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

copy: Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
President of Galveston College