

**Consideration of Change from Conditional Approval Status
 Valley Grande Institute in Weslaco, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Program based upon the review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, review of the 2010 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and measures implemented to comply with Rule 214.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Last Change in Approval Status
2011	83.08%	54/65	Pending	
2010	78.95%	75/95	Conditional	April 2011
2009	78.64%	81/103	Full with Warning	
2008	74.45%	102/137	Full with Warning	July 2009
2007	59.65%	34/57	Full	
2006	82.93%	34/41	Full	
2005	66.67%	2/3 (not a full class)	Full	
2004	87.50%	14/16 (Boards merged)	Full	

- Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program has been in operation since 1992.
- In a review of NCLEX examination pass rates since 1995, the pass rate was 80% or higher for only 6 of the years prior to 2011.
- Valley Grande submitted a Self-Study report in 2008 that evaluated factors that may have contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- Even though the program has been implementing ongoing corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, the NCLEX pass rate continued below 80%.
- The last survey visit was conducted on March 17-18, 2010 and the program was issued two recommendations, one related to number of students enrolled.
- The program was placed on conditional approval status at the April 2011 Board meeting and has not admitted new students since that action.
- A new director for the program, Ted Llasos, RN, MAN, has been approved by Board Staff and appointed by Valley Grande in November, 2011.
- The NCLEX-PN examination pass rate for 2011 (January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011) is 83.58% (56/67).
- There are currently sixty-eight (68) students enrolled in the program.
- Because of the seriousness of a program's inability to admit students imposed by conditional approval, Board Staff recommend changing the approval status from conditional to full with warning to allow time for a survey visit by Board Staff and a reevaluation of the program.
- This change would allow the program to admit a cohort of 50 students in March 2012.
- The full with warning status is also warranted because of issues with their accreditation organization, the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

- Board Staff have been in contact with the accreditation representative from ABHES and a joint survey visit by accreditation and BON staff is being planned.
- Further admissions will be reevaluated following the survey visit.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- With corrective measures in place, the NCLEX-PN examination pass rate for Valley Grande Vocational Nursing Program for 2011 is 83.58% (56/67).
- The program and administration have expressed a commitment to improving the success of graduates from the program.

Cons:

- The program has had a change in director. The director is fully qualified but it is a new role for Mr. Llasos.
- The program's accreditation organization, ABHES, also has concerns about the program's BON approval status.
- The program has struggled in achieving consistent acceptable NCLEX examination pass rates.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from conditional to full approval with warning, to allow the program to admit a cohort of students in March 2012, and schedule a survey visit for Spring 2012 to reevaluate the program of study.

DRAFT LETTER

Attachment #1
Agenda Item: 3.2.6.b.

January 23, 2012

Ted Llasos, RN, MAN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
345 S. Texas
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Llasos:

At the January 19-20, 2012 meeting, members of the Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2011, review of the 2010 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and compliance with Rule 214. The Board wishes to thank you and 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:

1. Change the approval status of Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from conditional to full approval with warning.
2. Allow the program to admit a cohort of not more than fifty (50) students in March 2012.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in Spring 2012 to evaluate the status of the program of study.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit in Spring 2012. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

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

copy: Mari Aviles, Vice President, Valley Grande Institute
TWC
ABHES