

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval
The College of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the request for change of approval status for The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Houston, Texas, from initial to full approval based upon compliance with Board rules, review of the Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at The College of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas, was approved at the January 2011 Board meeting as the Academy of Health Care Professions.
- The governing entity notified Board Staff of a name change to The College of Health Care Professions in December 2012.
- The College of Health Care Professions is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and is licensed by The Texas Workforce Commission.
- The program admitted twelve (12) students in July 2011 and six (6) completed the program in August 2012.
- The attrition was reported to be related to academic failures and health issues.
- The six (6) graduates took the NCLEX-PN® examination during the 2012 examination year (January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012) and all passed, yielding a 100% pass rate.
- The current class started with twenty-three (23) students in August 2012 and sixteen (16) students remain in the program. Attrition is reported to be related to academic performance, financial issues, and health/personal reasons.
- There are currently two (2) full-time and one (1) part-time faculty members, besides the program director.
- There has been one change in director since the program began. Tina Miekowski, MSN, RN, was approved as director in March 2012.
- There have been no issues with noncompliance since the program began.
- Board Staff receive communication from Ms. Miekowski when she has questions.

Pros:

- The program has a director with a Master's degree in nursing, with teaching, and practice experience, as well as an adequate number of qualified faculty.
- The NCLEX-PN® for the first small class was 100%.

Cons:

- Information in the NEPIS indicates that the VN graduates have a difficult time finding employment because many facilities are only hiring BSN-prepared nurses.
- The program also experiences difficulty finding clinical learning experiences in the Houston area for the VN students.

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

Even though The College of Health Care Professions has demonstrated student success on the first NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the number of first-time candidates was small and may not be fully indicative of the program of study outcomes. Board Staff recommend changing the approval status from initial to full approval, authorizing a comprehensive survey visit to the program during the Fall 2013, and restricting enrollments to two (2) admissions annually of not more than thirty (30) students each.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, from initial to full, authorize Board Staff to conduct a survey visit, and impose the requirement set out in the attached order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 18, 2013

Christina M. Miekowski, MSN, RN
Program Director, VN Nursing Program
The College of Health Care Professions
240 Northwest Mall
Houston, Texas 77092

Dear Ms. Miekowski:

At the April 18-19, 2013 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas. Based upon the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 100%, a review of the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and the program's compliance with Rule 214, the Board changed the approval status from initial to full, authorized a survey visit to the program during the Fall 2013, and restricted enrollments as indicated in the Board Order.

Congratulations on the success of this first cohort of six (6) graduates on the licensing examination.

Board Staff will contact the program at a later date to schedule a survey visit for Fall 2013. If you have questions or if Board Staff can provide additional assistance, please contact janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or (512) 305-6814. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board

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

copy: Accrediting Bureau of Health Care Professions
The Texas Workforce Commission

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of
The College of Health Care Professions
Vocational Nursing Education Program
in Houston, Texas

ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 18, 2013, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Education in Houston, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2012 and review of the 2012 NEPIS, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214.

Board members in attendance were: Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP; Nina Almasy, MSN, RN; Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC; Tamara Cowen, MN, RN; Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR; Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA; Shelby Ellzey, BBA; Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN.

After review and due consideration of the written materials filed by The College of Health Care Professions, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, from INITIAL to FULL APPROVAL and hereby imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The College of Health Care Professions Vocational Nursing Program shall not enroll more than thirty (30) students per each admission and shall limit admissions to two (2) per year.
2. A survey visit shall be conducted during the Fall of 2013.

Entered this 18th day of April, 2013

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board