

**Consideration for Change in Approval Status from Full to Full with Warning
 Vista College in El Paso, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Vista College Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in El Paso, Texas, based upon the review of the 2013 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2013 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and program noncompliance with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- Vista College VN Program has been in operation since 2004.
- Vista College was initially accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE) in 1989. In 2012, the college received reaffirmation for a four (4) year period.
- The main campus for the Vista College VN Program is located in El Paso, Texas. Three (3) extension sites for Vista College VN Program have been approved by Board staff. These are located in 1) Lubbock, 2) Beaumont, and 3) Amarillo, Texas. The Lubbock extension site admitted its first cohort of students in December 2009. The Beaumont and Amarillo extension sites plan to admit their first student cohorts in spring 2014.
- Reflected below is the five (5) year Vista College NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate history:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2013	Pending	67.26%	76/113
2012	Full	74.55% (Self-Study)	41/55
2011	Full	84.06%	58/69
2010	Full	93.75%	60/64
2009	Full	86.05%	37/43

- The Vista College VN program director submitted a Self-Study Report in response to the 2012 74.55% NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate as required by §214.4(c)(2)(B).
- The following program weaknesses were identified in the 2012 Self-Study Report:
 - High turnover of program directors and faculty;
 - Vacant faculty positions;
 - Inconsistent use of established faculty orientation policy and process;
 - Inconsistent use of standardized testing resources for remediation;
 - Reviews not structured to meet student needs and learning purposes;
 - Inconsistent use of test blueprinting and exam development among faculty;
 - Lack of rigor in admission requirements;
 - Inconsistently applied attendance policy;
 - Lack of progression metrics from term to term, and
 - Lack of student accountability.
- Plans for corrective measures with accompanying time frames were included in the Self-Study Report to address the areas of weakness. The corrective measures to be addressed included:
 - Strengthening testing rigor by using test question item analysis, blue-printing of the NCLEX-PN® test plan, and increasing the difficulty of test questions;
 - Revising and implementing the faculty orientation policy and plan;
 - Strengthening the rigor of admission requirements by increasing entrance score requirement

- and adding additional screening tool;
- Utilizing standardized examination package resources to promote student remediation and success;
- Implementing monthly conference calls with nursing leaders at each location; and,
- Revising and consistently implementing clinical grading tool, progression and grading policies.
- On the 2013 NEPIS, the program reported an enrollment of one hundred forty-three (143) students with one hundred fourteen (114) graduates for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- Also reported on the 2013 NEPIS was a cohort of ten (10) full-time and six (6) part-time faculty. One (1) full-time faculty vacancy and one (1) part-time faculty vacancy were reported.
- The program admits six (6) student cohorts each year with a capacity of forty (40) students per cohort for a total possible annual admission of two hundred forty (240).
- On October 15, 2013, Delores Iheanacho, MSN, RN was approved as program director.
- The Vista College VN Program has had four (4) directors in the past twenty-one (21) months.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The Self-Study Report included a comprehensive evaluation of factors that may have contributed to the two (2) year decline in the program NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate.

Cons:

- For the past two (2) years the program has experienced frequent turnover in leadership and faculty.

Rationale for Staff Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(A) *related to Approval* states "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates....is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive examination years...". In addition, the program identified in its Self-Study Report a number of areas needing correction.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of Vista College Vocational Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas from Full Approval to Full with Warning and impose the condition in the attached Board Order. (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 18, 2014

Delores E. Iheanacho, MSN, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Education Program
Vista College
7731 North Loop Ave
El Paso, TX 79915

Dear Ms. Iheanacho:

At the April 16-17, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Vista College Vocational Nursing Education Program, based upon a review of the 2013 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2013 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, and non-compliance with Board Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Vista College Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and impose the condition set out in the attached Board Order.

It is the responsibility of the program director to inform the college administration of this action.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board staff at: sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov or (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy:
Texas Workforce Commission
COE
College Administration

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of:

Vista College
Vocational Nursing Education Program
El Paso, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 16, 2014, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of Vista College Vocational Nursing Education in El Paso, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2013, review of the 2013 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and noncompliance with the Texas Occupations Code and 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Vista College in El Paso, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Vista College Vocational Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas, from FULL to FULL WITH WARNING and imposes the following condition/requirement:

1. A program survey visit is to be conducted by a Consultant for Nursing Education during 2014.

Entered this 16th day of April, 2014

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director