

**Report of Survey Visit
Lamar State College Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the January 31- February 1, 2017 survey visit to Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas. This was a joint survey visit of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and VN education programs with separate Board reports for each. The previous survey visit to the VN program was conducted in April 2008.

Historical Perspective:

- LSCPA opened in 1909 when the Port Arthur Business College was founded. The campus was renamed Lamar State College Port Arthur in 1999.
- The Lamar State College Port Arthur VN Educational Program in Port Arthur, Texas began operation in 1983.
- LSCPA is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
- LSCPA is a public two-year college offering a variety of associate degrees and certificates. In the Department of Allied Health, programs include: Surgical Technology, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling, Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) to Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), and Vocational Nursing.
- The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five years are reflected in the table below:

Examination Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	BON Approval Status	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2015	94.74%	Full	36/38
2014	92.73%	Full	51/55
2013	94.83%	Full	55/58
2012	91.18%	Full	62/68
2011	92.86%	Full	78/84

- The preliminary 2016 NCLEX-PN® pass rate is 92.86% (52/56).

Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1):

- A survey visit was conducted to the Lamar State College Port Arthur VN Nursing Education Program on January 31- February 1, 2017 by Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE.
- Findings from the survey visit indicate the program is in compliance with Board Rule 214.

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- The VN Program Director, Eursula Davis, BSN, RN, has served in this role for three and a half years and has been teaching nursing for an additional seven years.
- The VN faculty are all Registered Nurses (RNs) who indicate an ability to work together and the administrative support contributes to student success.

- The VN faculty are all full-time, with no vacant faculty positions. No adjunct faculty are used.
- The survey visit indicated that the nursing program director and nursing faculty are progressive and innovative in their approach to nursing education, especially regarding the use of computer technology, (i.e., testing, teaching strategies, student assignments), utilizing a variety of methods for the evaluation of students, especially the clinical evaluation tools. (See Attachment #1).
- The preliminary results for the program's 2016 pass rate is 92.86% (52/56).

Cons:

- The VN Program Director teaches one two-hour didactic, one-hour lab pharmacology course, and co-teaches a Dosage Calculations course, which is a two-hour didactic course with a one-hour lab, which may detract her from administrative duties and responsibilities for the VN Educational Program.

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

Rule 214.6.f.(6) states, "The director or coordinator may have responsibilities other than the program, provided that another qualified nursing faculty member is designated to assist with the program management."

Rule 214.6.f.(7) states, "A director or coordinator with responsibilities other than the program shall not have major teaching responsibilities."

A reduced teaching load would give the Program Director more time for administrative duties.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the findings in the report of the survey visit conducted on January 31- February 1, 2017 to Lamar State College Port Arthur Vocational Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas and issue the recommendation below:

Recommendation #1:

- The college administration and the program director are strongly encouraged to consider reducing the expected teaching load for the VN Program Director to allow sufficient time for administrative duties and responsibilities.

**Summary of Survey Visit
Lamar State College Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey visit: Routine six- year visit

Date of Visit: January 31- February 1, 2017

Nursing Education Consultant Conducting Visit: Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE

Nursing Education Consultant met with:

- Betty Reynard, Ed.D., President;
- Sheila C. Trahan, M. Ed., RDMS, RT, Dean of Technical Programs;
- Gary Stretcher, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs;
- Eursula Davis, BSN, RN, Vocational Nursing Program Director;
- Approximately six nursing faculty; and
- Approximately 11 nursing students.

Education Consultant:

- Held initial conference with Program Director and administration;
- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and clinical contracts;
- Reviewed exams and clinical evaluation tools;
- Toured Port Arthur facilities housing the nursing program;
- Met with 11 nursing students;
- Interviewed approximately six nursing faculty;
- Observed classroom instruction;
- Reviewed student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan;
- Conducted exit interview with program director and administration; and
- Presented results of survey visit in verbal report to Program Director, and administration.

Summary of Findings:

Administration and Organization:

- Administration indicated the nursing program is a valuable program, providing nurses for the local community, crediting Ms. Davis for her guidance and commitment to Vocational Nursing (VN) education.
- The VN program is in the Department of Allied Health, which offers programs, including: Surgical Technology, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling, Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) to Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), and Vocational Nursing.
- Eursula Davis, BSN, RN, Vocational Nursing Program Director, has been the director of the VN Program for three and a half years and an educator for 14 years.
- Ms. Davis teaches one (1) section of Pharmacology, which is a two-hour course with a one-hour lab, and co-teaches one section of Dosage Calculations, which is a two-hour course with a one-hour lab. The director indicates she enjoys teaching, but this limits her time to fulfill the director responsibilities.

- Ms. Davis commended faculty for their experience, dedication and hard work, stating they are collaborative and hardworking, mentoring each other as needed.
- Clear channels of communication between the director and administration are evident.
- Program Director and faculty employment contracts are for 12 months.

Faculty:

- Seven full-time faculty teach in the VN program. There are no vacant full time faculty positions. There are no adjunct faculty used.
- Faculty members have experience in teaching with various content expertise and clinical backgrounds.
- Faculty reported they receive support from each other, the Program Director, and the Department Chair.
- Faculty members are involved in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty have regular meetings with collaborative decision-making. Minutes are recorded.

Students:

- The program admits two cohorts of up to 88 students each January and August, which is the maximum capacity each time. The number admitted varies based on the number of qualified applicants. Maximum capacity for each admission is 44 students.
- At the time of the survey visit, 60 students were in the program. Thirty-four students were admitted in August 2016 with 28 students admitted in January 2017.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of the desire to become a nurse, the reputation of the program and the college, and the location of the school.
- Students shared that the program of study is preparing them for clinical practice, citing clinical and simulation learning experiences as being a valuable component of the educational program.
- Students discussed that having multiple student support resources was important.
- Student policies are well-defined, written, and available to students.
- Student representatives are aware they may provide input into the development of policies and in governance.

Program of Study:

- The twelve-month program of study is designed to be completed in three semesters.
- The program is comprised of a total of 1584 clock hours: 624 didactic hours and 960 clinical hours.
- The program of study is well organized and includes all Board-required content.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex learning, and designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)* have been incorporated into the curriculum.
- Standardized testing is used throughout the program for admission, progression, and remediation purposes. No high-stakes standardized testing is used for graduation purposes.
- Evaluation methods and tools to measure progression are according to Board Rule 214.9 and Board Education Guideline 3.7.3.a.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating facilities that provide the opportunity to correlate didactic learning with practical teaching.

- The Department Chair of Allied Health establishes and maintains clinical agreements and sites. Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined.
- Skills lab and simulation lab activities are utilized. The simulation lab has both mid- and high-fidelity mannequins, along with low fidelity task trainers. There are adequate supplies available for student use.
- Faculty provide supervision during all clinical learning experiences in Board-approved ratios.
- The clinical evaluation tools are based upon course content and the DEC's, and they measure students' formative and summative progression throughout the program.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- Student services are offered on campus.
- A library with computer resources and group meeting rooms is available.
- There is open parking available adjacent to the program's building.
- The building housing the VN program is conducive to learning, with two classrooms equipped with media technology. The building housing the skills and simulation labs is within walking distance of the Allied Health Building.
- The Program Director and faculty have furnished private offices.
- The program has full-time clerical and secretarial support.
- The program director and faculty said that resources are adequate to meet teaching needs.
- The facilities include restrooms, break areas, and faculty and student lounges.

Records and Reports:

- Faculty files provide evidence of faculty qualifications, responsibilities, and faculty evaluations.
- Meeting minutes indicate collaborative decision-making.
- Student files contain all documents required by Rule 214.
- Clinical affiliation agreements are current.
- Storage of files meets the requirement of Rule 214.

Total Program Evaluation:

- The program has a total evaluation plan that is used for decision making.

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2017

Eursula Davis, BSN, RN, Vocational Nursing Program Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Lamar State College Port Arthur
P. O. Box 310
Port Arthur, TX 77641-0310

Dear Ms. Davis,

At the April 20-21, 2017 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the survey visit to the Lamar State College Port Arthur Vocational Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit conducted January 31- February 1, 2017 and issue the recommendation below.

Recommendation #1:

The college administration and the program director are encouraged to consider reducing the expected teaching load for the VN Program Director to allow sufficient time for administrative duties and responsibilities.

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rule. The program must respond in a method of the program's choice.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Betty Reynard, Ed.D., President
Sheila C. Trahan, M. Ed., RDMS, RT, Dean of Technical Programs
Gary Stretcher, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs