

**Report of Survey Visit
South Texas College in McAllen, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the October 11-12, 2016 survey visit to South Texas College (STC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in McAllen, Texas. The last survey visit was conducted in August 2013.

Historical Perspective:

- South Texas College was established in 1993 as South Texas Community College.
- The South Texas VN Education Program was established in August 1995 at the Edinburg, Texas campus where the Nursing and Allied Health Division was located. The initial enrollment was sixty (60) students.
- In 1997, the Nursing and Allied Health Division moved to the main STC Campus in McAllen, Texas.
- In 2004, the college name changed to South Texas College.
- The college has campuses in McAllen, Weslaco and Rio Grande City, Texas.
- STC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five (5) 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 | 73.95% | Full – Self Study Required | 88/119 |
| 2014 | 84.47% | Full | 87/103 |
| 2013 | 83.90% | Full | 99/118 |
| 2012 | 84.57% | Full | 159/188 |
| 2011 | 89.21% | Full | 124/139 |

Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1):

- A survey visit was conducted to the South Texas College VN Nursing Education Program on October 11-12, 2016 by Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE, and Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF.
- 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 has served in this role for eleven (11) years and has been teaching nursing for an additional ten (10) years.
- The VN faculty are highly credentialed and loyal to the VN Program at South Texas.
- The program has an RN simulation coordinator, a simulation specialist, and a lab assistant for skills lab and simulation learning experiences. This allows faculty to focus on excellence in instruction.
- Following the development of the Self-Study Report, faculty implemented many improvements, and as a result of these changes, the preliminary 2016 NCLEX-PN® pass rate for first-time candidates is expected to be above 90%.
- The college provides funds every year for faculty to attend the annual conference of the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) or other conferences related to education, depending on faculty needs.

Cons:

- None identified

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

The program meets Rule 214 requirements.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the findings in the report of the survey visit conducted on October 11-12, 2016 to South Texas College Vocational Nursing Education Program in McAllen, Texas.

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

Purpose of Survey visit: Focus visit – both ADN and VN program have been required to develop Self-Study Reports

Date of Visit: October 11-12, 2016

Nursing Education Consultants Conducting Visit: Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE, and Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF.

Nursing Education Consultants met with:

- Shirley A. Reed, MBA, Ed D, President;
- Anahid Petrosian, Ph.D., Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs;
- Jayson Valerio, DNP, RN, Interim Dean, Nursing & Allied Health Center;
- Daphine Mora, RN, BSN, Med, VN Program Director;
- Approximately 14 faculty; and
- Approximately 20 students.

Education Consultants:

- Held initial conference with program chair and administration;
- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and clinical contracts;
- Reviewed exams and clinical evaluation tools;
- Toured McAllen facilities housing the nursing program;
- Met with twenty (20) students;
- Interviewed approximately fourteen (14) faculty and staff members;
- Observed classroom instruction;
- Reviewed student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan;
- Conducted exit interview with program chair and administration; and
- Presented results of survey visit in verbal report to program chair, administration, and faculty.

Summary of Findings:

Administration and Organization:

- Administration indicated the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a need in the local community, crediting Ms. Mora for her strong leadership and enthusiasm for VN quality education.

- The VN program is in the Division of Nursing & Allied Health, which offers selective programs, which include: Emergency Medical Technology, Health and Medical Administrative Services, Medical Assistant Technology, Patient Care Assistant, Pharmacy Technology, Associate Degree in Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapy, and Vocational Nursing.
- The VN program is also offered at extension sites on the Mid-Valley (Weslaco) and Starr County campuses (Rio Grande City).
- Daphne Mora, RN, BSN, MEd, VN Program Director, has been the director of the VN Program for eleven (11) years and an educator for twenty-one (21) years.
- Ms. Mora teaches two (2) sections of College Success for Healthcare, which is an introduction to Allied Health Programs.
- The director indicates she has adequate time to fulfill the director responsibilities.
- Ms. Mora commended faculty for their experience, dedication and hard work.
- Clear channels of communication between the director and administration are evident.
- Program director employment contract is for twelve (12) months and faculty employment contracts are ten and one-half (10 ½) months with the potential for extensions for Summer I and Summer II sessions.

Faculty:

- Sixteen (16) full-time faculty teach in the VN program with eight (9) at the McAllen campus, six (6) at the Weslaco extension site and two (2) at the Rio Grande City extension site. There is one (1) vacant full time faculty position. There are no adjunct faculty.
- Faculty members possess many years' experience teaching with diverse content expertise and clinical backgrounds.
- Faculty reported they receive support from each other, the program director, the Interim Dean, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Faculty members are involved in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty express satisfaction with having a skills lab coordinator, instructional technologist, and lab assistant who allow time for and assistance with skills labs and simulation activities.
- Faculty have regular meetings with collaborative decision-making. Minutes are recorded.

Students:

- The program admits one (1) cohort of up to one hundred sixty (160) students annually each August. The number admitted varies based on the number of qualified applicants. Maximum capacity for each campus is Rio Grande City, twenty (20) students; McAllen, eighty (80) students, and Weslaco, sixty (60) students.
- At the time of the survey visit, one hundred ten (110) students were in the program. One hundred twenty (120) students were admitted in August 2016: twenty (20) students in Rio Grande City, sixty (60) students in McAllen, and forty (40) students in Weslaco.

- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of the desire to become a nurse, the reputation of the program, and the convenience of the school.
- Students shared that the program of study is preparing them for clinical practice, citing clinical 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 provide input into the development of policies and in governance.

Program of Study:

- The eleven (11) month program of study is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters.
- The program is comprised of a total of 1456 clock hours: 560 didactic hours and 896 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, remediation, and graduation purposes.
- Evaluation methods and tools to measure progression are according to Board Rule 214.9 and Board Education Guideline 3.73.a.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating facilities that correlate didactic learning with practical teaching.
- A designated coordinator 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 provides 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 at each of the three (3) sites.
- A library with computer resources is available.
- There is open parking available adjacent to the program's building.
- The facilities housing the VN program are conducive to learning, with numerous classrooms equipped with media technology, and skills and simulation labs.

- The program director and full-time 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.
- The new \$24 million expansion at the Dr. Raquiro R. Casso Nursing and Allied Health Campus will provide new opportunities for all students to engage in advanced simulation experiences.

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.

January 19, 2017

Daphine Mora, RN, BSN, MEd, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
South Texas College
P. O. Box 9701
McAllen, TX 78501-9701

Dear Ms. Mora,

At the January 19, 2017 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the survey visit to the South Texas College Vocational Nursing Education Program in McAllen, Texas. Board members wish to extend appreciation for your dedication to nursing education in Texas for the past twenty-one (21) years. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit.

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: Shirley A. Reed, M.B.A., Ed.D., President, South Texas College
Jayson T. Valerio, DNP, RN, Interim Dean, Nursing & Allied Health Center
Texas Workforce Commission