

**Report of Survey Visit to
Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the January 30, 2018 routine survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College(TVCC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Kaufman, Texas. Subsequent to this visit, a survey visit was conducted at TVCC VN Education Program in Palestine, Texas. Separate reports are submitted as the curriculum is similar, but not identical, and each program has a separate program code. This routine survey visit was conducted by Education Consultant Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE. The previous survey visit was conducted in July 2012.

Historical Perspective:

- Trinity Valley Community College was founded in 1945 as Henderson County Junior College with the first classes conducted at Athens High School. By 1946, classes were moved to the main campus in Athens, TX. The college has additional campuses in Kaufman, Palestine, and Terrell. In 1983, the Health Science Center campus was opened in Kaufman, TX. In 1986, the college name was changed to Trinity Valley Community College to reflect the five counties served. The VN Education Program in Kaufman began in 1987 with 21 graduates in 1988.
- Trinity Valley Community College is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). The most recent reaffirmation was in 2017, with no sanctions or negative actions. Trinity Valley Community College has a certificate of authority from Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB).
- Within the Health Occupations Division, the VN, Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN, Paramedic-ADN, Patient Care Technology, Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) and Surgical Technology are offered on the Kaufman campus.
- The college recently purchased the Terrell Hospital, which is currently being renovated to accommodate the Kaufman Health Occupations programs. This building offers over 66,000 sq. ft. of education space, with new classrooms, faculty/staff offices, student and faculty lounges, simulation and skills labs. It is anticipated this facility will be complete in January 2019.
- Helen Reid, Ed.D, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, began as an ADN instructor on the Kaufman campus in 1983, and became the Dean of Health Occupations in 1990. In 2007, her title was changed to Provost of the Health Science Center.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided in the following table:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2017	Full	100%	20/20
2016	Full	100%	20/20
2015	Full	90.00%	18/20
2014	Full	100%	22/22
2013	Full	100%	17/17

Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1):

Positive Aspects of Survey Visit:

- Helen Reid, Ed. D, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, Provost, Health Occupations Division, has overseen the VN program since 1990.
- Dr. Reid is an experienced leader whose objective is to apply leadership and management skills to attain effective, high-quality instructional programs that enhance the nursing profession.
- Jason Smith, MSN, RN, has served as the VN Program Coordinator since 2007. After receiving his VN certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from TVCC, he returned in 2004 has taught with the VN program since 2004. Mr. Smith is experienced in nursing education, long-term care, and emergency care.
- Administration expressed support for the VN program and acknowledged it fulfills a need for VNs in the community.
- Students interviewed expressed satisfaction with the program, stating the faculty are supportive and available.
- The program of study incorporates various methods for course delivery, including lectures with PowerPoint presentations, interactive quizzes, case studies, face-to-face instruction, demonstrations, class discussions, question and answer periods, online NCLEX® test practice preparation, skills labs, and simulation.
- Clinical learning experiences are faculty-supervised in a 1:10 ratio of faculty to students with hands-on direct-patient care in clinical settings or 1:12 when preceptors are used, and 1:8 in simulation and skills lab activities.
- The program has a variety of active contracts with clinical affiliating agencies that provide clinical learning experiences.
- VN graduates are able to obtain employment in the local and surrounding areas including dialysis, home health, and long term care facilities.

- Faculty development includes attendance at the TVCC Learning Day each semester for full-time faculty, and Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE), in addition to completing continuing education to maintain licensure.

Concerns of Survey Visit:

- None noted

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of the January 30, 2018 survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Kaufman, Texas (see Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit to
Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey Visit: The survey visit was conducted as a routine survey visit.

Date of Visit: January 30, 2018

Board Staff Conducting Survey Visit: Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE, Education Consultant

Program Evaluator met with:

- Jerry King, Ed. D, MBA, President, Trinity Valley Community College
- Wendy Elmore, Ed. D, Vice President of Instruction
- Helen Reid, Ed. D, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, Provost Health Occupations Division
- Jason Smith, MSN, RN, VN Program Coordinator
- Ruth Iverson BSN, RN, VN Program Faculty, Skills lab coordinator
- Crissy Stephens-Meador, RN, Adjunct VN Program Faculty
- 22 Vocational Nursing Students

Program Evaluator:

- held initial conference with Provost and administration;
- reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- reviewed the Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook and Academic Catalog;
- reviewed the clinical evaluation tools and available clinical affiliation agreements;
- reviewed organizational chart and minutes of faculty meetings;
- reviewed 2017 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) and faculty profile;
- reviewed faculty and student files;
- reviewed Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan and data;
- toured program facilities;
- observed a class in session; and
- conducted exit interview with administrators and provost.

Summary of Findings:

Administration and Organization:

- Administration indicated the nursing program fulfills a need in the local and surrounding community and has comparable status to other education units in the college.
- The VN program in Kaufman is included in the Trinity Valley Community College Organization Chart as part of Health Occupations Division, along with Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN, Paramedic-to-ADN, Patient Care Technology, and Surgical Technology.

- The VN program is offered in Kaufman and Palestine, Texas using similar, but not identical, curriculum, and separate program codes.
- Helen Reid, Ed. D, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, began as the VN Program Director in 1990, and became Dean in 2000. In 2007, her title was changed to Provost of the Health Occupations Division.

Program of Study:

- The full-time, 12-month program of study is designed to be completed in 3 semesters. One cohort is admitted annually in January.
- The program is comprised of a total of 1840 clock hours: 560 didactic hours and 1280 clinical and lab hours.
- The program of study includes all Board required content.
- The foundation of the conceptual framework consists of students, patient, community, learning, and nursing with the student and patient being the central focus of the VN curriculum. Seven major concepts, caring, competency, collaboration, cultural sensitivity, patient advocacy, critical thinking, and community form the central framework. Nursing process, nursing roles, health care needs, ethical/legal considerations, and pharmacological considerations are threaded across the curriculum.
- The majority of skills are front loaded in the first semester. The curriculum includes Intravenous (IV) therapy.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)* are incorporated into the curriculum.
- The teaching model is based upon a continuous improvement model in face-to-face, weekday classes with selected hybrid nursing courses. Teaching methods include lectures with PowerPoints, case studies, interactive quizzes, demonstrations, class discussions, question and answer periods, online NCLEX® test practice preparation, skills labs, and simulation.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective, sharing that the faculty are supportive.
- Test blueprints do not identify cognitive levels of Bloom's taxonomy, however the item analyses for each exam lists cognitive levels of Bloom's taxonomy at all levels.
- Standardized testing is used throughout the program for progression and remediation with a comprehensive predictor exam administered in one of the final semester courses. The syllabi and school policy allow the students three attempts to pass the comprehensive predictor. If students are not successful, remediation is offered. High-stakes standardized testing is not used for graduation purposes. Tutoring is provided before and after classes, along with one-to-one focused tutorials and unit exam reviews.

Faculty:

- Jason Smith, MSN, RN, has served as the VN Program Coordinator since 2007. Mr. Smith received his VN certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from TVCC. He has taught with the VN program since 2004. Mr. Smith is experienced in nursing education, long-term care, and emergency care.

- Mr. Smith teaches 90% of the didactic content.
- In addition to Mr. Smith, one full-time and one part-time faculty teach in the VN program. At the time of the survey visit, there were no full- or part-time faculty vacancies.
- The faculty is a stable, cohesive group of individuals who have been with the program from two to 11 years.
- Faculty are comprised of experienced nurses who are diverse in content expertise and clinical backgrounds.
- VN faculty workload is 37 hours per week in Fall, Spring, and Summer. Load hours include actual face-to-face time with students in lecture, skills lab, clinical learning experiences, or one-to-one remediation; course or exam preparation; office hours for student conferences, and committee work. For clinical, skills lab, and simulation, one load hour is equivalent to one hour of actual clinical time.
- Faculty members are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation for their courses, and serve on institutional and Health Science Center committees.
- Interrater reliability is ensured as faculty each grade the same assignment and discuss the results.
- Faculty development includes attendance at the TVCC Learning Day each semester for full-time faculty, access to online teaching resources, participation in an item-writing workshop, and attendance at the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) annual conference, in addition to completing continuing education to maintain licensure.
- Three faculty members were available for interview.
- Faculty policies are in place per BON requirement.
- Orientation is provided for all new nursing faculty members at the onset of employment. Adjunct faculty are invited to attend faculty meetings and are assigned to full-time faculty who keep them informed, and up-dated on pertinent information.
- Faculty meetings are held as needed for smooth functioning of the team and include discussion and problem solving, clarification of duties, and analysis of tests and results. Minutes document faculty participation in curriculum development, program policy development and implementation, program evaluation, and evaluation of clinical affiliates.
- Evaluation methods include student evaluations of instruction after each course, self and peer evaluations, and annual director-conducted evaluations of faculty.

Students:

- The program admits one cohort into the program in January each year. The number admitted varies based on the number of qualified applicants. The program has the capacity to admit 24 students annually. In January 2018, 24 students were accepted, but 23 were actually enrolled from an applicant pool of 40 qualified candidates.
- In January 2017, 24 students were admitted from an applicant pool of 42 qualified candidates, with 15 graduates (63%). As a result, the admission criteria has been revised and a larger pool of applicants is sought, which will be implemented January 2019.

- At the time of the survey visit, 23 students were in the first semester of the program and are scheduled to graduate in January 2019. Twenty-two students were interviewed.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because this is a structured, quality program, with a good, basic foundation.
- Students cited challenges as the need to work in addition to attend classes, and family-related issues.
- Students acknowledged faculty are caring, available to assist students, interested in students' learning styles, utilizing creative teaching strategies.
- Student policies are well-defined, written, and available to students, and include honesty, non-discrimination, health and safety, communicable disease, blood/body fluid exposure, medication error and incident, grievance, due process, civility, social media, and drug screening. Additionally, information regarding admission, progression, mobility/articulation, dismissal, and criminal background checks are also available to students.
- Three class officers will be selected in April 2018 to represent the students in governance and staff meetings.
- The majority of the students plan to continue their educations, with 21 students indicating their desire to obtain a ADN. Most of the students plan to stay in the community after graduation with the majority planning to continue their educations to become Registered Nurses.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with 13 affiliating agencies (e.g. acute care, long-term care, state hospitals, rehabilitation, clinics, and school districts) that provide a variety of clinical learning experiences to meet the objectives and outcomes of the curriculum. Clinical learning experiences are located in Terrell, Kaufman, or Athens.
- The VN students have opportunities to participate in simulated experiences. The simulation/skills lab is equipped with six programmable and seven low-fidelity mannequins, task trainers, oxygen and suction, seven hospital beds, medication dispensers, and hot and cold running water. The faculty stated there are adequate supplies and equipment. The simulation lab is shared with the ADN program. Intravenous (IV) therapy skills are taught as part of the clinical learning experiences.
- Faculty provides supervision during all clinical learning experiences and maintains BON required ratios. Preceptors are utilized in the VN education program when faculty have 11 or 12 students after the first semester. Written criteria for selecting qualified preceptors is provided to faculty, along with written agreements between the preceptor, affiliating agency, and VN program.
- Clinical learning experiences correlate with didactic content.
- Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined.
- The clinical evaluation tools are progressive and are based upon course content and the DEC's. Clinical evaluation tools include formative and summative evaluations throughout the program.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The Kaufman campus is approximately 40 miles from the main campus in Athens and 83 miles from the Palestine campus.
- Facilities on Kaufman campus include restrooms, a computer lab, faculty and student lounges, and study areas. A library, testing center, counseling, and financial aid are available on campus and students have 24-hour access to online resources.
- There is parking available with parking decals near the program building with additional off-site parking offering a shuttle.
- The program coordinator and full-time faculty have furnished offices.
- The VN program classroom and the seven-bed nursing skills laboratory are spacious and equipped. Several mannequins are available for instructional purposes in the skills lab.
- One shared program assistant provides adequate secretarial support to the VN program.
- Dr. Reid indicated that resources are adequate to meet teaching needs.

Records and Reports:

- Faculty files provide evidence of faculty qualifications, official transcripts, employment contracts, job descriptions, and performance appraisals.
- Student files include signed counseling acknowledgements, signed Student Handbook receipts, clearance of criminal background checks, statements of financial services, emergency contact information, VN program selection process, application, transcripts, academic achievement records, textbook receipts, degree plans, and evaluations of skills competencies.
- The budget includes faculty salaries; travel and conference expenses; student insurance; testing, screening, and assessment costs; books, subscriptions and periodicals; and consumables.
- The program has a Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan, which includes evaluative criteria, methodology of assessment, frequency of evaluation, responsibility and documentation of annual evaluation and planned actions. These are used for decision making.
- Meeting minutes consistently reflect implementation of the TPE. The faculty meet at least once a year with the Palestine campus faculty to evaluate the curriculum, suggest changes, review the VN handbook, philosophy, mission, goals, objectives, policies, and procedures. The community advisory committee meets every six months and the college-wide curriculum committee meets as needed.
- Student files contain all documents required by Rule 214.
- Clinical affiliation agreements are current.
- Files are locked and stored in a secure area as required in Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

April 19, 2018

Helen Reid, Ed. D, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, Provost
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Trinity Valley Community College
800 Ed Hall Drive
Kaufman, TX 75142

Dear Dr. Reid:

At the April 19, 2018 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the report of the January 30, 2018 survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Kaufman, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the January 30, 2018 survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Kaufman, Texas.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at susan.lee@bon.texas.gov or 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

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

copy: Jerry King, Ed. D, MBA, President, Trinity Valley Community College