

**Report of Survey Visit  
Dallas Nursing Institute in Richardson, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the report of the August 29-30, 2019 routine survey visit to Dallas Nursing Institute in Richardson, Texas Vocational Nursing Education program.

**Historical Perspective:**

- Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program has been in operation since 1991.
- DNI was initially accredited by the Accrediting Bureaus of Health Education Schools (ABHES) in 1999, with current ABHES accreditation through February 28, 2023.
- In May 2010, DNI and its parent company, E & K Vocational Nursing, Inc. were purchased by ATI Enterprises, Inc.
- In December 2013, DNI partnered with TCS Education System, an entrepreneurial, nonprofit higher education system.
- DNI is currently in the process of being acquired by The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSPP) who already operate several programs housed at DNI's current location. This change in ownership has been acknowledged by the Board of Nursing and is pending Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and Department of Education approval.
- In addition to the VN programs, DNI has operated an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program since 2009.
- Gwendolyn Gaston, DNP(c), MSN, RN has been at DNI since 2007. She became Dean of Nursing in June 2016 and became the Executive Director of DNI in June 2018.

**NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rates**

<b>NCLEX® Examination Year</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>Pass Rates</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>
2018	Full	90.00%	49/50
2017	Full	94.64%	53/56
2016	Full	97.67%	42/43
2015	Full	94.20%	65/69
2014	Full	78.16%	68/87

**Findings from Survey Visit:**

(See Survey Visit Report in Attachment #1.)

**Pros and Cons from the Survey Visit:**Pros:

- The faculty are assigned to teach in their area of expertise and faculty turnover is minimal.
- The program learning outcomes and course syllabi fully reflect the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* objectives.
- Classroom observation included a variety of teaching strategies to encourage student participation.
- Students stated that there were clear policies in place.
- The program has adequate clinical affiliation agreements for students to meet all clinical objectives in the program.
- The program's facilities, resources, and services are more than adequate to support the nursing program.

Cons:

- None noted.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of the findings from the August 29-30, 2019 survey visit to the Dallas Nursing Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, as indicated in the attached letter (See attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Dallas Nursing Institute in Richardson, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Program**

**Purpose of Survey Visit:** Routine Survey Visit

**Date of Survey Visit:** August 29-30, 2019

**Board Staff Conducting Visit:** Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC

**Education Consultant met with:**

- Administrators:
  - Dr. Ted Scholz, Chief Academic Officer, VP Academic Affairs
  - Dr. Lance Garrison, Campus Director
  - Gwendolyn Gaston, DNP(c), MSN, RN, Dean of Nursing
  - Briget Matrix, MA Director of Administration and Student Affairs
  - By Telephone:
    - Dr. Michele Nealon, Psy D, President
    - Dr. Michael Falocito, Psy D, Chief Operating Officer
- Five VN Faculty
- 14 VN Level II students

**Education Consultant reviewed:**

- Syllabi for all nursing courses
- Curriculum plan
- Faculty Handbook
- Student Handbook
- Director Job Description
- Student Application Packet
- Student files
- Exams
- Clinical contracts
- Program goals, objectives, and outcomes
- Total Program Evaluation Plan
- Faculty minutes
- Faculty files
- 2018 Nursing Education Program Information Surveys (NEPIS)

### **Education Consultant:**

- Toured the nursing educational facility; library, and campus;
- Observed a VN class of 14 Level II students; and
- Conducted interviews, including an exit interview with the Dean of Nursing, administration, and faculty.

### **Summary of Findings:**

#### Overview of Programs:

- The VN curriculum is offered in two sections, a Day Program and an Evening Program consisting of 51 semester credit hours. The evening program is offered in part-time study over 17 months and the day program is offered in full-time study over 13 months.
- According to the 2018 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS): the program of study is comprised of the following:
  - Didactic contact hours: 568 hours
  - Clinical hours
    - Computer Lab: 50 hours
    - Skills Lab: 174 hours
    - Simulation Lab: 24 hours
    - Hands on Clinical: 596 hours

#### Administration:

- DNI holds a Certificate of Approval from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that was issued December 6, 2018 and expires December 5, 2019.
- The DNI VN program has the full support of administration. In preparation of the acquisition of DNI by TCSP, members of administration and Dean Gaston have attended the past three quarterly BON meetings.
- The President of TCSP is located in California and both Dr. Nealon and Dr. Falocito participated by telephone conference in the survey visit.

#### Faculty:

- Besides the director, there are nine full-time faculty with a master's degree or higher and three part-time faculty. The faculty with a master's degree have expressed an interest in obtaining their doctorate and two of the three faculty with an associate degree have expressed an interest in obtaining their master's degree.
- One faculty member serves as the Coordinator of the VN program and one faculty member serves as the Clinical Lead faculty and is responsible for coordinating the skills lab and clinical affiliation agreements.
- Faculty members meet Board qualifications, teach to their area of expertise, and offer a rich diversity in their education and experiential backgrounds in nursing practice.
- Faculty members are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- During the faculty interview, faculty expressed that they utilized the outcomes of students' standardized testing scores to improve their teaching strategies.

- Faculty are engaged in professional development and preparation for the Next Generation NCLEX exam items.
- Many of the current faculty have expressed a desire to further their education and obtain a Master's Degree in Nursing.
- Minutes of faculty meetings are maintained and reflect that faculty committee members are involved in planning and decision-making.

#### Students:

- The nursing program has well-defined written nursing student policies that are provided to all students during orientation.
- Many students stated that they enrolled in DNI's VN nursing program because family members and friends graduated from the program.
- Many students expressed their desire to go into the LVN-to-ADN program offered at DNI upon graduation.
- Many students stated the program's recruiters and the tour of the facility had a very positive influence on their decision to attend DNI.
- Students stated that the strengths of the program are the faculty and support services.
- During the classroom observation, the students actively participated in the questions and answer dialogue.

#### Program of Study:

- The curriculum used in the VN program indicates leveling of nursing content, advancing in difficulty from simple to complex.
- The syllabi were reviewed and found to include the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)*.
- Other strengths of the syllabi were the concise course, skills lab, and clinical objectives.
- Standardized examinations are given near the beginning of the program to identify areas where content should be strengthened and near the end of the program for practice in test-taking for the NCLEX® examination.
- Remediation and tutoring are provided by the faculty.
- Samples of students papers and assignments were provided.

#### Clinical Learning Experiences:

- DNI has active clinical contracts with a variety of clinical agencies.
- Students demonstrate safe practice in the skills simulation labs prior to providing hands-on care in the clinical setting.
- There are manikins in the classroom that are utilized by faculty for demonstration in delivering course content.
- The skills labs are large and allow for students to practice skills.
- Student assignments are correlated to the student learning objectives provided in the course syllabi.

- The clinical evaluation tools provide for formative and summative evaluation by both the student and the faculty. If weaknesses are identified, measures are taken to provide remediation practice in the skills lab.
- The required faculty-to-student ratio is maintained throughout the program

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The Nursing Program is appropriately equipped and offers a positive learning environment.
- The director has a large private office that is conveniently located at the front of the building.
- Faculty have fully furnished cubicles.
- The facilities include adequate restrooms as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas.
- The classrooms are spacious, equipped with computer and audio visual equipment for presentations.

Records and Reports:

- Student and faculty files are maintained with all required documents in a locked file cabinet and their policies for record retention are compliant with Board Rule 214.12.
- Minutes of faculty meetings are maintained in the director's office.
- Clinical affiliation agreements are current.
- The Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan is used for decision-making as evidenced in faculty meeting minutes and documented on the TPE Plan.

DRAFT

October 24, 2019

Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, Director  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
12170 North Abrams Rd., Suite 200  
Richardson, TX 75243

Dear Ms. Gaston:

At the October 24-25, 2019 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the report of the survey visit to the Dallas Nursing Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas. The survey visit report was approved by Board members since the program was found to be in full compliance with all aspects of Rule 214. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Ted Scholz, Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Lance Garrison, Campus Dean  
Dr. Michele Nealon, President