

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (ACE) REPORT

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

This report is an update regarding the status of the ACE activities and is presented for informational purposes.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- At the July 17-18, 2008 Board meeting, the Board issued four new charges to ACE. The charges are as follows:
 - Review and revise the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELC).
 - Study and make recommendations regarding the issues involved with permitting a student who has partially completed a professional nursing educational program or graduated from a professional nursing educational program and then failed the NCLEX-RN® Examination, to apply for licensure as a vocational nurse in Texas by taking NCLEX-PN® Examination.
 - Determine the addition of clinical requirements for programs outside Texas' jurisdiction that do not require clinical learning experiences to be included in the program of study and want their graduates to be eligible for nursing licensure in Texas.
 - Review the revised Board processes for addressing programs' overall pass rates that are below 80% in relation to the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation 1.9.

- Actions to date regarding the ACE response to the Board's four new charges:
 - On October 1, 2008, the ACE voted unanimously to recommend revisions to the current self study process outlined in the 3.2.1.a. Education Guideline, Writing a Self-Study Report on Evaluation of Factors which Contributed to the Graduates' Performance on the NCLEX-PN® or NCLEX-RN® Examination. These revisions recommended by ACE were developed in response to the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation, Management Action 1.9. The Board approved these recommended revisions at the October 23-24, 2008 meeting.
 - To address the Board charge related to the review and revision of the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELC), the ACE formed a DELC Work Group that would meet independently from the ACE to complete all the basic work and bring back suggested recommendations for revisions of the DELC to the ACE as a whole for final determination of the recommendations review and revision of the DELC. An Action Plan and Time Line was developed for the DELC revision process. A verbal report will be presented by Board staff regarding the status of the DELC Work Group. See Agenda Item: 5.2.3.a.

- During a meeting in Austin on November 17, 2008, the ACE began address of the following charges:
 - Study and make recommendations regarding the issues involved with permitting a student who has partially completed a professional nursing educational program or graduated from a professional nursing educational program and then failed the NCLEX-RN® Examination, to apply for licensure as a vocational nurse in Texas by taking NCLEX-PN® Examination.
 - Determine the addition of clinical requirements for programs outside Texas' jurisdiction that do not require clinical learning experiences to be included in the program of study and want their graduates to be eligible for nursing licensure in Texas.
- During a conference call meeting on December 15, 2008, the ACE:
 - Finalized the recommendation to eliminate all options that permit a student who has partially completed a professional nursing educational program or graduated from a professional nursing educational program and then failed the NCLEX-RN® Examination, to apply for licensure as a vocational nurse in Texas by taking NCLEX-PN® Examination. The recommendation from ACE to the Board is as follows: "Eliminate the possibility for anyone who has not completed a state-board approved vocational nursing educational program to apply for licensure in Texas as a licensed vocational nurse by either examination or endorsement and to recommend applicable amendments to Rule 217.2 and Rule 217.4." See Agenda Item: 7.3.
- Determined that additional information is needed from other state boards of nursing that have regulations for out-of-state programs that do not require clinical before the ACE can develop a recommendation to the Board. The additional information includes, but is not limited to: state board of nursing regulations requiring clinical hours; effectiveness of regulations requiring clinical hours; states that are considering regulations for required clinical hours; states that have "grandfathering" clauses related to clinical hours for out-of-state programs that do not require clinical hours; and rationales for the state board of nursing' decisions. Board staff will present this requested information to the ACE for study at future meetings in order for ACE to address the charge regarding the addition of clinical requirements for programs outside Texas' jurisdiction that do not require clinical learning experiences to be included in the program of study and want their graduates to be eligible for nursing licensure in Texas.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

There is no staff recommendation for Board action. This report is for informational purposes only.