

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROGRAM APPROVAL STATUS
 BASED ON THE 2009 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE
 AND REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT
 UNIVERSAL HEALTH SERVICES SCHOOL OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
 in FORT WORTH, TEXAS
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider proposed change of the approval status from Initial to Full for Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program based on the 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the first graduating class and the report of the December 15, 2009 survey visit.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Program	Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates Who Tested (Passed/Total)
Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education VN Program	2009	Initial	88.89%	8/9

- Board staff last conducted a site visit on September 9, 2008, prior to program approval.
- In October 2008, the Board granted Initial approval for Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education to establish a vocational nursing educational program. Classes began in Fall 2008 with an initial enrollment of ten (10) students.
- The program has appropriately addressed the previously issued Board recommendation.
- The program's first cohort of nine (9) students graduated in September 2009 and began taking the NCLEX-PN® examination in October 2009.
- Of the nine (9) candidates who tested in 2009, eight (8) passed the NCLEX-PN® examination and the program's overall pass rate for the 2009 testing period is 88.89%
- Board staff conducted a survey visit of the program on December 15, 2009, and a report of the survey visit is included in this report (See Attachment #1).

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The program's 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate is 88.89%.
- The program has appropriately addressed the previously issued Board recommendation.
- Interviews with faculty and students indicate that the administration and faculty are extremely dedicated to the students.
- The students are provided a wide variety of clinical learning opportunities.
- A exemplary Total Program Evaluation Plan has been developed and is utilized consistently.

Cons:

None identified.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to change the program approval status of Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program from Initial Approval to Full Approval based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the 2009 test period and the report of the December 15, 2009 survey visit, and issue the commendations, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment #2).

**SURVEY VISIT
SUMMARY REPORT**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas Vocational Nursing Educational Program

NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Raymond Clark, RN, BSN, MA

REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT: Focused survey visit to evaluate the program's compliance with Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to initial approval status

DATE(S) OF SURVEY VISIT: December 15, 2009

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN, Board Staff
Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, Board Staff

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING (BON) APPROVAL STATUS: Initial

DATE OF LAST BON SURVEY VISIT: September 9, 2008, prior to Texas BON approval of the program

NAME OF ACCREDITING/ LICENSING AGENCIES: No accreditation. Licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission

SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:

Activities During Survey Visit:

- Met with the School Administrator/Program Director;
- Interviewed recent VN graduates and VN faculty;
- Reviewed records and documents (student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and other program documents);
- Toured skills lab, classrooms, nursing offices and other related parts of the campus, including the multifaceted home health/hospice facility; and
- Conducted a summary conference with the School Administrator/VN Program Director.

SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:

Positive findings revealed during the survey visit include:

1. The School Administrator/VN Program Director and VN faculty are dedicated to the success of the program and the success of the students.
2. The faculty organization, consisting of the VN Program Director, one (1) full-time faculty and twelve (12) part-time faculty, routinely meet every three (3) months.
3. Of the total thirteen (13) faculty, six (6) are currently enrolled in higher education programs.
4. The students are provided a wide variety of direct patient care clinical learning experiences, including acute care, long term care, and short term rehabilitation, subsequent to the School Administrator/VN Program Director's diligent efforts.
5. The program utilizes the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Entrance Test, Assessment Test and Virtual ATI (NCLEX preparation).
6. During interviews with graduates from the program, positive comments were verbalized by the graduates regarding all aspects of the program.

There were no negative findings identified during the survey visit.

Pertinent Survey Findings:

Administration and Organization

The program director has the authority to administer all aspects of the program. The written job description for the program director lists the responsibilities described in Rule 214. Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education (UHS) supports ongoing faculty development and advanced educational preparation to ensure excellence, demonstrated by UHS funding four (4) of the six (6) faculty currently enrolled in higher education. The director has provided strong leadership during the initial year of the vocational nursing educational program.

Faculty

Required written policies for faculty are included in the Faculty Handbook. Faculty files provide evidence that policies related to faculty qualifications, faculty development, and faculty evaluation are followed. Faculty meeting minutes were reviewed and documentation regarding faculty actions, as well as rationale for decision-making, was evident.

The program presently has one (1) full time and twelve (12) adjunct faculty members for forty-two (42) students. Six (6) of the thirteen (13) faculty are currently enrolled in further education. UHS provides regular continuing education for faculty.

Interviews with faculty and students indicate that the faculty are extremely dedicated to the students. Faculty expressed excitement about teaching the students and helping them change their lives through higher education.

Students

Nine (9) of the original ten (10) students graduated in September 2009. The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the first year (2009) was 88.89% with 8 students taking and passing the examination. There are currently forty-two (42) students accepted at two (2) different admission points, January and September, during the year.

Signed receipts of students' receiving policies and eligibility information are in the students files. Students are required to sign any policy changes that occur and documentation is maintained in student files.

Program of Study

The VN curriculum is sound and logically organized. Test questions are taken from a test pool and are structured in a manner to familiarize students with the NCLEX-PN® test questions. The ATI is utilized for both formative and summative evaluations. The clinical evaluation tools for the three (3) levels indicate progression of student performance throughout the curriculum. Remedial education is implemented in a timely manner.

Clinical Learning Experiences

Graduates reported positive learning experiences under faculty supervision in all clinical agencies. There is a vast variety of clinical learning experiences provided in the vocational nursing program of study, especially considering that the educational program is located in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

Simulation activities are utilized, as well as skills lab activities. The skills lab is available to students during off-times with faculty supervision.

Facilities, Resources, and Services

The facility offers adequate space for classrooms, labs, and faculty and director offices. Classroom space is ample with plans for expansion. Resultant to the school's proximity to the Universal Health Services Hospice and Home Health Agency, students are provided unique opportunities for clinical learning experiences.

Records and Reports

Student and faculty files contained all documents required by Rule 214.

Total Program Evaluation Plan

The Total Program Evaluation Plan is exemplary in that numerical benchmarks are provided in all categories. The plan is actively used in decision making and includes an evaluation of the evaluation methods.

DRAFT LETTER

January 25, 2010

Raymond Clark, RN, BSN, MBA
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education
1208 Country Club Lane
Fort Worth, Texas 76112

Dear Mr. Clark:

At the January 21-22, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status of Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education's Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program in Fort Worth, Texas, based on the 2009 NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate and the report of the December 15, 2009 survey visit conducted by Board staff Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN and Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN.

Based upon the review, it was the decision of the Texas BON to move the Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education program approval status from Initial to Full Approval, accept the survey visit report, and issue the following commendations.

COMMENDATIONS:

1. The administrators of Universal Health Services are commended for the value they place on faculty evidenced by the support of higher education of faculty.
2. The director is commended for securing a wide variety of clinical learning opportunities for the vocational nursing students.
3. The director and faculty are commended for development and implementation of the Total Evaluation Plan.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board staff by e-mail at virginia.ayars@bon.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 305-7660.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
Board President

Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

cc: Virginia Bosman, Program Specialist, Texas Workforce Commission
Kathy Walls, RN, BSN, MBA, CHPN, CEO/President