

**Summary of a Routine Survey Visit  
 Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas  
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request**

Consider the report of the March 28, 2013, routine survey visit to Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program. The survey visit was conducted by Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator. The previous survey visit was conducted in September 2001.

**Historical Perspective:**

- Brazosport College was established as Brazosport Junior College in 1968. The name was changed to Brazosport College in 1970 to reflect its broader purpose.
- The college is on one 156 acre campus. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The Brazosport College Vocational Nursing (VN) Program began in 1974.
- The VN Education Program is located in the new Byron and Sandra Sadler Health Professions/Science Complex.
- The VN program is part of the Division of Health Professions which also includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- Patricia Dusek, RN, BSN, was appointed as Director of the VN program in June, 2010. Ms. Dusek served as faculty in the program from 1996 through May 2010.
- Pam Gwin, RN, served as the previous Program Director.

The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the table:

Examination Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2012	100%	10/10	Full
2011	100%	11/11	Full
2010	100%	8/8	Full
2009	100%	9/9	Full
2008	100%	6/6	Full

- One (1) full-time and one (1) adjunct faculty teach in the VN program.
- Ms. Dusek is responsible for the VN program only and has teaching responsibilities in the program.
- The program admits one (1) cohort each January with the enrollment number based on qualified applicants.

**Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1):**

- Program Evaluator identified many positive aspects in the program, such as strong leadership, a cohesive faculty committed to excellence in teaching, and a variety of clinical experiences that meet program objectives.
- Findings from the survey visit indicate the program is in compliance with Board Rule 214 except for only one area related to the total program evaluation.

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

### **Pros:**

- The VN Program Director is an experienced educator and is respected by administration, faculty, and students. In interviews with the director, she indicates she has adequate time to fulfill the director responsibilities, even though she carries a teaching load.
- In interviews with the Program Evaluator, the administration and faculty commended Ms. Dusek for her enthusiasm and strong leadership in ensuring a quality education for the students.
- Administration expressed total support for the VN program and stated that the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a continued need in the community.
- Faculty appear to be a cohesive, dedicated group that voiced high satisfaction with their roles.
- Students interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program and they indicated that the faculty members are committed to their success.
- The majority of VN graduates plan to continue their education and to enroll in the Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program.
- The curriculum is developed according to Board rules and the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)*.
- The program of study incorporates a variety of methods for course delivery, including frequent communication with faculty, face-to-face instruction, student-centered learning activities, and utilization of simulation.
- All clinical learning experiences are faculty-supervised, with direct-patient care in hands-on clinical settings. Preceptors are also utilized in the program. The program is designed with simulation experiences to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation when they need it.
- The program has a number of active contracts with clinical affiliating agencies that provide a wide variety of clinical learning experiences.
- The program's NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for more than five (5) years has been 100%.
- Professional development resources for the director and faculty are more than adequate and the college awards education growth credits when faculty take advantage of the opportunities provided by the college.

### **Cons:**

- Though minutes of faculty organization and meetings are in place, they do not consistently indicate the reasons for faculty decisions and actions, nor do they indicate when the decisions and actions are based upon evaluation data and information.
- The Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan includes all required sections, but does not include a periodic review of all evaluation methods and instruments within the plan.

## **Rationale for Staff Requirement:**

Rule 214.7(o)(2)(B) related to Faculty states:

“Minutes of faculty organization and meetings shall document the reasons for actions and the decisions of the faculty and shall be available for reference.”

Rule 214.13(b) and (c) related to Total Program Evaluation states:

“All evaluation methods and instruments shall be periodically reviewed,” and “Implementation of the plan for total program evaluation shall be documented in the minutes.”

## **Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine survey visit to Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program, and issue the following requirement:

The faculty shall revise the Total Program Evaluation Plan to include an evaluation of methods and instruments to ensure their appropriate use. Further, the faculty meeting minutes shall indicate that decisions are based upon evaluation data. The revised Total Program Evaluation Plan and sample copies of faculty minutes shall be submitted to Board Staff no later than October 1, 2013. (See draft letter in Attachment #2.)

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Purpose of Survey visit:** Routine six-year survey visit

**Date of Visit:** March 28, 2013

**Program Evaluator Conducting Visit:** Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contracted

**Program Evaluator met with:**

Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Associate Dean, Instruction Effectiveness and Student Success  
Dr. Susan McCormick, MSN, RN, Chair, Health Professions & ADN Director  
Patricia Dusek, BSN, RN, VN Program Director  
Janena Norris, BSN, RN, Faculty  
Fourteen (14) VN Students

**Board Representative:**

- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi.
- Reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook.
- Reviewed exams and clinical evaluation tools.
- Toured campus and facilities housing the nursing program.
- Interviewed fourteen (14) students.
- Held initial conference with director and administration.
- Met with faculty members.
- Reviewed records and documents including: student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan.
- Conducted exit interview with director, faculty, and administration.

**Summary of Findings:**

Administration

- Administration indicated the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a need in the local community. The VN program is in the Division of Health Professions which also includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- Patricia Dusek, BSN, RN, VN Program Director, has been the director of the VN Program since June 2012.
- Ms. Dusek was previously a faculty member in the VN Program.
- Pat Gwin, RN, was the Director prior to Ms. Dusek
- Ms. Dusek reported that she is comfortable fulfilling her program director duties as well as carrying a teaching load since she had fourteen (14) years experience as a previous faculty member and because of faculty dedication and support from administrative.
- Clear channels of communication between the director and administration are evident.
- According to the Associate Dean of Instruction Effectiveness and Student Success, the Chair of Health Professions and the VN Program Director, VN graduates are able to obtain employment in the local hospitals and clinical agencies and the majority have procured employment before completion of the program.

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 1497 clock hours: 560 didactic hours and 841 clinical hours (including lab hours, simulation hours and direct, hands on care).
- The program of study is well organized and includes all Board required content.

- The curriculum is designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting. The nursing skills are presented in the first semester.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)* have been fully 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 3.7.3.a.
- No teaching occurs via online delivery.

#### Faculty:

- In addition to the program director, one (1) full-time RN faculty and one (1) adjunct faculty provide the VN instruction.
- Faculty meets Board qualifications and offers a rich diversity in their education and clinical backgrounds.
- The new adjunct faculty is receiving mentoring throughout her first year.
- Faculty reported they receive strong support from one another, the Chair of Health Professions, and from college administration.
- Faculty members report they are engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty has regular meetings and decision-making is collaborative.
- Review of faculty meeting minutes reveals that documentation regarding faculty actions and rationale were not consistently evident.
- Faculty Handbook includes written policies as required.
- The program director and faculty report a generous faculty development program that more than meets their needs.
- Faculty files provide evidence of faculty qualifications, responsibilities, and faculty evaluations.

#### Students:

- The program admits one (1) cohort of students each year in January.
- The enrollment is currently fourteen(14) students out of fifteen (15) that were admitted in January 2013.
- Students reported they chose the Brazosport VN program because of the convenient location and the program's reputation for being a good program.
- Students agreed the program of study is preparing them well for clinical practice and they cited skills lab learning experiences as being the most rewarding part of the program thus far. They expressed an eagerness to start actual hands on in clinical agencies.
- All students reported they plan on continuing their education to become registered nurses.
- The TEAS test is utilized for pre-admission testing.
- Student policies are well-defined and written.

#### Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies that provide rich clinical opportunities for the curriculum. Skills lab and simulation lab activities are also utilized.
- Faculty provides supervision during all clinical learning experiences.
- Board faculty-to-student ratios are maintained.
- Clinical learning experiences are scheduled to correlate with didactic content.
- Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined in writing.
- The clinical evaluation tools are based upon course content, the DECs and measure progression of the student throughout the program. Student expectations are written in rubric format that is easily understandable for students with patient safety as a priority.
- The skills/simulation labs are available to students for practice with faculty supervision.
- Clinical preceptors are used and guidelines are well-written.

#### Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The new Health Professions/Sciences complex was opened in May 2011.
- A full array of student services are offered on the Brazosport College campus.
- A large library, ample computer resources, and student success center are evident. There are computers available in the Health Professions/Science Building as well.
- There is ample, open parking available adjacent to the program building.
- The facilities housing the VN program are spacious and equipped with numerous classrooms and
- Two (2) well equipped skills/simulation labs. Audiovisual equipment is available in every classroom.
- The Program Director and full-time Faculty are provided with modern, fully furnished private offices.
- The program has full-time clerical and secretarial support.

- The Director and Faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.

Records and Reports:

- The program has a TPE Plan that is used for decision making. The previous year completed TPE was lacking one required item.
- Meeting minutes indicate when some decisions are made and are prepared in a legible format.
- Student and faculty files contain all documents required by Rule 214.
- Clinical Affiliation agreements are up to date and easily accessible.
- Storage of files meets the requirement of Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

July 22, 2013

Patricia Dusek, BSN, RN, Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Brazosport College  
500 College Drive  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-6146

Dear Ms. Dusek,

At the July 18-19, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine survey visit to the Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following requirement:

Requirement #1:

The faculty shall revise the Total Program Evaluation Plan to include an evaluation of methods and instruments to ensure their appropriate use. Further, the faculty meeting minutes shall indicate that decisions are based upon evaluation data. The revised Total Program Evaluation Plan and sample copies of faculty minutes shall be submitted to Board Staff no later than October 1, 2013.

Requirements are based upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President of the Board

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE  
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Chair, Health Professions, Brazosport College