

Report of Vocational Nursing Education Programs with High School Entry Tracks

Summary:

This report is to offer information to the Board about three (3) Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Programs housed in community colleges that presently offer high school admission tracks.

Historical Perspective:

- Subsequent to presentations and discussions during the Fall 2015 Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators Conference, the education consultants became aware of widespread interest from a variety of stakeholders about initiating high school entry points in VN Education Programs.
- The three (3) VN Programs currently offering high school entry options are Angelina Community College in Lufkin, Texas; El Paso Community College (EPCC) in El Paso, Texas; and Odessa College in Odessa, Texas.
- In an effort to more fully understand the structure, operation, and partnership agreements of these programs, Board Staff developed and distributed a 32-item survey for completion by the three (3) VN Program Directors (See Attachment #1).
- Board Staff shared survey outcomes with representatives from the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at a regularly scheduled meeting of the four (4) regulatory agencies on November 9, 2015.
- Although commonalities among the three (3) program models exist, more distinctions than similarities were identified in the response data (See Attachment #2).
- Board Staff has developed guidelines to assist VN Program Directors interested in establishing high school admission options to remain compliant with Board rules and regulations (See Attachment #3).

Staff Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes and no Board vote is required.

Survey for Vocational Nursing Education Programs that offer High School Entry Tracks

Please enter responses directly on this document immediately following the question.

1. Are high school (HS) students admitted to the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program HS Track during the sophomore, junior, or senior year of HS?
2. Is a minimum HS GPA required for HS students to be admitted to the VN HS Track?
 - a. If yes, please identify the required HS GPA.
3. Is parental permission required for students to be admitted to the VN HS Track?
4. Must students complete the Texas Board of Nursing Criminal Background Check (CBC) process prior to admission to the VN HS Track?
 - a. If yes, is parental permission required for students to initiate the CBC process?
5. Has the VN Program enrolled students in the VN HS Track under age 18 who have completed the Board CBC process?
 - a. If yes, how many HS students have completed the CBC process?
 - b. If yes, has the VN Program encountered any issues during the CBC process for the under age 18 group?
 - c. If yes to Question 5, Section b, please describe the issues.
6. Must HS students complete college pre-requisite course(s) prior to being admitted to the VN HS Track?
 - a. If yes, please identify the course(s).
7. How many months in length is the VN HS Track Program?
8. How many students are enrolled each year in the VN HS Track?
9. How many students are enrolled in each cohort in the VN HS Track?
10. How many cohorts per year does the VN HS Track enroll?
11. Do the VN HS Track students agree not to participate in extra-curricular activities?
 - a. If yes, is this a formal or informal agreement?
12. On which campus are the VN HS Track nursing courses taught, the HS or college campus?
13. If nursing courses are taught on the college campus, how are HS students transported from the HS to the college?
14. During which semester in the VN HS Track do students begin clinical learning experiences?
15. Have clinical affiliates expressed any concerns regarding the VN HS Track students?
 - a. If yes, please describe.
16. Are the VN HS Track students integrated with the Traditional VN Program students during didactic courses?
17. Are the VN HS Track students integrated with the Traditional VN Program students during clinical learning experiences?
18. Are HS core courses offered concurrently with the VN HS Track courses?
19. May the VN HS Track students repeat a nursing course?
20. May the VN HS Track students enroll as part-time students?
21. Do the VN HS Track students complete nursing course(s) during the summer(s)?
 - a. If yes, please identify the course(s).

22. Do the VN HS Track students graduate from HS on time?
23. Do the VN HS Track students graduate from HS before graduating from the VN Program?
24. Do the VN HS Track students incur costs to complete the program, such as tuition or lab fees?
25. Do the VN HS Track faculty members employ different instructional strategies to engage the VN HS Track students than utilized for the Traditional VN Program students?
26. Are the VN HS Track faculty members offered specialized training to successfully engage HS students?
27. What is the retention rate in the VN HS Track?
 - a. Is this a higher or lower retention rate than in the Traditional VN Program?
28. Is the partnering HS identified as an Early College High School?
29. Are the nursing courses and pre-requisite courses considered Dual Credit courses?
30. Please provide as an attachment a matrix of courses that offer Dual Credit and those that offer HS credit for the VN HS Track.
31. Please provide as an attachment a weekly schedule for the VN HS Track students, including HS courses and VN courses.
32. Please offer further information that you feel may assist the Education Consultants to more fully understand the VN HS Track.

Name of Vocational Nursing Education Program:

Individual completing survey:

VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY TRACKS

Item	El Paso Community College	Angelina Community College	Odessa College
1. Partnering High Schools (HS)	Bel Air HS Silva Magnet HS	Hudson HS	Permian HS Odessa HS New Tech HS
2. Year VN HS Track initiated	1996	2010	2013
3. HS year of admission into VN program	Junior Year	Senior Year	Admitted during spring of Sophomore year to begin in Fall Junior year
4. Minimum HS GPA required for admission	Admission requirements determined by individual HS	3.0 to 3.5	3.0
5. Parental permission required for admission	Yes	Yes	Not explicit permission for VN program although parents are required to attend a VN specific parent meeting before the students are officially accepted into the VN program.
6. Board Criminal Background Check Process required for admission	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. College pre-requisite courses required for admission	Yes	Yes	No
8. Length in months of VN HS Track Program	24 months	12 months	24 months

Item	El Paso Community College	Angelina Community College	Odessa College
9. Total enrollment each year	Varies with each HS Junior year: 10 – 20 students Senior year: 20 – 40 students	Cohort of 10 students. Not all students in cohort are in HS during year in VN program.	Cohort of up to 20 students for Junior year. Senior year enrollment dependent upon attrition.
10. Cohorts per year	One	One	One
11. Participation in extra-curricular activities	No formal agreement not to participate in extra-curricular activities.	No formal agreement, but discouraged during initial interview.	No formal agreement, but discouraged during initial interview.
12. Identification of campus where nursing courses taught, HS or college campus	HS campus for Junior and Senior years. College campus during summer sessions after Junior and Senior years.	HS campus	Odessa College campus
13. If courses taught on college campus, method of student transportation to campus	Independent transportation from HS to college campus. Bused from HS to clinical sites.	Transport independently	Option to be bused or transport independently
14. Semester during which clinical learning experiences begin	Junior year, first semester	Junior year, first semester	Summer between Junior and Senior years, third semester
15. Didactic Course integration of HS students with VN Traditional Track students	Not during Junior or Senior years. Integrated in the summer after Senior year.	Courses taught via interactive television; HS students taught at the same time as Traditional Track students. Both groups meet on college campus for joint review sessions.	No integration of HS Track students with Traditional Track students.

Item	El Paso Community College	Angelina Community College	Odessa College
16. Clinical Course integration of HS students with Traditional VN Track students	Not during Junior or Senior years. Integrated in the summer after Senior year.	Cohort usually 50% - 60% HS track students, therefore always integrated with Traditional VN Track students.	Integrated with Traditional VN Track students during sixth semester or summer session after HS graduation.
17. High School courses offered concurrently with VN courses	Yes	No	Students in Dual Credit program take core courses at varying times according to ISD schedules.
18. VN HS Track students able to repeat a nursing course	Yes, after HS graduation and on the college campus	Yes, with another cohort	Students must complete each semester in which they are enrolled, according to ISD guidelines. Any courses passed would be substituted in the Traditional program if the student decides to continue with the Traditional program after HS graduation.
19. Part-time enrollment option	Yes	No	No
20. VN HS Track students completion of nursing courses during the summer	Yes	Yes	Yes
21. VN HS Track students graduate on time from HS	Yes	Yes	Yes
22. VN HS Track students graduate from HS before graduating from VN Program	Yes	Yes	Yes

Item	El Paso Community College	Angelina Community College	Odessa College
23. Costs to VN HS Track students, such as tuition or lab fees	Yes, only during summer sessions. No cost during Junior and Senior HS years as ISD pays.	Yes	Yes, only during summer sessions.
24. Differences in instructional strategies employed by VN HS Track faculty from Traditional VN Program faculty	Yes, more time provided to complete each course; pace is slower. Instructors utilize different teaching methods. College course syllabi followed but instructors require more assignments with a variety of activities.	No	No
25. Specialized training offered to VN HS Track faculty to engage HS students	No	No	Yes
26. Student retention rate in VN HS Track	Approximately 95% retention rate for summer sessions; 90% retention rate during Junior and Senior HS years. This is a higher retention rate than the Traditional Program.	50% - 60%. This is a lower retention rate than the Traditional VN Program.	August 2015 Cohort = 25% retention rate August 2016 Cohort = 85% retention rate August 2017 Cohort = 100% on census day
27. Partnering HS identified as an Early College High School (ECHS)	No, neither HS is ECHS; both identified as Magnet Schools.	No	No

Item	El Paso Community College	Angelina Community College	Odessa College
28. Nursing courses and pre-requisite courses considered Dual Credit courses	Nursing courses are Dual Credit courses; General Education courses are articulated.	Yes	All nursing courses are Dual Credit courses. No pre-requisite courses offered.
29. NCLEX-PN Pass Rates	<p>2011 = 100% (13/13) 0 Withdrew/Failed</p> <p>2012 = 86.67% (13/15) 20 Withdrew/Failed</p> <p>2013 = 90.90% (10/11) 21 Withdrew/Failed</p> <p>2014 = 100% (6/6) 20 Withdrew/Failed</p>	<p>2010 = 100% (1/1)</p> <p>2011 = 100% (2/2)</p> <p>2012 = 100% (4/4)</p> <p>2013 = 100% (2/2)</p> <p>2014 = 100% (3/3)</p>	First graduate in November 2015 100% (1/1)

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
Guideline for Dual Credit HS in Nursing
November 2015

Required Items:

1. Establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the nursing program/governing institution and the high schools and/or school district.
2. Provide a letter of support from governing institution administration to support the nursing portion.
3. Provide evidence of notification to TEA/THECB/TWC, as applicable.
4. Notify the BON that the nursing program will be seeking approval as a Multi-Entry-Exit Program (MEEP) or a Major Curriculum Change.
5. Contact other successful dual credit programs to learn about different models.
6. Design a detailed plan with the college and high school, including a weekly schedule and discuss any changes from the BON-approved program.
7. Submit the proposal for the new track to the BON for approval. Include copies of all documents listed here with the proposal.

Essentials:

- The nursing program should control or participate in the admission criteria and selection.
- The dual credit program must comply with all requirements in Education Rule 214.
- The basic BON-approved curriculum including clinical practice and clinical objectives shall be consistent with the main program.