

Agenda Item 5.D.V



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE	February 9, 2020
TO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Members <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer Review
FROM	<input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LNEC
REVIEWED BY	Beth DeYoung, MPH, RN Lead Nursing Education Consultant (LNEC)
PREPARED BY	Faye Silverman, MSN/Ed., RN, WOCN, PHN Nursing Education Consultant (NEC)
SUBJECT	Request to Admit Students
PROGRAM	Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program (Program) (Director: Dr. Edna Domingo, San Bernardino, San Bernardino County – Private)

Please note: The NECs make recommendations. The recommendations are forwarded to one or more: the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee or the full Board for action.

PROGRAM REQUEST:

Admit a full-time day class of 20 students with two alternate students to commence on March 1, 2021, with an expected graduation date of March 4, 2022. This is a replacement class for the class which graduated on October 16, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

This program was initially placed on provisional approval for a two-year period beginning August 21, 2020, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements, specifically NCLEX-PN® pass rates significantly below the state average annual pass rate for first time candidates. The first cohort graduated five students. None of the five students passed NCLEX-PN® test.

At the August 2020 Board meeting, the Board adopted the following recommendations:

Deny the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program request to admit one class of 17 students on August 3, 2020, only.

Place the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period beginning August 21, 2020; and issue a certificate accordingly.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Analysis of submitted program documents, materials, and information confirms that the program resources are adequate for the enrolled and projected student population.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the program's approved clinical facilities have ceased accepting students. The program will be utilizing a mixture of online theory and in-person theory. The program is utilizing both virtual simulation and live clinical rotations to meet the clinical objectives of the program. The program has submitted a plan to have all current and proposed classes complete no less than 60 percent of the clinical hours per term at a BVNPT approved clinical site. All skills lab hours will be completed live on campus using smaller groups and social distancing.

The program director is currently revising the curriculum with the NEC.

The program's second cohort graduated five students on October 16, 2020. Of the five students, four have taken the NCLEX-PN® on January 2nd. All four students who took the NCLEX-PN® passed and currently have licenses. (See Attachment B: Documentation of four students who passed NCLEX-PN®)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please note: These are not NEC decisions, rather the recommendations presented at the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee and/or the full Board.

1. Approve Southeast California College Vocational Nursing Program to begin a full-time day class of 20 students with two alternate students to commence on March 1, 2021 with an expected graduation date of March 4, 2022, to replace the class which graduated on October 16, 2020.
2. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Continue to require the program to submit a report to the BVNPT in six months, no later than March 15, 2021, and fifteen months, no later than June 15, 2022. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Terminal Objectives
 - b. Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - 1- Instructional Plan
 - 2- Theory & Clinical Objectives for each Term

- 3- Lesson Plans for each Term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - 1- Admission Policy
 - 2- Screening and Selection Policy
 - 3- Attendance & Remediation Policy
 - 4- Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - 5- Credit Granting Policy
 - d. Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected students.
 - e. Evaluations of Faculty
 - f. Methodologies for:
 - 1- Faculty Meetings
 - 2- Clinical Evaluations
 - g. Documentation of required clinical resources for all terms for all current cohorts.
2. Admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
 3. Continue to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences. Regulation 2534(d) states, "For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."
 4. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
 5. Continue the program's requirement to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professionals Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.
 6. Continue the program's requirement to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

RELEVANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Enrollment

Section 2530(k) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"(k) The program shall have prior Board approval to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of admission of classes. Criteria to evaluate a school's request to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of class admissions include but are not limited to: (1) Sufficient program resources as specified in Section 2530(a). (2) Adequacy of clinical experience as specified in Section 2534. (3) Licensure examination pass rates as specified in Section 2530(l)".

The program is Board approved to offer a 56-week full-time class. Board approval is required prior to the admission of each class. The following table represents current and proposed student enrollment based on class starts and completion dates. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 20 students for the period September 2019 through March 2021.

ENROLLMENT DATA TABLE

Class Start Dates	Class Completion Dates	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Current	Number of Graduated	Total Enrolled
9/23/2019 Class # 2 (*10/16/2020)		8	6		6
	10/16/2020 (Class # 2)			-6	$6 - 6 = 0$
3/1/2021 Class # 3 (*3/4/2022) PROPOSED		20			$0 + 20 = 20$

*Indicates projected graduation date

Licensing Examination Statistics

California Code of Regulations Section 2530(l) states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

The following statistics, furnished by Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as “Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction,” for the period October 2019 through December 2020, specify the pass percentage rate for graduates of the Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical /Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®) and the variance from the state average annual pass rates.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data

Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*		
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance from the State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2019	2	0	0%	79%	0%	79%	-79
Jan – Mar 2020	1	0	0%	78%	0%	79%	-79
Apr - Jun 2020	0	0	0%	81%	0%	79%	-79
Jul - Sep 2020	1	0	0%	75%	0%	78%	-78
Oct – Dec 2020	1	0	0%	75%	0%	77%	-77

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most current data available (October – December 2020), the program's average annual pass rate is 0 percent. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 77 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is seventy-seven percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

On January 2, 2021 four of the five students who graduated from the second cohort took NCLEX-PN®. All four students passed NCLEX-PN®.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor.”

The current number of Board-approved faculty totals 10, including the director. This program has one teacher assistant and three additional faculty. The director has 100% administrative duties. Of the total faculty, 5 are designated to teach clinical.

At the August 21, 2020 Board meeting, the program was required to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences.

Based upon a maximum proposed enrollment of 20 students, two instructors are required for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that clinical instruction is covered adequately.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the program’s approved clinical facilities have ceased accepting students. The program will be utilizing a mixture of online theory and in-person theory. The program is utilizing both virtual simulation and live clinical rotations to meet the clinical objectives of the program. The program has submitted a plan to have all current and proposed classes complete no less than 60 percent of the clinical hours per term at a BVNPT approved clinical site. All skills lab hours will be completed live on campus using smaller groups and social distancing.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Attachment B: Documentation of four students who passed NCLEX-PN®

Attachment A, Agenda Item 7.D.VI

SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA COLLEGE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On February 6, 2018, the Executive Officer approved Southeast California College, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 24 students on February 12, 2018, only.
- The program curriculum was approved for 1546 hours, including 578 theory hours, and 968 clinical hours.
- Require the program to obtain prior Board approval before admission of subsequent classes to maintain compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526(c) that states:

“(c) A Board representative shall make a survey visit prior to graduation of the initial class. A program shall not commence another class without prior Board approval.”

1. *On April 2, 2019, the Executive Officer, approved the following:*
2. *Grant full approval for the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period beginning February 6, 2018, and issue a certificate accordingly.*
3. Require the program to correct **sixteen** existing violations identified during the onsite inspection and **one** additional violation identified after the visit. Submit documentation of all corrections of all violations no later than **May 3, 2019**.
4. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior Board approval.
5. Continue to require the program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the Board, no later than two months prior to the requested start date for the class.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

- c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
 6. Require the program's requirement to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16 commencing at Section 2526.
- On September 17, 2019, the Executive Officer, approved the following
 - Approve the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program request to admit one class of 16 students on September 23, 2019, only.
 - Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
 - Require the program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the Board, no later than two months prior to the requested start date for the class.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
 - Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16.
 - On August 21, 2020, the Board, approved the following
 - Deny the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program request to admit one class of 17 students on August 3, 2020, only.
 - Place the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period beginning August 21, 2020; and issue a certificate accordingly.
 - Issue a notice of change in approval status to the program identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 and Section 2530(l) of the California Code of Regulations.
 - Require the program to submit an action plan to correct their NCLEX-PN® first time takers score of zero percent passing by October 1, 2020.

- Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
- Require the program to submit a report to the Board in six months, no later than March 15, 2021, and fifteen months, no later than June 15, 2022. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - Terminal Objectives
 - Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - Instructional Plan
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 - Lesson Plans for each Term
 - Student Policies including:
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 - Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - Credit Granting Policy
 - Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected students.
 - Evaluations of Faculty
 - Methodologies for:
 - Faculty Meetings
 - Clinical Evaluations
 - Documentation of required clinical resources for all terms for all current cohorts.
- Require the program to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences.
- Require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.
- Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
- Place the program on the Board's August 2022 agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.