

Agenda Item #9.I.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: September 3, 2009

TO: Board Members

FROM: Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R. N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program –
Reconsideration of Provisional Accreditation (Director: Hector Cascalla,
Anaheim, Orange County, Private)

Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for reconsideration of its provisional accreditation. The program's status was changed to provisional accreditation on February 1, 2008. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, which 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 accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

(1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation.”

History of Prior Board Actions

- On November 14, 2003, the Board approved Summit Career College, Anaheim's request to commence a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 72 students on November 17, 2003 with a projected graduation date of November 22, 2004. The Board also approved the program's curriculum for 1586 hours, including 632 theory and 954 clinical hours.

Due to insufficient available clinical hours for maternity and pediatrics, the start date was delayed to December 1, 2003, with a projected completion date of December 6, 2004.

- On September 10, 2004, the Board approved initial full accreditation for the Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program for the period September 10, 2004, through September 9, 2008, and issued a certificate accordingly.

The Board approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 72 students starting December 6, 2004 only, to **replace** students graduating December 6, 2004.

Additionally, the Board approved the program's request to admit a 19 month part-time class of 72 students commencing September 14, 2004, and graduating April 18, 2006.

- On November 15, 2004, the director notified the Board that commencement of the full – time replacement class would be delayed to January 31, 2005. The school desired to begin the new class at the beginning of a year instead of at the end.
- On February 4, 2005, the Board approved Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 72 students into a second full-time class commencing May 2, 2005, with a projected graduation date of May 8, 2006. Additionally, the Board approved the program's request to admit a second part-time class of 72 students commencing March 7, 2005, contingent upon Board approval of two (2) additional clinical instructors by February 15, 2005.
- On March 17, 2005, the program notified the Board that commencement of the May 2, 2005 class was delayed to June 6, 2005, with a projected graduation date of June 12, 2006.
- On September 9, 2005, the Board approved the program's request to admit 72 students to a third full - time class on September 19, 2005, with a projected graduation date of September 25, 2006.

The Board approved the program's request to admit a fourth full – time class of 72 students on December 5, 2005, with a projected graduation date of December 6, 2006.

The Board approved the program's request to admit a fourth full – time class of 72 students on September 19, 2005, with a projected graduation date of April 16, 2007.

The Board also approved the program's request for ongoing admissions to **replace** graduating classes only, with the following stipulations.

- a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes the admission of two (2) part-time classes and one (1) full-time class each school year.
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e., faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- **In April 2005, the Board was notified of a change of director.**

- **On February 6, 2006, the Board was notified of a change of director.**
- On May 13, 2006, the Board notified the director that the pass rates for Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters.
- On June 29, 2006, the director submitted a strategic plan to improve its pass rates.
- On July 10, 2006, the consultant requested the director to revise and resubmit its strategic plan.
- On July 27, 2006, a more detailed strategic plan was submitted.
- **On October 11, 2006, the Board was notified of a change of director.**
- On December 12, 2006, the Board notified the director that pass rates for Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for six (6) consecutive quarters.
- On January 20, 2007, the director submitted correspondence verifying implementation of the revised strategic plan.
- On March 21, 2007, the Board notified the director that the pass rates for Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for seven (7) consecutive quarters.
- On April 11, 2007, the director submitted a follow-up report identifying modifications in its strategic plan.
- On May 31, 2007 the Board notified the director that the pass rates for Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for eight (8) consecutive quarters.
- On July 16, 2007, the Board received the director's analysis of the correctional plan.
- On September 7, 2007, in the absence of a quorum, a committee of the Board heard the consultant's report and recommended approval by the full Board that Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program be placed on provisional accreditation. The report will be presented at the February 1, 2008, Board Meeting for full Board action.

- On February 1, 2008, the Board placed the program on Provisional Accreditation for the two-year period from February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2010, and issued a notice to the program identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations. **The program was placed on the agenda for the September 2009 Board meeting for reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.**
- On March 12, 2008, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections. (See Attachment A)
- **On April 22, 2008, a new director was approved.**
- On June 24, 2009, the Board forwarded correspondence to the program advising that the Board would reconsider its accreditation status at the September 11, 2009 meeting. A comprehensive report was requested by July 17, 2009.
- On July 20, 2009, the Board received the program's comprehensive report.

Enrollment

The program is approved for ongoing admissions to replace graduating classes only provided no additional classes are added to its current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes the admission of two (2) part – time classes and one (1) full – time class each school year. The pattern of admissions for current and projected classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 552 students** for the period from April 2008 through June 2010.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
4/08 PT		33	28	28
9/08 FT		43	37	28 + 37 = 65
10/08 PT		50	45	65 + 45 = 110
12/08 FT		35	29	110 + 29 = 139
3/09 FT		50	42	139 + 42 = 181
3/09 PT		55	48	181 + 48 = 229
6/09 FT		43	42	229 + 42 = 271
8/09 PT		72	72	271 + 72 = 343
	9/09 (9/08 FT)		- 37	343 - 37 = 306

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
9/09 FT (projected)		72		306 + 72 = 378
	11/09 (12/08 FT)		- 29	378 - 29 = 349
12/09 (projected FT)		72		349 + 72 = 421
	12/09 (04/08 PT)		- 28	421 - 28 = 393
1/10 (projected PT)		72		393 + 72 = 465
	3/10 (03/09 FT)		- 42	465 - 42 = 423
3/10 FT (projected)		72		423 + 72 = 495
	5/10 (10/08 PT)		- 45	495 - 45 = 450
6/10 PT (projected)		72		450 + 72 = 522
	6/10 (06/09 FT)		- 42	522 - 42 = 480
6/10 FT (projected)		72		480 + 72 = 552

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the 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 2005 through June 2009, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

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
Oct - Dec 2005	No Candidates Tested			79%	55%	81%
Jan - Mar 2006	No Candidates Tested			80%	46%	79%
Apr - Jun 2006	35	21	60%	76%	58%	79%
Jul - Sept 2006	47	16	34%	79%	45%	79%
Oct - Dec 2006	50	21	42%	77%	44%	78%
Jan - Mar 2007	61	32	53%	77%	47%	77%
Apr - Jun 2007	37	24	65%	74%	48%	77%
Jul - Sept 2007	66	40	61%	76%	55%	76%
Oct - Dec 2007	41	13	32%	76%	53%	76%
Jan - Mar 2008	60	38	63%	75%	56%	75%
Apr - Jun 2008	20	14	70%	70%	56%	74%
Jul - Sept 2008	23	21	91%	74%	60%	74%
Oct - Dec 2008	75	58	77%	73%	74%	73%
Jan - Mar 2009	47	36	77%	70%	78%	72%
Apr - Jun 2009	28	15	54%	71%	75%	70%

*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.

Based on the most recent data available (April–June 2009), the program's average annual pass rate is 75%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN[®] for the first time during the same period is 70%. The average annual pass rate for the Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program is five (5) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate.

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 total number of Board approved faculty is 45, including the program director. The director has 100% administrative duties. Of the total faculty, 42 are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 552 students, 37 instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and proposed enrollment.

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.”

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. This has been verified by the consultant.

Other Considerations

On May 31, 2006, the director was notified that pass rates for the Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for four (4) quarters. The director was requested to complete an analysis of the program, identify factors negatively impacting student achievement, and develop a written plan for improving program pass rates.

On June 29, 2006, the Board received correspondence from the program director setting forth its plan to increase NCLEX-PN[®] scores.

On December 12, 2007, the program was notified that program pass rates had fallen more than 10 percentage points below the state average pass rate for six (6) consecutive quarters. The assigned consultant requested documentation verifying implementation of the submitted plan of correction and its effectiveness. Additionally, the consultant requested identification of any modifications to the plan.

In January 2007, the program submitted its revised plan. Additional modifications were submitted on April 11, 2007.

On May 31, 2007, the program was notified that its pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for eight (8) consecutive quarters.

On July 16, 2007, the director submitted additional revisions of the submitted plan of correction. The following were included.

1. Integration of the HESI diagnostic examination at the beginning of Term IV to measure students' knowledge from Term I through the completion of Term III.
2. Addition of the HESI exit examination at the end of Term IV as a requirement for graduation.
3. Mandatory tutoring for students with identified academic deficiencies.

On February 1, 2008, the Board changed the program's status to Provisional Accreditation. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with regulatory requirements set forth in Section 2530 (l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. The program was scheduled for reconsideration of its accreditation status at the September 2009 Board meeting.

Since that time, the program and school administration have completed a comprehensive analysis of all elements of the program. Subsequently, the following changes have occurred.

1. A new program director was hired.
2. All instructors have been evaluated. Those with substandard performance were terminated. New instructors were hired.
3. All instructors and faculty were required to complete in-service.

To date, the program's average annual pass rates have risen progressively. Program performance statistics for April–June 2009 specify the program's average annual pass rate is 75%. Given these statistics, the average annual pass rate for the Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program has exceeded the state average annual pass rate for the last three (3) quarters.

Recommendation:

Approve full accreditation of Summit Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program for the four - year period from September 17, 2009 through September 16, 2013, and issue a certificate accordingly.

Rationale: The program has comprehensive analysis of all program elements critical to student achievement. Based on that analysis, several critical changes were made. The effectiveness of those changes is evidenced by the significant improvement in the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®]. The program has demonstrated full compliance with Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the director, and performing accreditation surveys every four years.