

Agenda Item #11.H.



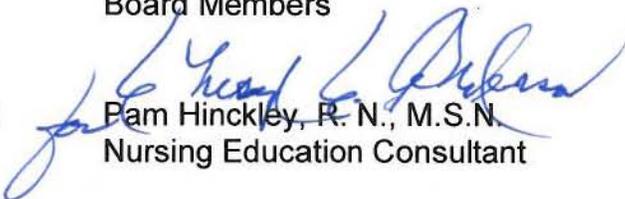
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Pam Hinckley, R. N., M.S.N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Southern California Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program –
Consideration of Placement on Provisional Accreditation and Request to
Admit Students (Director: Nomar Tongco, Bakersfield, Kern County, Private)

Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional accreditation.

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations,

“The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when a program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526...”

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

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below ten 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.”

The following table shows the variance of the program’s pass rates from the state average annual pass rates of first-time graduates of accredited vocational nursing programs for the past four (4) quarters. This data substantiates the program’s noncompliance with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	33%	-43
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	30%	-47
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	25%	-51
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	20%	-56

On August 26, 2011, the Executive Officer (EO) denied the program's request to admit a class of 30 students with three (3) alternates on August 29, 2011, graduating September 7, 2012. That decision was based on students' demonstrated lack of achievement as evidenced by program's performance statistics. The assigned consultant forwarded electronic correspondence advising the director of the EO's decision.

On August 29, 2011, the director and program administrator appeared at Board headquarters requesting an unscheduled meeting to discuss the EO's decisions. The NEC and SNEC met with the representatives. Board representatives discussed the program's status, including lack of program achievement, EO's decisions, and rationale for those decisions. Program representatives requested reconsideration of the decisions rendered on August 26, 2011.

The program requests Board approval to admit a class of 30 full-time evening students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 2, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated August 26, 2011.

History of Prior Board Actions

- On June 4, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the Southern California Medical College's request to begin a vocational nursing program, with an initial class of 30 students on June 22, 2009, only, and an anticipated graduation date of July 23, 2010; **and** approved the program curriculum of 1550 hours, including 590 theory and 960 clinical hours.
- On March 3, 2010, the Board received the program's completed Program Records Survey for initial accreditation and required supporting documents.
- On June 24 - 25, 2010, the program was surveyed for initial accreditation.
- On July 20, 2010, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for Southern California Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program for the period July 16, 2010 through July 15, 2014, and directed staff to issue a certificate accordingly; **and**, **approved** the program's request to start a class of 30 students on August 4, 2010 with a projected completion date of August 26, 2011; **and**, required the program to request Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Additionally, the program was required to revise the instructional plan to encompass the presentation of theory and correlated clinical experience for each term to demonstrate progressive mastery of knowledge, skills and abilities.

- On August 15, 2011, the revised instructional plan was received and approved.
- On August 26, 2011, the Executive Officer **denied** the program's request to admit a class of **30** students with three (3) alternates on August 29, 2011, graduating September 7, 2012, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate August 26, 2011. The EO directed the program to submit a written report by **September 30, 2011**. The report shall include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements:
 - a. Current Student Enrollment.
 - b. Admission Criteria.
 - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - d. Terminal Objectives.
 - e. Curriculum Objectives.
 - f. Instructional Plan.
 - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - i. Textbooks.
 - j. Attendance Policy.
 - k. Grading Policy
 - l. Remediation Policy.
 - m. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - n. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - o. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - p. Evaluation of Student Achievement.

The program is required to continue obtaining Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

- On August 26, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded electronic correspondence advising the director of the EO's decisions relative to the program's request.
- On August 29, 2011, the NEC and SNEC met with the program director and administrator relative to their request for reconsideration of the EO's decisions.
- On October 7, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.

Enrollment

The program offers a 52 week full-time course of instruction, consisting of four (4) terms for a total of 1550 hours. 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 completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 30 students** for the period **June 2009 through September 2012**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
6/09		19	16	16
	7/10 (6/09 Class)		-16	16 - 16 = 0
8/10		30	25	0 + 25 = 25
	8/11 (8/10 Class)		-25	25 - 25 = 0
11/11 (Proposed)	12/12	30		0 + 30 = 30

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 2010 through September 2011, specify the pass percentage rate for graduates of the Southern California Medical College 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 Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2010	6	2	33%	77%	33%	76%
Jan – Mar 2011	4	1	25%	80%	30%	77%
Apr – Jun 2011	2	0	0%	71%	25%	76%
Jul – Sep 2011	3	0	0%	74%	20%	76%

*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 (July to September 2011), the program’s average annual pass rate is **20%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time is 76%. The average annual pass rate for the Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing program is **56 percentage points below** 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 number of Board-approved faculty totals eight (8) including the director. The director has 60% administrative and 40% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, seven (7) instructors, including the director are approved to teach clinical.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 30 students, two (2) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and proposed enrollment.

Other Considerations

The program has enrolled students into two (2) classes since it first began June 22, 2009. The first class graduated 16 students for which the licensure data listed above represents. The average annual pass rate is currently **20%**, **56 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate**. The second group of students graduated August 26, 2011. Data for these graduates is not yet available.

During the initial accreditation survey visit, the program’s instructional plan was found to have serious deficiencies. The director recently revised the instructional plan to encompass the presentation of theory and correlated clinical experience for each term that

demonstrated progressive mastery of knowledge, skills and abilities. The director is in the process of performing a comprehensive analysis to assist in identifying other deficiencies the program may have.

On August 26, 2011, the Executive Officer denied the program's request to admit 30 students on August 29, 2011, graduating September 7, 2012, to replace students graduating August 26, 2011. That decision was based on the program's pass rate performance statistics (see Attachment A).

On August 29, 2011, the director and administrator appeared at the Board's offices requesting an unscheduled meeting to discuss decisions rendered in response to their request. The assigned Nursing Education Consultant and Supervising Nursing Education Consultant reviewed the program's request, decisions rendered by the Executive Officer, and the rationale for those decisions. The director requested reconsideration of decisions relative to the submitted request. Based on that request, the program was placed on the November 2011 Board agenda.

On October 7, 2011, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider (see Attachment B).

Based on the previous program performance statistics and submitted documents and materials, the following violation(s) are identified.

Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations 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."

Violation #1: The program's average annual pass rate has been more than ten percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters.

Plan of Correction #1: This violation is **not corrected**. The violation will be corrected when the program's pass rates improve and are consistent with regulatory requirements.

Recommendation:

1. Place Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations (see Attachment C).

1. Deny the program's request approval to admit a class of 30 full-time students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 2, 2012, to **replace** a class that graduated August 26, 2011.
2. Approve the program's admission of a class of 15 full-time, evening, students on November 14, 2011, graduating on December 2, 2012, only, to **replace** the class that graduated August 26, 2011.
3. Require the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board
4. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013**.
5. Require the program to submit follow-up reports in 9 months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.

- a. Admission Criteria.
- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Terminal Objectives.
- d. Curriculum Objectives.
- e. Instructional Plan.
- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
- h. Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment.

6. The program must comply with all accreditation 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 2525.

7. Place the program on the **November 2013** Board agenda.

Rationale: The initial class of 16 students graduated July 23, 2010. Of the 16 graduates, 12 have taken the licensure examination and four (4) have not tested. These graduates tested over a three (3) quarter period from October 2010 through June 2011. The average annual licensure examination results are 33%, 30% and 25%, respectively. These pass rates range from **43 to 51 percentage**

points below the state average annual licensure pass rate. Such statistics support the recommendation to place the program on Provisional Accreditation.

The program's second class graduated on August 26, 2011. These 25 graduates are expected to test during quarters three (3) and four (4) of this year. The program **currently has no enrolled students**. Approving the program a small group of 15 students will allow them the opportunity to implement the newly revised instructional plan. By February 2013, the Board will have two (2) additional quarters of examination data on which to base future decisions relative to program admissions.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing accreditation surveys every four (4) years.

Attachment A: Board Correspondence Dated August 26, 2011.

Attachment B: Board Correspondence Dated October 7, 2011.

Attachment C: Draft Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.

Agenda Item #11.H.Attachment A



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICE AGENCIES • GOVERNOR EDWIN D. BRIDGE JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
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August 29, 2011

Nomar Tongco
Vocational Nursing Program, Director
Southern California Medical College
3611 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Subject: Executive Officer Meeting Follow – Up

Dear Ms. Tongco:

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Executive Officer considered the consultant's report relative to **Southern California Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program**. The following decisions were rendered.

1. Deny the Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 30 students with three (3) alternates on August 29, 2011; graduating September 7, 2012, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate August 26, 2011, at this time.
2. Require the program to submit a written report by **September 30, 2011**. The report shall include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements:
 - a. Current Student Enrollment.
 - b. Admission Criteria.
 - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - d. Terminal Objectives.
 - e. Curriculum Objectives.
 - f. Instructional Plan.
 - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
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 - l. Remediation Policy.
 - m. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - n. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - o. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - p. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
3. Require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: The Board has serious concerns relative to the program's pass rates for the initial class. Sixteen (16) students graduated July 23, 2010. Of the 16 graduates, 12 have taken the licensure examination. Of the 12 graduates that have taken the NCLEX-PN[®], three (3) passed and nine (9) failed. Currently, the program's average annual licensure pass rate is **25%**.

Denying the program's request to enroll 30 students, at this time, and having them perform a comprehensive analysis of the program is appropriate given the significantly low licensure pass rates for the first graduating class. The program recently revised their curriculum to achieve a better correlation of theory to clinical and strengthened their skills laboratory and clinical objectives. Performing a comprehensive analysis, at this time, will allow the program sufficient time to identify other critical program deficiencies that negatively impact student achievement, develop and implement strategies for correction.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, the program's licensure examination pass rates quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing accreditation surveys every four (4) years.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at **(916) 263-7840**.

Sincerely,

Pam Hinckley
Nursing Education Consultant

Agenda Item #11.H. Attachment B



STATE AND DEVELOPER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR BERNARDINO • PRESIDENT
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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CERTIFIED MAIL

October 7, 2011

Nomar Tongco, Director
Southern California Medical College
Vocational Nursing Program
3611 Stockdale Highway, Suite 1-2
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Re: Consideration of Request to Admit Students

Dear Mr. Tongco:

On September 29, 2011, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) received your correspondence requesting Board approval to admit students to the **Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program**. The Board is scheduled to consider that request at its meeting scheduled November 10, 2011. That meeting will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, in San Diego, California.

To ensure dissemination and review by individual Board members and relevant staff for timely consideration prior to the May 20, 2011 Board meeting, please submit the following written information by **Friday, October 30, 2011:**

- Fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents related to subsequent actions taken by the program to correct identified problems **that you desire Board members to consider**. Please remember existing statutes require that any document considered by the Board will become a public record. Accordingly, please redact all names of students.
- In addition, please provide information on a compact disc (CD) for Board use. Again, please remember to redact any student names prior to copying information onto the CD.

Although the primary purpose of this letter is to convey the Board's need for the copies, please be assured that, if timely submitted, any correspondence and attachments will be reviewed and, if appropriate, information submitted may be included in the report of the assigned consultant.

The Board strongly recommends that you plan to attend the meeting and be prepared to respond to questions from Board members relative to your program.

Please contact the Board at (916) 263-7843 should further clarification be needed.

Sincerely,

PAM HINCKLEY, RN, MSN

Nursing Education Consultant

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205

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Agenda Item #11.H.Attachment C



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDWIN D. BROWN JR.
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CERTIFIED MAIL

November XX, 2011

Nomar Tongco
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Southern California Medical College
3611 Stockdale Highway, Suite 1-2
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Subject: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status

Dear Mr. Tongco:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on November 10, 2011, the provisional accreditation status of the Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program has been changed from full accreditation to provisional accreditation for the two – year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013. The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing accreditation completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status" form by **Friday, November 30, 2011**.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE [VIOLATION(S)]

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(k) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"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)."

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations 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.

- (l) 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."

The program pass rates of the Southern California Medical College Vocational Nursing Program for the past four (4) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	33%	-43
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	30%	-47
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	25%	-51
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	20%	-56

Based on this data, the program failed to comply with regulatory requirements relative to the admission of students. Further, the program failed to maintain the annual average pass rate requirement.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Southern California Medical College, Vocational Nursing Program shall obtain full Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.
2. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **September 1, 2013**.
3. The program shall submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **August 1, 2013**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:
 - a. Admission Criteria.

- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
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 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Student Enrollment.
4. The program shall comply with all accreditation 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.
 5. The program shall demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation.
 6. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation.

In the event additional violations of the accreditation standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional accreditation.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **November 2013** Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's accreditation. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 3 and 4, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to that Board meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Based on the above corrections, the full Board's permission will be required for each future class admission.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may no longer advertise that it has full accreditation, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Board Members

TBJ:cca