



BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

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DATE: November 6, 2013

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: InfoTech Career College, Vocational Nursing Program – Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Elizabeth Estrada, Bellflower, Los Angeles County, Private)

On November 10, 2011, the Board placed the InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013 due to pass rates on the licensure examination that were noncompliant with requirements set forth in California Code of Regulations Section 2530 (I). Additionally, the Board denied the program's request to admit a class of 30 full-time day students on January 17, 2012, graduating on March 23, 2013. The Board directed that the program admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board. Further, the program was required to continue to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting identified violations. Reconsideration of the program's status was scheduled for the November 2013 Board meeting.

On October 21, 2013, the Board adopted recommendations adopted by less than a quorum of the Board on September 13, 2013. Specifically, the Board deferred action on the program's request to admit a class of 30 full-time, students on November 11, 2013, graduating on January 7, 2015 to the November 2013 Board meeting and continued the program's requirement to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.

The program requests approval to admit a full-time day class of 30 students on February 10, 2014, graduating on April 22, 2015. This class would replace the class that graduated August 27, 2012.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Prior Board Actions)

Enrollment

Each class admission to the 60-week, full-time program must have prior Board approval. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and proposed** student enrollment based on the current and proposed class start dates. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 50** students for the period **May 2008 through February 2014**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
5/08		26	17	17
	8/09 (5/08 Class)		- 17	17 - 17 = 0
6/11 (Delayed from 2/1/10)		30	17	0 + 17 = 17
8/12		15	9	17 + 9 = 26
	8/12 (6/11 Class)		-17	26 - 17 = 9
6/13	8/14	20		9 + 20 = 29
	10/13 (8/12 Class)		-12	29 - 9 = 20
02/14 (Proposed)	04/15	30		20 + 30 = 50

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 2009 through September 2013, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the InfoTech Career College, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarter	Quarterly Statistics				Annual Statistics*		
	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct - Dec 2009	5	3	60%	76%	60%	73%	-13
Jan - Mar 2010	4	1	25%	76%	44%	74%	-30
Apr - Jun 2010	3	1	33%	74%	42%	75%	-33
Jul - Sep 2010	1	0	0%	76%	38%	75%	-37
Oct - Dec 2010	No Candidates Tested			77%	25%	76%	-51
Jan - Mar 2011	1	1	100%	80%	40%	77%	-37
Apr - Jun 2011	No Candidates Tested			71%	50%	76%	-26
Jul - Sep 2011	No Candidates Tested			74%	100%	76%	+24
Oct - Dec 2011	No Candidates Tested			74%	100%	75%	+25
Jan - Mar 2012	No Candidates Tested			77%	100%	74%	+26
Apr - Jun 2012	No Candidates Tested			72%	0%	74%	-74

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 State Average Annual Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2012	No Candidates Tested			72%	0%	74%	-74
Jul – Sep 2012	No Candidates Tested			74%	0%	74%	-74
Oct – Dec 2012	1	0	0%	70%	0%	74%	-74
Jan – Mar 2013	3	3	100%	75%	75%	73%	+2
Apr – Jun 2013	4	2	50%	78%	63%	73%	-10
Jul – Sep 2013	3	2	67%	75%	64%	74%	-10

*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 (April to June 2013), the program's average annual pass rate is **64%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time is 74%. The average annual pass rate for the Info Tech Career College Vocational Nursing program is **ten (10) 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 five (5), including the director. The director has 90% administrative and 10% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, four (4) instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 50 students, four (4) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and proposed enrollment.

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 program has sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type, and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.

Other Considerations

As noted previously, the Board placed the InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two – year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to average annual pass rates. The program was required to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below State average annual pass rates. Further, the Board directed that the program demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations and specified that the failure do so may result in revocation of the program's approval.

The program was required 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**, to include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. Reconsideration of the program's status was scheduled for November 2013.

At that time, the program had eight (8) quarters or two (2) years of published examination statistics. For three (3) of those quarters, no program candidates completed the licensure examination. It is important to note, that regulatory compliance is based on the program's average annual pass rates. For seven (7) of the previous eight (8) consecutive quarters, the program's average annual pass rates were **13 to 51** percentage points **below** state average pass rates. The program's **quarterly** pass rate was **100%**; the average **annual** pass rate was **100%**. However, it was noted that only one (1) program candidate had completed the licensure examination during the previous four (4) quarters. Therefore, the program's average annual pass rate reflected one (1) program candidate.

The program was required 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**, to include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. Reconsideration of the program's status was scheduled for November 2013. On November 22, 2011, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status, identifying deficiencies and required corrections.

On February 6, 2012, the Board approved the program's request for approval to admit a class of 15 full-time, day students on April 9, 2012, only, graduating on July 1, 2013. Additionally, the Board required the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.

On September 4, 2012, the Board received the program's comprehensive analysis.

On March 29, 2013, the program director submitted documentation delineating actions taken to correct variables negatively impacting student achievement. Presented in the plan were the following elements:

➤ **Admission, Screening and Selection Criteria.**

- The program is currently requiring incoming students to take the ATI TEAS entrance test. The current passing score is 50% in each content area. Previously the requirement was 50% average of all content areas.
- Anatomy and Physiology, Introduction to Pharmacological Mathematics is a required pre-requisite.
- One-on-one interview.

➤ **Terminal Objectives.**

- Remain unchanged.

➤ **Curriculum Objectives.**

- Deficiency identified - lack of Genitourinary System. Content added.

➤ **Instructional Plan.**

- Revised for consistency with changes in the curriculum objectives.
- Textbook references updated.
- Added Virtual Clinical content.

➤ **Theory and Clinical Objectives.**

- Pediatric clinical objectives revised.
- Added Totally Kids clinical site.

➤ **Textbooks.**

- Added two (2) new texts-Anatomy and Physiology and Medical Terminology.

➤ **Attendance.**

- Consistent tracking of student attendance has improved student attendance to 96 to 100%.

➤ **Remediation.**

- Remediation is strictly enforced. Students not attending required remediation sessions must make up double of the time owed. This has increased compliance with the remediation policy.
- Students failing a test must attend remediation the following Friday.
- Struggling students are identified early, given individual counseling, and a review of study habits.

➤ **Evaluation of Theory and Clinical Faculty.**

- Director identified deficiencies in theory to clinical correlation. The director met with the instructors. Training was implemented.

➤ **Evaluation of Theory Presentations.**

- Theory instructor replaced after deficiencies were identified.

➤ **Evaluation of Clinical to Theory.**

- Initiated concept mapping.

➤ **Evaluation of Student Achievement.**

- ATI exit exam performance required. Required score: 92% or above. Fourteen (14) of the current 17 students have taken the exit exam and achieved the required 92% or higher.

On June 5, 2013, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission by June 13, 2013, of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that the program desired Board members to consider in responding to its request for approval to admit students.

On June 17, 2013, the Board received the requested documents. No significant changes were identified from the report previously submitted above (March 29, 2013). New elements added were as follows:

- A Doctoral student will provide students with a study skills class. She will provide students with an individual study plan.
- Evaluation of Theory Presentations: Evaluations are done quarterly. Student evaluations have been positive.
- Students are counseled regarding the underutilization of ATI practice exams and other remediation tools.

On October 10, 2013, the Board received the program's comprehensive analysis. Very few changes were identified on this report that were different than the report submitted approximately four (4) months earlier. The report includes all of the items listed above on March 29, 2013. The following elements were either added or changed from the previous report (see Attachment C):

- A revision of the admission testing scoring for ATI. Instead of requiring 50% overall score on the ATI, TEAS test, the program is requiring a minimum of 50% in each content area on the exam.

- Utilization of a Maternity clinic that sees approximately 200 clients a day will provide students entering term IV with their Maternity clinical experience.
- Concept mapping was integrated to increase critical thinking.
- The theory instructor has added the use of interactive teaching strategies that help engage students in the learning process.
- The clinical instructor is encouraging critical thinking in the clinical setting.

In summary, the program was placed on provisional approval for a two (2) year period from November 10, 2011 through November 30, 2013 due to noncompliant program pass rates on the licensure examination. The program's instability in maintaining compliant pass rates was noted. The Board noted that for seven (7) of the previous eight (8) consecutive quarters, the program's average annual pass rates had been **13 to 51** percentage points **below** state average pass rates. At that time, the program's **quarterly** pass rate was **100%**; the average **annual** pass rate was **100%**. However, it was noted that only one (1) program candidate had completed the licensure examination during the previous four (4) quarters. Therefore, the program's average annual pass rate reflected one (1) program graduate. It was further noted that a significant number of program graduates failed to complete the licensure examination.

Reported program data and published licensure examination statistics indicate those problems persist. From August 2009 through August 2012, submitted enrollment data confirms that two (2) classes totaling 34 graduates completed the program. Of that total, 25 graduates have taken the licensure examination. As such, 73.52% of program graduates have tested; 26.48% have not taken the licensure examination to date. A class of 12 students recently graduated on October 3, 2013, and is not included in the data listed above. It is anticipated that students in that class will test in Quarter 1 or 2 of 2014.

Currently, the program's quarter pass rate is 67%. This is based on three (3) graduates testing and two (2) passing the NCLEX-PN®. The program's average annual pass rate is **64%**, **ten (10) percentage points below** the State average annual pass rate. **It is noted that the average annual pass rate reflects data from 11 graduates, seven (7) of which passed.**

Recommendation:

1. Deny InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 30 full-time, students on February 10, 2014, graduating on April 22, 2015 to replace the class that graduated on August 27, 2012.
2. Approve the program to admit a class of 20 full-time students on February 10, 2014, only, graduating on April 22, 2015 to **replace** the class that graduated on August 27, 2012.
3. Extend provisional approval for the Info Tech Career College Vocational Nursing Program for a one (1) year period from November 22, 2013, through November 30,

2014 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 D).

4. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
5. 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.
6. Require the program to submit a follow-up report in nine (9) months but no later than **August 1, 2014**. 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. 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. Remediation Policy.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.

Failure to show progress shall constitute cause for revocation of provisional approval.

8. 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 2525.
9. 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.
10. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
11. Place the program on the **November 2014** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval

Rationale: As noted previously, of the 16 quarters, four (4), years for which program examination statistics are published, the program's average annual pass rates have been in excess of ten (10) percentage points below State average annual pass rates. During that time, the program's average annual pass rates have fluctuated between 13 to 74 percentage points below State average annual pass rates.

Based on the significant history of poor performance on the licensure examination, denial of the program's request to admit a full – time class of 30 students is prudent. Decreasing the number of students will allow the director to focus on fewer students, improve the quality of instruction, and maximize student achievement.

The program's average annual pass rate is currently **64%**. As such, it is ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate. While improvement is noted over the most recent three (3) quarters, improved performance must be maintained. Since only small numbers of graduates are testing, the pass rates can fluctuate significantly. Over the last four (4) recent, consecutive quarters, the pass rates have fluctuated from 0%, 100%, 50% and 64% respectively. The current average annual pass rate is based on 11 graduates testing and seven (7) passing over a four (4) quarter (one - year) period.

A class of 12 students recently graduated on October 3, 2013 and is expected to test during Quarter 1 or 2 of 2014. Of additional concern to the Board, are the 12 graduates from the program's first two classes that have not tested to date. Currently, 20 students are enrolled in classes and expected to graduate on August 11, 2014.

Given the foregoing, extending the program's provisional approval is recommended. Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rates quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing approval surveys every four years.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions.

Attachment B: Notice of Change in Approval Status dated November 22, 2011.

Attachment C: Program Correspondence dated October 2013; Received October 10, 2013.

Attachment D: Draft Notice Change in Approval Status

Agenda Item #13.A.4., Attachment A

INFO TECH CAREER COLLEGE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On May 14, 2008, the Executive Officer approved InfoTech Career College's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students commencing May 19, 2008 only, with a projected graduation date of August 11, 2009; and approved the program curriculum for 1560 hours, including 600 theory, and 960 clinical hours.
- On September 9, 2008, a new program director was approved.
- On March 11, 2009, a new program director was approved.
- On July 6, 2009, a new program director was approved.
- On July 13, 2009, the Board received the program's Program Records Survey.
- On July 20 – 21, 2009, the program was inspected for compliance with regulatory requirements for initial accreditation. Fourteen (14) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified. Recommendations for correction of each violation and a timeline for correction were discussed.
- On August 28, 2009, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director relative to the absence of required corrections of violations identified during the survey visit. A response was requested by September 10, 2009.
- On September 10, 2009, the Board received the program's response to identified survey violations.
- On October 5, 2009, the assigned consultant met with the program director relative to the proposed corrections of the fourteen (14) violations identified during the July 20 – 21, 2009 survey visit. Required revisions were specified. The director agreed to submit the required revised documents to correct all previously identified violations by Friday, October 30, 2009.
- On November 2, 2009, the Board received the program's revised documents addressing violations identified during the survey visit.
- On December 16, 2009, the assigned consultant, per telephone conference call, advised the director that the submitted information did not completely address violations identified during the July 2010 survey visit. Corrections specified during the visit and during the October 5, 2009 meeting were reiterated. Additional revisions were requested by Tuesday, December 29, 2009.

- On December 30, 2009, the Board received the program's final revisions addressing violations identified during the survey visit.
- On January 7, 2010, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the period from January 6, 2010, through January 5, 2014, and issued a certificate accordingly; and, approved the program's request to admit a class of 30 students commencing February 1, 2010, to **replace** students graduating August 24, 2009. That class was projected to graduate March 7, 2011.
- On March 1, 2010, the Board received electronic correspondence from the school owner advising of the director's termination.
- On March 2, 2010, the SNEC discussed the program's status with Ashok Garg, President, and Owner. Mr. Garg advised that commencement of the next class would be delayed due to the lack of financial aid. The owner projected commencement of that class for August 2010.
- On October 1, 2010, the Board received correspondence from A. Garg reporting the school's plans to admit a class on October 25, 2010 and the hiring of a new program director.
- On October 5, 2010, the Board forwarded correspondence per certified mail to A. Garg relative to the lack of submission of an application for a new director and information relative to the planned class.
- **On November 30, 2010, a new program director was approved.**
- On December 4, 2010, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The director was requested to submit a written plan for improving the program's NCLEX-PN® pass rates by December 20, 2010.
- On December 29, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director and supporting documents related to the program's plan to increase licensure pass rates.
- February 17, 2011, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters. The program was requested to submit a written plan for improving their NCLEX-PN® pass rates by March 4, 2011.
- On March 4, 2011, the Board received correspondence from the director and supporting documents related to the program's plan to increase licensure pass rates.
- On May 16, 2011, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rates for the past six (6)

The program was placed on the **November 2013** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

- On November 22, 2011, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.
- On January 19, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On January 20, 2012, the program director submitted fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On February 6, 2012, the Board approved InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request for approval to admit a class of 15 full-time, day students on April 9, 2012, only, graduating on July 1, 2013; and, required the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.
- On September 4, 2012, the Board received the program's comprehensive analysis.
- On December 13, 2012 the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On December 28, 2012, the program director submitted eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On February 22, 2013, the Board denied InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request for approval to admit a class of 30 full-time, day students on March 25, 2013, graduating on May 30, 2014; **and**, required the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.
- On March 27, 2013, the assigned consultant requested submission of two (2) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On March 29, 2013, the program director submitted two (2) copies and a CD of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On May 10, 2013, the Board approved InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request for approval to admit a class of 20 full-time, day students on June 3, 2013, graduating on August 11, 2014, to **replace** a class that graduated on August 21, 2012; and, required the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.

Agenda Item #13.A.4., Attachment B



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDWIN G. BROWN JR.
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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CERTIFIED MAIL

November 22, 2011

Elizabeth Estrada
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Info Tech Career College
16900 S. Lakewood Blvd., Suite 209
Bellflower, CA 90706

Subject: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status

Dear Ms. Estrada:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on November 10, 2011, the provisional accreditation status of the Info Tech Career 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, December 2, 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(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 Info Tech Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the past seven (7) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-RN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	60%	-13
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	44%	-30
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	42%	-33
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	39%	-36
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	25%	-51
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	40%	-37
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	50%	-26
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	100%	+24

This data substantiates the program's history of non-compliance with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations for 7 of 8 Quarters. Based on statistics reported for Quarter 3, 2011, the program is compliant with regulatory requirements.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Info Tech Career 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 for four consecutive quarters.
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 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 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 continue 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 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: Prior Board approval was required for the admission of each class; however, 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

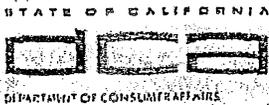
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TITLE 16
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Section 2526.1

2526.1. Provisional Accreditation.

- (a) Provisional accreditation means a program has not met all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (b) Provisional accreditation shall be granted for a period determined by the Board.
- (c) 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. If the program has not met all requirements at the end of the initial provisional accreditation period, provisional accreditation may be extended if the program demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board a good faith effort to correct all deficiencies.
- (d) Any program holding provisional accreditation may not admit "new" classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The admission pattern is defined by the number of students per class and the frequency of admissions for the six class admissions that immediately precede the Board action to consider provisional accreditation.
- (e) A program placed on provisional accreditation shall receive written notification from the Board. The notification to the program shall include specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. A program's failure to correct delineated areas of noncompliance is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (f) A material misrepresentation of fact by a vocational nursing program in any information submitted to the Board is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (g) A program whose provisional accreditation has been revoked shall be removed from the Board's list of accredited programs. The status of students as potential applicants for licensure will be determined by the Board.
- (h) A program that is removed from the Board's list of accredited programs subsequent to Board action based on the program's non-compliance with applicable regulations shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
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Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status

I, Elizabeth Estrada, director of InfoTech Career College Vocational Nursing
(Director's Name) (Name of Program)

Program, hereby acknowledge that this program's status has been changed from full accreditation to provisional accreditation. I understand that in accordance with Section 2526.1 (f) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations and Section 2581.1 (f) of the Psychiatric Technician Rules and Regulations, the Board will consider any advertisement of full accreditation while on provisional accreditation as "material misrepresentation of fact". "Material misrepresentation of fact" may lead to revocation of the program's accreditation. Further, I understand the program's provisional accreditation status will be reflected on the Board's internet website.

Please complete and return this form to the Board by December 2, 2011.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

(Signature of Director)

(Date)



Agenda Item #13.A.4., Attachment C

Infotech Career College

PROVISIONAL REPORT

BVNPT REC'D - EDU
ON 10.10.13 WITH Dg

FOR THE BVNPT

OCTOBER, 2013

Since its inception, the vocational program at Infotech Career College has had many challenges in its development of a quality program. The first program results were less than satisfactory to the management. The pass rate of the very first cohort in 2009 was unsatisfactory on the students' first attempt. With the support and assistance of the BVNPT, the program went through a thorough review, revisions made, and delivery of vocational nursing educational content was improved. After many directors, the current director was hired and maintained a stable program for almost two years.

Since the school has had a small enrollment, the faculty has been able to provide close personal attention to each of the students and to support student progress.

Admissions Criteria, Screening and Selection Criteria

The following changes have been made to improve the admissions criteria for our new cohort:

1. In the past we were setting a 50% overall passing score for the TEAS test. For our new cohort, we have set the passing scores as 50% individually on each of the following: Writing, Reading and Mathematics sections of the TEAS test. This has resulted in better prepared students.
2. We also require a prerequisite class in Anatomy & Physiology and Intro to Pharmacology math.

Terminal Objectives

Our terminal objectives have not changed. We continue to strive to educate safe competent vocational nurses who will make a difference in their patients' lives.

Curriculum Objectives -

The four modules have been re-evaluated and deficiencies were identified. Specifically, content related to the Genitourinary System was lacking in the original curriculum. The Genitourinary System was added as an important content necessary for core knowledge needed by the students. The curriculum is now stable and the college will evaluate changes if necessary. However, the pass results seem to indicate that the curriculum has been effective.

Instructional Plan -

The instructional plan was revised to be consistent with changes in the curriculum objectives. Also, the references and assignments given to students were revised to reflect updates in textbooks, study guides, and other resources.



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Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course

A new pediatric clinical facility was identified. After approval from BVNPT, Our Module IV students were able to have a good pediatric clinical experience at Totally Kids Specialty Healthcare. We have now had two cohorts benefit from the experience in this great facility. In reviewing the clinical objectives for the Pediatric clinical setting, with guidance from Ms. Hinckley, these objectives were revised and submitted to reflect the appropriate clinical activities that students are expected to meet. The facility continues to contribute to the students understanding of growth and development and care of pediatric patients.

Lesson Plans for Each Course

Each Lesson plan was modified in accordance with curriculum objectives and improved with addition of updated resources.

Textbooks

We have added two textbooks for Anatomy & Physiology and for Medical Terminology. These are more in-depth than the textbooks we had before.

Attendance Policy

Since faculty has been tracking attendance consistently, our students have been following the attendance policy. We have had minimal issues with attendance. All the students are afforded make-up opportunities when needed. In the report below, a summary of the attendance of each cohort is included.

Remediation Policy

1. In the past we have had a problem with students not attending their required remediation sessions. To increase participation at remediation sessions, we have implemented the policy that if students miss make up hours, they subsequently owe double the amount of hours they originally had to make up. This has improved participation for the remediation sessions.
2. We require that if a student fails a test that they must attend remediation the following Friday. This way, students are able to better understand content they've missed, and academic problems are caught early on. We believe that because of this, students have been able to pass Terms II, III, and IV.
3. We have implemented an additional condition in the remediation policy that students must pass the re-test content according to the test that they had failed.



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Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty

1. Our previous clinical instructors were found to need improvement in correlating theory and clinical content. These instructors were given training by the Director of Nursing to remedy this area.
2. A new clinical instructor was hired with a Masters' Degree and significant teaching experience. The Assistant Director of Nursing has expertise specific to pediatrics, obstetrics, and Med Surg Nursing.

Evaluations of Theory Presentations

When the current Director of Nursing was hired, one of the theory instructors for Fundamentals had already been hired to teach Fundamentals. After a reasonable evaluation period, it was found that the Instructor needed improvement in classroom management and teaching methods. This Instructor had taught mostly clinical at other colleges, not theory. The Director of Nursing coached this Instructor in teaching methods. Ms. Jordan was hired to replace the original instructor to start Term II. During Term I and beginning of Term II, the original 30 students went down to 17 due to academic or attendance reasons. Ms. Jordan has done well in teaching theory and has been a solid instructor. She is currently teaching Term I students.

The current Instructors were evaluated highly by the Director of Nursing and the students on their theory presentation skills. In addition, the students' evaluations were extremely positive.

Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations

We continue to educate instructors on how to do care plans for the clinical rotations. It is our goal to utilize concept mapping to integrate critical thinking in their care plan development. Special classes are plan that will integrate concept mapping into the class concept.

There is some difficulty in obtaining acute care settings for clinical experience. The Director continues to search and evaluate new facilities for possible sites as the school adds new cohorts.

Evaluation of Student Achievement

Because of the small size of our student population, students receive additional attention. Students are identified early when there is any concern about their achievement in the module. We have created and implemented notice of non-compliance forms. At checkpoints throughout the module, the students are counseled both by the Director of Nursing and the Instructor.

An in-depth discussion follows about the student's study habits and what else they could be doing to improve their achievement in the module. We have noticed that students are underutilizing the resources that they have namely the ATI practice exams and remediation tools. We emphasize this



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to them during our counseling meetings. We were able to obtain additional help and on-line presentations from ATI to boost the students ability to utilize this resource.

Here is a summary grade chart which shows that graduating cohort has worked hard to improve their results. This shows that 10 students have a year average of B and 7 students have a year average of C+

NCLEX Reviews for students after finishing Module IV take advantage of the ATI testing process. They are required to take the practice Comprehensive exams as often as necessary to prepared for the Comprehensive Predictor exam. As per discussion with other nursing programs that have high passing rates, we are requiring the students to pass the exit exam with a predictor score of 92 or above prior to releasing them to take the NCLEX exam.

Preliminary monitoring of this process seems to rapidly identify weaknesses in individual student knowledge and give them specific guidelines for remediation. The students that are following the guidelines are showing significant increase in their knowledge.

Cohort 2011-2012:

List of students who passed NCLEX on First attempt:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | |

The NCLEX passing rate success for the students who graduated in 2012 is significantly better than the previous cohort. We attribute this success to the following factors:

1. Constant contact by phone, email and text encouraging students to keep on track to study for their NCLEX
2. Use of the ATI Virtual Tutor. In the past, we have offered in-person NCLEX tutoring. Student participation was low for the in-person NCLEX review because after the VN program, students get involved in work and family obligations. The ATI Virtual Tutor allows students to complete personalized NCLEX tutoring on their own schedule. We find the ATI Virtual Tutor more effective than a group session because it is targeted to the student's specific needs and more user-friendly because students can complete tutoring on their own schedule.

For Cohort 2012, our 1st Quarter Pass rate in 2013 was 100%. Our 2nd Quarter Pass rate in 2013 was 50%. Our 3rd Quarter Pass rate in 2013 was 100%. Averaged over the three quarters, our pass rate so far for 2013 is 83%.

In Quarter 2 of 2013, two students failed the NCLEX on their first attempts. One of these students graduated at the top of her class academically. Although we



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pushed her to do the ATI Virtual, she told us she didn't need to do the tutoring, and that she would be able to pass the NCLEX without any review. It was her overconfidence, not her knowledge that led her to fail her NCLEX. We continue to support this student by encouraging her to do the ATI Review. The student realized her mistake but is now back on track and studying to pass on her second attempt.

The second student who did not pass the NCLEX actually received the 'Green Light' from her ATI Virtual Tutor prior to taking the exam. We believe that it was her test anxiety that caused her to fail her first attempt. We are currently counseling and encouraging this student to pass on her second attempt.

We continue to call, email and text the remaining students to encourage them to take their NCLEX.

Cohort 2012-2013: There are 9 students currently in the class which started August 20, 2012.

The student handbook was revised and approved by BVNPT for the new cohort 2012-2013. The policies have been clarified and presented to the new cohort. Each student has signed a commitment contract outlining their willingness to meet the educational objectives and adhere to the policies of the program.

Below are the results of the 9 active students:

STUDENT ID	MOD I	MOD II	MOD III
201001965 AZP	91%	85%	82%
201002369 BER	86%	78%	80%
201002352 CAS	84%	78%	76%
201002362 CRU	84%	79%	79%
201002361 GAR	90%	77%	81%
201002366 HUM	78%	76%	76%
201002368 LEA	82%	77%	79%
201002360 LOY	85%	77%	82%
201002380 MAU	84%	76%	81%

Although our NCLEX preparation procedure for the previous cohort has improved student outcomes, we realize there is still room for improvement. We will implement these strategies for the cohort which is about to graduate in October.

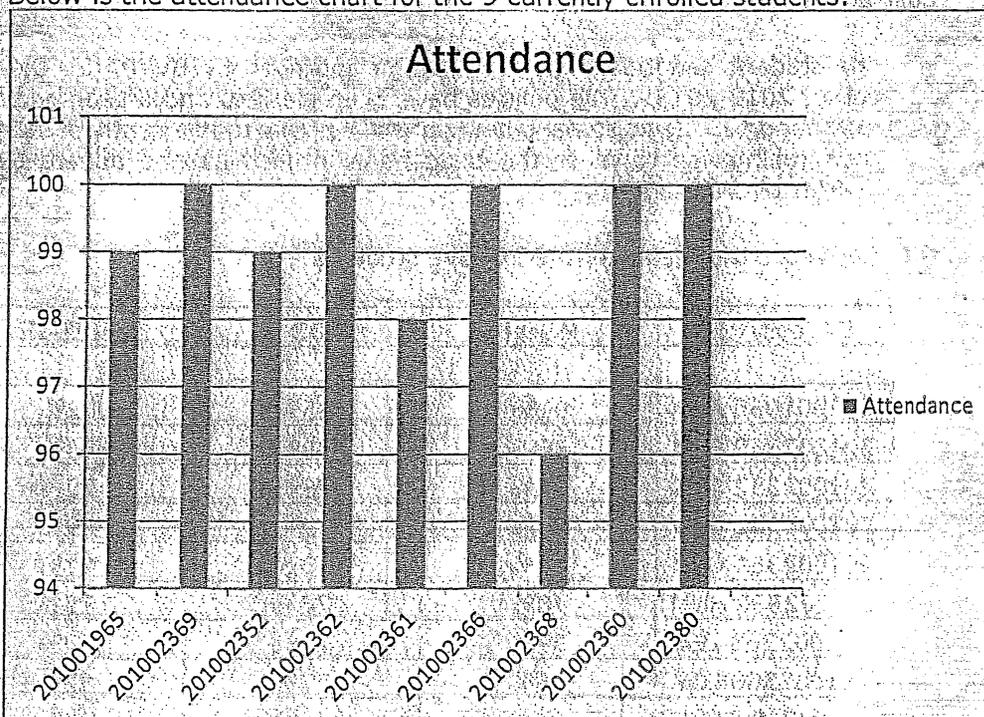


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Our goals are: (1) to make students pass the comprehensive exit exam on the first try, and (2) to sign them up for ATI Virtual immediately following their exit exam. To accomplish goal (1), we seek to build up students' confidence and proficiency in testing. To this end, we have scheduled students to come to campus for all-day ATI testing sessions after their Module IV final exam.

They will test; the Instructor will print out the report, and review common weaknesses with students the next day. The students will test and re-test until they are able to reach 90% on the preliminary exams. Only then will they be allowed to take the exit exams. We believe that when students pass the exit exam on the first try, they are more likely to pass the NCLEX exam on the first try. To accomplish goal (2), Infotech will pay the fees for the ATI Virtual Product up front, and have students login and make contact with the tutor immediately after they pass their exit exam.

Below is the attendance chart for the 9 currently enrolled students:



Cohort 2013-2014: There 12 students who just started August 26, 2013.

The student handbook was revised and approved by BVNPT for the new cohort 2013-2014. The policies have been clarified and presented to the new cohort. Each student has signed a commitment contract outlining their willingness to meet the educational objectives and adhere to the policies of the program.

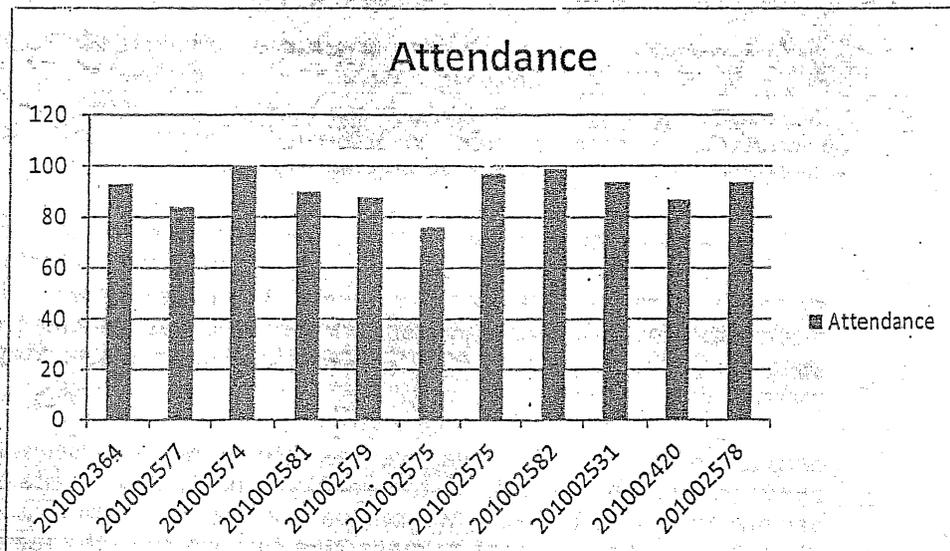


Infotech Career College

During this current cohort, the ATI resources were integrated with the curriculum from the beginning. The students were evaluated as having difficulty with critical thinking and content retention at the beginning of Module I. Upon aggressive inclusion of the ATI testing and critical thinking, Infotech Career College worked closely with a consultant and engaged the students into the use of the ATI online resources, encouraging them to develop their critical thinking skills.

The chart below reflects the improvement of our students' scores on their midterm for Mod I. This chart reflects scores solely on test questions provided by ATI that corresponds to curriculum content in Module One. Since the test questions on ATI are close to the questions on the actual NCLEX-PN exam, we believe their scores here reflect how well the students will actually do on the corresponding test content on the NCLEX-PN exam. The chart shows that the students improved significantly from their midterm MOD-I.

This improvement was achieved by constant monitoring, remediation, and mentoring by the faculty. In order to retain students through Module I, Infotech Career College implemented a study skills module in which we walked students through the study process step by step. This has made a dramatic improvement in the students' scores.





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Several days before this report, this class just completed their Mod I Mid-Term Exam (same exam given the previous year). The results were outstanding.

S.NO	STUDENT NAME
1	89.00%
2	92.00%
3	94.00%
4	94.00%
5	90.00%
6	ABSENT
7	91.00%
8	79.00%
9	95.00%
10	99.00%
11	79.00%
12	96.00%

SUMMARY NOTE:

We are pleased with the progress of our newest cohort 2013-2014 and expect this group to be very successful. Because of the success of our graduated cohort 2011-2012 so far, we hesitate to make too many changes in our curriculum and testing requirements in order to stabilize our program. It is then easier to evaluate what is working and what is not working.

We are anxious to grow as a quality vocational nursing program. We have implemented changes in both the curriculum and teaching which have significantly improved students' progress. We have a quality, highly educated faculty and have made a significant transformation as a school from the time we started our first cohort in 2009. Our faculty is a stable force for continued growth.

Because of all of the above, we respectfully request reconsideration of our provisional status and ask for the additional new cohort to start in February as per our previous request. We originally asked for a start date in November. However, because we want to make sure that we have the recruited number of students necessary to produce a full program, we revised our request. We are confident that the program is solid and can produce the kind of nurses we can all be proud of.

Respectfully Submitted:
Elizabeth Estrada, MSN, RN
Program Director
Infotech Career College

8527 Alondra Blvd, Suite #174, Paramount, CA 90723
Telephone: 562-804-1239 Facsimile: 562-866-7739

Agenda Item #13.A.4., Attachment D



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
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CERTIFIED MAIL

November XX, 2013

Elizabeth Estrada
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Info Tech Career College
16900 S. Lakewood Blvd., Suite 209
Bellflower, CA 90706

Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status

Dear Ms. Estrada:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on November 22, 2013, the provisional approval¹ status of the Info Tech Career College Vocational Nursing Program has been extended for the one – year period from November 22, 2013 through November 30, 2014. 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, December XX, 2013**.

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(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.

¹ Prior to January 1, 2012, references in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and article 4 of the Psychiatric Technicians Law provided that the Board accredits all vocational nursing and psychiatric technicians programs. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 2883 and 4532 (Senate Bill 539, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2011), **accredit** was changed to **approve**. There was no change to the Board's authority or jurisdiction.

- (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 Info Tech Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the past 16 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 2009	73%	60%	-13
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	44%	-30
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	42%	-33
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	39%	-36
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	25%	-51
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	40%	-37
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	50%	-26
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	100%	+24
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	100%	+25
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	100%	+26
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	0%	-74
Jul – Sep 2012	74%	0%	-74
Oct – Dec 2012	74%	0%	-74
Jan – Mar 2013	73%	75%	+2
Apr – Jun 2013	73%	63%	-10
Jul – Sep 2013	75%	64%	-11

This data substantiates the program's history of non-compliance with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations for 10 of 16 Quarters. Based on statistics reported for Quarter 3, 2013, the program is compliant with regulatory requirements.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Info Tech Career 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.
3. The program shall submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **August 1, 2012**. 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.

- 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 Student Enrollment.
4. The program shall 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.
 5. The program shall continue 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.
 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 approval standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional approval.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **November 2014** 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: **Prior Board approval was required for the admission of each class; however, 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