

# Agenda Item #13.B.2.



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

## BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

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DATE: February 13, 2014

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: Premiere Career College, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval (Director: Zenaida Plata, Irwindale, Los Angeles County, Private)

Premiere Career College, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

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

“The Board may place any program on provisional approval 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 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of approved 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 approval.”

### History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A. History of Prior Board Action)

### Enrollment

The program is required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current** student enrollment based on the current and proposed class start dates. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 126** students for the period **June 2012 through August 2014**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
6/12 Day		30	23	<b>23</b>
9/12 Eve		30	30	23 + 30 = <b>53</b>
12/12 Eve		30	30	53 + 30 = <b>83</b>
4/13 Eve		30	28	83 + 28 = <b>111</b>
6/13 Day		15		111 + 15 = <b>126</b>
	8/13 (6/12 Day Class)		-23	126 - 23 = <b>103</b>
9/13		15		103 + 15 = <b>118</b>
	11/13 (9/12 Eve Class)		-30	118 - 30 = <b>88</b>
	11/13 (12/12 Eve Class)		-30	88 - 30 = <b>58</b>
	3/14 (4/13 Eve Class)		-28	58 - 28 = <b>30</b>
	6/14 (6/13 Day Class)		-15	30 - 15 = <b>15</b>
	8/14 (9/13 Class)		-15	15 - 15 = <b>0</b>

### Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by Pearson VUE and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction" for the period January 2008 to September 2013, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Premiere Career 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 [CCR §2530(I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jan - Mar 2008	30	24	88%	76%	79%	76%	+3
Apr - Jun 2008	12	9	75%	75%	77%	75%	+2
July - Sep 2008	10	5	<b>50%</b>	70%	74%	74%	0
Oct - Dec 2008	18	5	<b>28%</b>	73%	63%	73%	-10
Jan - Mar 2009	12	6	<b>50%</b>	70%	<b>48%</b>	72%	<b>-24</b>
Apr - Jun 2009	25	17	68%	71%	<b>51%</b>	70%	<b>-19</b>
July - Sep 2009	9	6	67%	74%	<b>53%</b>	72%	<b>-19</b>
Oct - Dec 2009	13	9	69%	76%	64%	73%	-9
Jan - Mar 2010	18	15	83%	75%	73%	74%	-1
Apr - Jun 2010	16	7	<b>44%</b>	74%	66%	75%	-9
Jul - Sep 2010	14	11	79%	74%	72%	75%	-3
Oct - Dec 2010	15	7	<b>47%</b>	74%	70%	75%	-5
Jan - Mar 2011	29	26	90%	80%	74%	77%	-3
Apr - Jun 2011	22	11	<b>50%</b>	77%	<b>56%</b>	74%	<b>-18</b>
Jul - Sep 2011	14	11	79%	74%	72%	75%	-3
Oct - Dec 2011	15	7	<b>47%</b>	74%	70%	75%	-5
Jan - Mar 2012	22	11	<b>50%</b>	74%	<b>46%</b>	72%	<b>-26</b>
Apr - Jun 2012	13	4	<b>31%</b>	72%	<b>52%</b>	77%	<b>-25</b>
Jul - Sep 2012	22	11	<b>50%</b>	74%	<b>46%</b>	74%	<b>-28</b>
Oct - Dec 2012	21	14	67%	70%	<b>51%</b>	74%	<b>-23</b>
Jan - Mar 2013	20	8	<b>40%</b>	75%	<b>49%</b>	73%	<b>-24</b>
Apr - Jun 2013	20	17	85%	78%	<b>60%</b>	73%	<b>-13</b>
Jul - Sep 2013	38	19	<b>50%</b>	75%	<b>59%</b>	75%	<b>-16</b>
Oct - Dec 2013	17	10	<b>59%</b>	76%	<b>56%</b>	76%	<b>-20</b>

\*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.

**California Code of Regulations, section 2530(I) states:**

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

Based on the **most recent data available** (October – December 2013), the program's average annual pass rate is **56%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination for the first time during the same period is 76%. The average annual pass rate for the Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program is **20** 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 51, including the director. The director has 70% administrative and 30% teaching responsibilities. Fourteen (14) of the faculty are “additional faculty” and eight (8) teach theory only. Of the total faculty, 29 instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 126 students, nine (9) 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, in part:

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

## Other Considerations

Over the course of the last eight (8) quarters, the program’s average annual pass rate has fluctuated between 46% and 60%. Based on the most recent data available (October – December 2013), the program’s current average annual pass rate is 56%, 20 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

On February 4, 2013, the director was notified that the program had **four (4)** quarters of noncompliant average annual pass rates on the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination. The director was required to submit a plan to improve the programs licensure pass rates by March 5, 2013.

On March 2, 2013, the director submitted her plan to improve licensure pass rates. Included in the plan were the following elements:

- **Admission Criteria.** The passing score on the pre-nursing module was increased from 75% to 80%.
- **Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Testing.** Incorporated ATI testing with an ATI Coordinator. The required ATI score was increased from 75% to 80%.

- **Textbooks.** The following (2) new references were added as required textbooks: Pharmacology Made Insanely Easy and Cases for Nursing Simulation.
- **Remediation Policy.** The Remediation Policy was revised to require students experiencing difficulty in any test to attend mandatory tutorial classes. Attendance is strictly monitored.
- **Faculty Evaluation.** An evaluation of theory and clinical faculty identified the need for faculty to incorporate alternate test items in exams. Monthly in-services will be given to teach the faculty how to create these test items. Additionally, ATI testing policy will be reinforced.

On May 3, 2013, the Executive Officer **rescinded** approval of the program's ongoing admission of four (4) classes per year and required the program to request approval prior to admitting classes. This action was taken due to the program's low licensure pass rates.

On May 7, 2013, the director was notified the program had **five (5)** quarters of noncompliant average annual pass rates. The director was required to submit a plan to improve the programs licensure pass rates by May 31, 2013.

On June 17, 2013, the director submitted the required comprehensive analysis. Upon analysis by the assigned consultant, the director was advised that the submitted analysis was incomplete and that submission of a revised analysis is required not later than September 13, 2013.

On July 29, 2013, the director was notified that the program had **six (6)** quarters of noncompliant average annual pass rates. The director was required to submit proof that the plan identified above is being implemented by August 16, 2013.

On September 17, 2013, the Board received the program's revised comprehensive analysis as requested on June 17, 2013. The program reported:

- **Admission & Screening and Selection.** The top 30 students will be accepted from the pre-requisite course. The director identified that grade inflation may have occurred and she decreased the amount of credit that will be given in identified content areas.
- **Objectives.** No problem identified.
- **Instructional Plan.** No problem identified.
- **Lesson Plans.** The director is having all instructors use the lesson plans, power point presentations, etc. that come with the current textbooks. This eliminates the problem of each instructor teaching from varied lesson plans.
- **Textbooks.** All textbooks have been updated. The director identified that the students and faculty were not using all required textbooks. Instructors were given textbook lists and required reading assignments to enforce requirements.

- **Attendance.** Attendance policy is being implemented. The problem identified was that there was no structured make-up for missed assignments in clinical and theory. In January 2012, a structured make-up policy was implemented.
- **Remediation.** All students that fail an examination are required to attend a remediation class prior to taking the next test. Students that do not attend the class will not be allowed to retake the examination.
- **Evaluation of Theory and Clinical Instruction.** Classroom observations will be made quarterly. Evaluations will be conducted every course to identify problems early. ATI will be evaluated by one instructor appointed as the ATI resource person.
- **Quizzes and Examinations.** Faculty attended a class on the development of test items. An evaluation of current tests identified insufficient questions requiring critical thinking. Standardized testing adopted.
- **Clinical Experience.** The director identified that not all clinical instructors were attempting to correlate presented clinical experiences with the theory being taught. Instructors were counseled on how to do this. Clinical scoring was revised to reinforce this correlation.
- **Theory Presentations.** Standardized lesson plans were adopted and implemented. Merging of content areas of certain topics was implemented with Board approval to assist with the flow on topics.
- **Grading.** The grading previously included a 5% score for participation and a 5% score for attendance. This 10% was reallocated to ATI. The passing score was raised from 75% to 80% for all courses as of March 4, 2013. Students must attend and pass a simulated NCLEX examination. They are given 3 attempts to pass. Failure to pass on the third attempt will result in not graduating from the program. This student may apply to take the state board exam based on equivalency.

On October 30, 2013, the director was notified that the program has **seven (7)** quarters of noncompliant licensure pass rates. The director was requested to submit proof that the plan identified above is being implemented and its effectiveness in correcting the identified deficiency by August 16, 2013.

On November 20, 2013, the Director re-submitted the program's comprehensive analysis. The elements of that analysis are the same as those received September 17, 2013.

On December 6, 2013, the Executive Officer considered the program's request for approval to admit a class of 15 students on January 6, 2014. The request was denied and the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students. Additionally, the Executive Officer directed that the program be placed on the Board's February 2014 agenda for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

Upon notification, the director requested identification of steps the program could take in lieu of placement on the Board's agenda. On December 10, 2013, Board representatives, SNEC and assigned NEC, conducted a teleconference with program representatives. Participating program representatives included Fe Aragon, President, Owner; Enrique Aragon, Vice President; Rowena Gabriel, Director of Student Services; and Jennifer Ty DeGuzman, Program Director.

An extensive discussion was held relative to the program's persistent difficulties maintaining compliant average annual pass rates on the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination that resulted in the program's placement on the on the Board's February 2014 agenda. The program's plan of correction was also discussed as well as the status of currently enrolled students.

The SNEC asked the director to identify factors resulting in the lack of achievement of enrolled students and the program's noncompliant pass rates. The director was unable to identify the causes. The program owner interjected that, in her opinion, the program's pass rates resulted from the admission of a large number of unprepared students with English as their second language and the failure of the faculty to follow the instructional plan and understand the mission of the school. Upon closure of the teleconference, the NEC requested the director to submit her written revised plan of correction by December 27, 2013.

On December 11, 2013, the Board received notification from the owner, Fe Aragon, that the program director, Jennifer Ty De Guzman, was no longer employed at the school.

On December 16, 2013, the Board received correspondence from Ms. Aragon withdrawing the program's request to admit students (see Attachment B).

**On December 20, 2013, the Board approved a new director.**

**Recommendations:**

1. Place Premiere Career College on provisional approval for a two (2) year period from February 28, 2014, through February 28, 2016 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).
2. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
3. 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.
4. Require the program to submit a follow-up report in nine (9) months but no later than **November 1, 2014** and **21** months but no later than **November 1, 2015**. 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.
5. 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.
  6. 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.
  7. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
  8. Place the program on the **February 2016** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

**Rationale:** The program currently has eight (8) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The program's Quarter 4 2013 average annual pass rate is **56%**. As such, it is **20** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Over the course of the last eight (8) consecutive quarters, the pass rate has fluctuated between 46% and 60%.

It is recommended to place the program on provisional approval for a two (2) year period. That term will allow the program adequate time to improve its licensure pass rates.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions.

Attachment B: Program Correspondence Dated December 15, 2013; Received December 16, 2013.

Attachment C: Draft Notice Change in Approval Status

# Agenda Item #13.B.2., Attachment A

## PREMIERE CAREER COLLEGE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

### History of Prior Board Actions

- On February 20, 2004, the Board approved Premiere Career College's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students on March 8, 2004, only, and approved the program's curriculum to include 1568 hours, including 586 theory, and 982 clinical hours.

Commencement of the initial class was delayed to June 2004.

- On February 4, 2005, the Board approved initial full accreditation for the Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the period February 4, 2005, through February 3, 2009, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and** approved the program's request to **replace** students graduating May 20, 2005, with 30 students on June 6, 2005, only.
- On September 16, 2005, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit an additional full-time class of 30 students on November 21, 2005, only.
- On May 12, 2006, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 30 students on June 5, 2006, only, to **replace** students graduating on May 19, 2006.
- On October 3, 2006, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 30 students on November 20, 2006, only, to **replace** students graduating on November 3, 2006.

The Executive Officer also approved the program's request for ongoing admissions to **replace** graduating classes, only, with the stipulations that no additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval, and that the director documents that adequate resources are available to support each admitted class of students.

- On July 2, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 30 students to a class commencing November 10, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of October 23, 2009; and approved ongoing admissions to **replace** graduating classes only be approved with the following stipulations:
  - a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes admission of three full-time classes of 30 students per year.

- b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On September 20, 2010, the Executive Officer approved Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 30 students four (4) times per year to **replace** graduating students only, with the following stipulations:
  - a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes admission of four (4) full - time classes of 30 students per year to **replace** graduating students only.
  - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On February 4, 2013, the director was notified the program had four (4) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The director was required to submit a plan to improve the programs licensure pass rates by March 5, 2013.
- On March 2, 2013, the director submitted her plan to improve licensure pass rates.
- On May 7, 2013, the director was notified the program had five (5) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The director was required to submit a plan to improve the programs licensure pass rates by May 31, 2013.
- On May 3, 2013, the Executive Officer continued full approval for the Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the period February 4, 2013, through February 3, 2017, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and, revoked** the programs ongoing admission pattern; **and**, required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.
- On May 20, 2013 the Executive Officer denied Premiere Career College's request to admit a class of 30 students on June 24, 2013; graduating June 6, 2014. This class would have **replaced** students that will graduate on June 7, 2013; and, approved the program's admission of a class of 15 students on June 24, 2013, only; graduating June 6, 2014. This class will **replace** students that will graduate on June 7, 2013; **and**, required the program to submit a written report **by June 12, 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.
  - d. Curriculum Objectives.
  - e. Instructional Plan.
  - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
  - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.

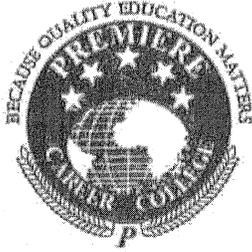
- h. Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment; **and,**

Required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.

- On June 17, 2013, the director submitted the comprehensive analysis required above. The analysis was inadequate as presented. The director was given guidance on how to complete the analysis. A new due date of September 13, 2013 was given.
- On July 29, 2013, the director was notified the program has six (6) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The director is required to submit proof that the plan identified above is being implemented by August 16, 2013.
- On August 27, 2013, the Board received the program's documentation verifying the plan to improve graduates licensure pass rates had been implemented.
- On September 17, 2013, the Board received the program's revised comprehensive analysis.
- On September 19, 2013, the Board approved Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 15 students on September 23, 2013, only; graduating November 21, 2014. This class **replaces** students that graduated on August 30, 2013; and, required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.
- On October 30, 2013, the director was notified the program has seven (7) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The director is required to submit an evaluation of her plan to bring up the program's licensure pass rates by November 15, 2013.
- On November 13, 2013, the director re-submitted the comprehensive analysis.
- On December 6, 2013, the Executive Officer considered the program's request for approval to admit a class of 15 students on January 6, 2014. The request was denied and the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students. Additionally, the Executive Officer directed that the program be placed on the Board's February 2014 agenda for consideration of placement on provisional approval.
- On December 10, 2013, Board representatives, SNEC and assigned NEC, conducted a teleconference with program representatives relative to their request. Participating program representatives included Fe Aragon, President, Owner; Enrique Aragon, Vice

President; Rowena Gabriel, Director of Student Services; and Jennifer Ty DeGuzman, Program Director.

- On December 11, 2013, the Board received correspondence from the owner, Fe Aragon, advising that the program director, Jennifer Ty De Guzman, was no longer employed at the school.
- **On December 20, 2013, the Board approved a new director.**



## Agenda Item 13.B.2., Attachment B

### PREMIERE CAREER COLLEGE

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December 15, 2013

BVNPT RECD - EDU  
ON 12/16/13 WITH Dg

Ms. Pamela Hinckley, R.N. M.S. N.  
Nursing Education Consultant  
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Hinckley:

Thank you for your e-mail dated December 13, 2013.

The dates that we have provided in the enrollment table you have requested are the actual start and graduation dates of all our classes. Our vocational nursing program from inception in 2004 has always been 60 weeks or 15 months in length. It is comprised of an introductory module which is a prerequisite for all the succeeding modules up to the last module or Module 4.

Careful review of all our classes and also the correspondence to the board of our previous director of nursing, we have religiously followed the mandate of the board as to the start and frequency of our classes. Unfortunately, due to the decline in our pass rate, in May, 2013, the board decided to revoke our ongoing admission pattern and required us to obtain prior approval to start new classes.

Analysis of what our previous director had done showed that she has been compliant. The last class which is currently on-going and which started on September 23, 2013 was approved per the September 20, 2013 letter to us. This particular class will move from the introductory module ( 12 weeks) to module 1 on December 16, 2013 and will finish the last module ( module 4) on December 5, 2014.

The December 6, 2013 Executive Officers decisions is very clear to us. We regret being in this situation but as we have said and expressed in our last telephone conference with you and Ms. Anderson, we will exert every effort possible to remedy our situation. Although difficult, we have already started by boldly changing our current program administrator. Like what you and Ms. Anderson said, we cannot find the solution unless we clearly identify and admit our problems. We have been faithfully serving our community for the last 22 years and we plan to continue doing so, God willing.

So, Ms Hinckley, we are not requesting for any new class right now. Our prayer is that the board allow us to continue serving the students that we have now. We are focusing all our energy on

*"Because quality education matters."*

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them and on getting the most suitable person to head our program. We are also preparing for the February 2004 meeting with you and the rest of the board members concerned.

Once again, please accept our sincerest gratitude for your understanding and untiring support. Please extend the same to Ms. Cheryl Anderson. Please know that we truly appreciate what you and the board do in protecting our students and also us.

May the Good Lord continue blessing all of us.

Very respectfully yours,

PREMIERE CAREER COLLEGE

  
Fe Ludovico-Aragon, MD  
President

enclosure: September 20, 2013 letter



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

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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September 20, 2013

Jennifer Ty DeGuzman  
Vocational Nursing Program Director  
Premiere Career College  
12901 Ramona Boulevard  
Irwindale, CA 91706

***Subject: Revised Executive Officer Meeting Follow – Up***

Dear Ms. DeGuzman:

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

1. Approve Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 15 students on September 23, 2013, only; graduating December 5, 2014. This class will **replace** students that will graduate on August 30, 2013.
2. Require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of additional students.

**Rationale:** The program currently has six (6) quarters of low licensure pass rates. The current average annual pass rate is **60%**. As such, it is **13** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. Over the course of the last six (6) quarters, the pass rate has fluctuated between 46% and 60%. The current quarter pass rate has increased from 40% to 85% and the average annual pass rate has risen from 49% to 60%. As such, this is an increase of 11 percentage points. Based on the increase in the quarter and average annual pass rate, the requested class is recommended.

Please contact me if further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

*Pam Hinckley, R.N., M.S.N.*

Pam Hinckley, RN, MSN  
Nursing Education Consultant



# Agenda Item #13.B.2., Attachment C



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

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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## **CERTIFIED MAIL**

February XX, 2014

Zenaida Plata  
Director, Vocational Nursing Program  
Premiere Career College  
12901 Ramona Boulevard  
Irwindale, CA 91706

**Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status**

Dear Zenaida Plata:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on February 28, 2014, the Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program has been placed on provisional approval for the two – year period from February 28, 2014 through February 28, 2016. 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 Approval Status" form by **Friday, March XX, 2013**.

### **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 approval 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 approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.

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- (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 approval.”

The program pass rates of the Premiere Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the past 24 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
Jan – Mar 2008	76%	79%	+3
Apr – Jun 2008	75%	77%	+2
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	74%	0
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	63%	-10
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	<b>48%</b>	<b>-24</b>
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	<b>51%</b>	<b>-19</b>
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	<b>53%</b>	<b>-19</b>
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	64%	-9
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	73%	-1
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	66%	-9
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	72%	-3
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	70%	-6
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	74%	-3
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	<b>56%</b>	<b>-20</b>
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	72%	-4
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	70%	-5
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	<b>46%</b>	<b>-28</b>
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	<b>52%</b>	<b>-22</b>
Jul – Sep 2012	74%	<b>46%</b>	<b>-28</b>
Oct – Dec 2012	74%	<b>51%</b>	<b>-23</b>
Jan – Mar 2013	73%	<b>49%</b>	-
Apr – Jun 2013	73%	<b>60%</b>	<b>-13</b>
Jul – Sep 2013	74%	<b>59%</b>	<b>-15</b>
Oct – Dec 2013	76%	<b>56%</b>	<b>-20</b>

This data substantiates the program’s history of non-compliance with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations for 12 of 24 Quarters.

**REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)**

1. Premiere Career College, Vocational Nursing Program shall bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
2. The program shall obtain approval of the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.

3. The program shall submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **November 1, 2014** and 21 months, but no later than **November 1, 2015**. 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.
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 approval.

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 **February 2016** Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's approval. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 2 and 3, 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 approval, 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 approval 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](http://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: ph