

Agenda Item #17.A.9.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

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COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program - *Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students* (Director: Carolyn Santiago, Bakersfield, Kern County, Private).

The Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program is presented - for reconsideration of provisional approval. Additionally, the program requests approval to admit a class of 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing on May 23, 2016, and graduating on August 3, 2017, as a **replacement** class for the class scheduled to graduate on March 10, 2016. Approval of the program is recommended. Additionally, approval of the request to admit additional students is recommended.

The Board initially placed the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from February 22, 2013 through February 28, 2015. At that time, the program's quarterly pass rate was 44% and the average annual pass rate is 58%. Additionally, the Board denied the program's request for approval to admit 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing March 18, 2013, graduating May 21, 2014, to **replace** students that graduated December 20, 2012. The program was required to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional classes. This action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates.

On February 13, 2015, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for a one (1) year period from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016. Additionally, the Board approved the program's admission of a class of 36 students on May 26, 2015, only, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on March 12, 2015, **provided** the program has no more than ten (10) students per instructor during clinical classes. At that time, the program's quarterly pass rate was 85% and its average annual pass rate was 68%. Reconsideration of the program's provisional status was scheduled for February 2016.

Recommendations:

1. Approve Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, and Vocational Nursing Program for the four - year period from February 29, 2016 through February 28, 2020, and issue a certificate accordingly.

2. Approve the program's request to admit a class of 36 students with three (3) alternates on May 23, 2016, **only**, graduating August 3, 2017, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate March 10, 2016.
3. Continue the program's requirement to admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.

Rationale: On February 22, 2013, the Board placed the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional for a two (2) year period, due to program pass rates that were noncompliant with regulatory requirements. **At that time, the program's average annual pass rate is 58%.** On February 13, 2015, the program's provisional approval was extended through February 28, 2016.

As noted previously, the program has been compliant with regulatory requirements for ten (10) of the last eleven (11) quarters. For Quarter 4 – 2015, the program's **average annual pass rate was 76%**, an increase of 18 percentage points since initial placement on provisional approval. Such improvement supports the program's removal from provisional status and approval of the program for the four - year period from February 5, 2016, through February 4, 2020.

The program has submitted documents and materials confirming sufficient resources for student achievement of the educational objectives, for the current and proposed student population. The foregoing supports the recommendation to approve the program's requested class.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

Agenda Item #17.A.9.



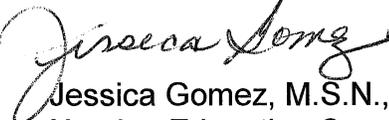
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE: January 25, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Jessica Gomez, M.S.N., R. N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program -
Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit
Students (Director: Carolyn Santiago, Bakersfield, Kern County, Private).

The Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program is presented for reconsideration of provisional approval. Additionally, the program requests approval to admit a class of 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing on May 23, 2016, and graduating on August 3, 2017, as a **replacement** class for the class scheduled to graduate on March 10, 2016. Approval of the program is recommended. Additionally, approval of the request to admit additional students is recommended.

The Board initially placed the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from February 22, 2013 through February 28, 2015. At that time, the program's quarterly pass rate was 44% and the average annual pass rate is 58%. Additionally, the Board denied the program's request for approval to admit 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing March 18, 2013, graduating May 21, 2014, to **replace** students that graduated December 20, 2012. The program was required to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional classes. This action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates.

On February 13, 2015, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for a one (1) year period from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016. Additionally, the Board approved the program's admission of a class of 36 students on May 26, 2015, only, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on March 12, 2015, **provided** the program has no more than ten (10) students per instructor during clinical classes. At that time, the program's quarterly pass rate was 85% and its average annual pass rate was 68%. Reconsideration of the program's provisional status was scheduled for February 2016.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Board Action)

Enrollment

The program offers full – time classes and requires Board approval prior to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and projected student** enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of **82 students** for the period **May 2012 through December 2016**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
5/12		28	19	19
	8/13 (5/12 Class)		-19	19 – 19 = 0
8/13		24	15	0 + 15 = 15
1/14		25	20	15 + 20 = 35
8/14		36	15	35 + 15 = 50
	10/14 (8/13 Class)		-15	50 – 15 = 35
1/15		24	23	35 + 23 = 58
	3/15 (1/14 Class)		-20	58 – 20 = 38
5/15		18	18	38 + 18 = 56
	10/15 (8/14 Class)		-15	56 – 15 = 41
10/15		28	28	41 + 28 = 69
	3/16 (1/15 Class)		-23	69 – 23 = 46
5/16 Proposed	8/17	36	+36	46 + 36 = 82
	7/16 (5/15 Class)		-18	82 – 18 = 64
	12/16 (10/15 Class)		-28	64 – 28 = 36

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue 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 2011 through December 2015, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, 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(l)]	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jan-Mar 2011	22	12	54%	80%	70%	77%	-7
Apr-Jun 2011	16	9	56%	71%	63%	76%	-13
Jul-Sep 2011	20	13	65%	74%	56%	76%	-20
Oct-Dec 2011	30	14	47%	74%	55%	75%	-20
Jan-Mar 2012	6	2	33%	77%	53%	74%	-21
Apr – Jun 2012	16	10	63%	72%	54%	74%	-20
Jul – Sep 2012	40	25	63%	74%	55%	74%	-19
Oct – Dec 2012	9	4	44%	70%	58%	74%	-16
Jan – Mar 2013	17	12	71%	75%	62%	73%	-11
Apr – Jun 2013	13	10	77%	78%	65%	73%	-8
Jul – Sep 2013	17	12	71%	75%	68%	74%	-6
Oct – Dec 2013	11	8	73%	76%	73%	76%	-3
Jan – Mar 2014	9	5	56%	74%	70%	76%	-6
Apr – Jun 2014	6	2	33%	66%	63%	73%	-10
Jul – Sep 2014	3	3	100%	72%	62%	73%	-11
Oct – Dec 2014	13	11	85%	72%	68%	72%	-4
Jan – Mar 2015	2	1	50%	73%	71%	71%	Equal
Apr – Jun 2015	19	15	79%	72%	81%	72%	+9
Jul – Sept 2015	2	2	100%	73%	81%	72%	+9
Oct – Dec 2015	18	13	72%	75%	76%	72%	+4

*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(l) states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average

pass rate for first time candidates of approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

This data confirms the program’s **compliance** with regulatory requirements for 11 of the previous 20 quarters (**55%**) and **noncompliance** for nine (9) quarters (**45%**). Further, the data confirms compliance for the previous five (5) consecutive quarters (October 2014 through December 2015).

Based on the most recent data available (October - December 2015), the program's current average annual pass rate is **76%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 72%. The average annual pass rate for Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program is currently four (4) percentage points **above** the state annual average 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 program’s current number of faculty totals fifteen (15). The program director has 95% administrative responsibility and 5% teaching duties. Fifteen (15) instructors are approved to teach clinical classes.

Based upon a maximum enrollment of 82 students, nine (9) instructors are required for clinical supervision given the Board’s November 2014 and February 2015 decisions requiring an instructor – to – student ratio no greater than 1:10. Therefore, the current number of faculty is adequate for the current enrollment.

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

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

The program has sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type and variety of clients that will provide clinical experiences that are consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught to current and proposed students.

Other Considerations:

As noted previously, the Board placed the program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from February 22, 2013 through February 28, 2015, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. At that time, the program’s quarterly pass rate was 44% and the average annual pass rate is 58%.

On February 13, 2015, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for a one (1) year period from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 and approved the admission of a class of 36 students on May 26, 2015, only, to **replace** students that were scheduled to graduate on March 12, 2015, **provided** the program has no more than ten (10) students per instructor during clinical experience. At that time, the program's quarterly pass rate was 85% and the average annual pass rate was 72%.

On February 23, 2015, the Board forwarded a *Notice* to the program specifying identified deficiencies, required corrections, and a timeline by which the corrections must be completed. On March 2, 2015, the Board received correspondence from the program acknowledging receipt of the *Notice*. (See Attachment B)

On November 2, 2015, the director submitted the required comprehensive program analysis. (See Attachment C). The report contained an evaluation of the processes implemented in 2011 and 2012 that resulted in the 23 percentage point increase in the program's average annual pass rate since placement on provisional approval. Those processes included:

- Admission Criteria
- Screening and Selection Criteria
- Terminal Objectives
- Curriculum Objectives
- Instructional Plan
- Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course
- Lesson Plans
- Textbooks
- Evaluation of Theory and Clinical
- Theory Presentation
- Correlation of Clinical Rotation to Theory Presentations
- Evaluation of Student Achievement
- Current Enrollment
- Other Factors including
 - Length of Time Between Graduation and Licensure Testing
 - Instructor to Student Ratio was Decreased
 - Reading, Math, and Study Skills Classes Offered Prior to Enrollment

According to published examination statistics, the program has been compliant with regulatory requirements for ten (10) of the last eleven (11) quarters. For Quarter 4 – 2015, the program's **quarter pass rate** was **76%** and the **average annual pass rate** was **76%**, an increase of 18 percentage points since initial placement on provisional approval.

Recommendations:

1. Approve Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program for the four - year period from February 29, 2016 through February 28, 2020, and issue a certificate accordingly.

2. Approve the program's request to admit a class of 36 students with three (3) alternates on May 23, 2016, **only**, graduating August 3, 2017, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate March 10, 2016.
3. Continue the program's requirement to admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.

Rationale: On February 22, 2013, the Board placed the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional for a two (2) year period, due to program pass rates that were noncompliant with regulatory requirements. **At that time, the program's average annual pass rate is 58%.** On February 13, 2015, the program's provisional approval was extended through February 28, 2016.

As noted previously, the program has been compliant with regulatory requirements for ten (10) of the last eleven (11) quarters. For Quarter 4 – 2015, the program's **average annual pass rate** was **76%**, an increase of 18 percentage points since initial placement on provisional approval. Such improvement supports the program's removal from provisional status and approval of the program for the four - year period from February 5, 2016, through February 4, 2020.

The program has submitted documents and materials confirming sufficient resources for student achievement of the educational objectives, for the current and proposed student population. The foregoing supports the recommendation to approve the program's requested class.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions.

Attachment B: Notice of Change in Approval Status Dated February 23, 2015.

Attachment C: Required Program Analysis Dated October 29, 2015

Agenda Item #17.A.9., Attachment A

SANTA BARBARA BUSINESS COLLEGE, BAKERSFIELD VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On May 12, 2006, the Executive Officer approved Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students on July 3, 2006, only; and approved the program curriculum for 1600 hours, including 620 theory, and 980 clinical hours.
- On August 1, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program for the period from August 1, 2007, through August 1, 2011, and the Board issued a certificate accordingly; and approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students to start on January 7, 2008, only, to replace students graduating on January 22, 2007.
- On May 14, 2008, the Executive Officer approved Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program to admit a full-time evening class of 30 students on May 27, 2008, thereby increasing the program's frequency of admissions
- On August 13, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the Program's request to admit an additional full-time day class of 30 students on October 13, 2008
- On May 14, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full-time evening class of 30 students on May 27, 2008.
- August 8, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit an additional full-time day class of 30 students on October 13, 2008 be approved. This will increase the program's frequency of admissions.
- On February 27, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, request to admit a second full-time evening class of 30 students on March 16, 2009.
- On October 20, 2009 the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 45 students and five (5) alternates on October 20, 2009, only, to **replace** a graduated class, with an anticipated graduation date of December 16, 2010.
- On October 20, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 45 students and five (5) alternates on January 4, 2010, only, to **replace** a class graduating on December 17, 2009. This class is expected to graduate on March 10, 2011.

- On October 20, 2009, the Executive Officer denied the program's request for ongoing admissions of two (2) morning and two (2) evening classes two (2) times per year, a total of four (4) classes per year, to **replace** graduating classes, due to the program's slowly decreasing annual pass rate since 2010.
- On February 26, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program request to increase the frequency of admissions, with the admission of a fourth full-time class of 45 students on March 15, 2010, only. The anticipated graduation date of the class is May 19, 2011.
- On June 3, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 45 students and five (5) alternates on May 24, 2010, only, to **replace** a graduated class, with an anticipated graduation date of July 28, 2011.
- On June 3, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the program's request for ongoing admissions of two (2) morning and two (2) evening classes two (2) times per year, a total of four (4) classes per year, to **replace** graduating classes, 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 one (1) full-time class of 36 students every March, August, and November only, to **replace** graduating students; and
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On April 19, 2012, the Board notified the program of **four (4) quarters of low licensure pass rates**, and required the program to submit a plan to increase the pass rates.
- On April 20, 2012, the Executive Officer approved continued full approval for Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2015 and issue a certificate accordingly; **and, Rescinded** the program's approval for ongoing admissions of two (2) day classes and two (2) evening classes of 36 students, a total of four (4) classes per year, to **replace** graduating classes; **and**, approved the program's admission of 36 students commencing May 21, 2012, only, graduating August 1, 2013, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate, May 17, 2012; required the program to obtain Board approval prior to admitting additional classes; **and**, additionally, required the program to submit plans of correction relative to the Notice of Violation for its noncompliance with California Code of Regulations Sections 2530 (l) and 2530 (k) by May 4, 2012.
- On May 3, 2012, the Board received the program's plan to increase the program pass rates.
- On May 11, 2012, the director submitted her plan to prevent a reoccurrence of the violations.

- On August 7, 2012, the Board notified the program of **five (5) quarters of low licensure pass rates**, and required the program to submit a plan to increase the pass rates **by September 3, 2012**.
- On September 13, 2012, the Board received the program's plan to increase licensure pass rates.
- On October 17, 2012, the Executive Officer denied the program's admission of 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing October 22, 2012, graduating December 19, 2013, to **replace** students that graduated October 11, 2012; and, require the program to continue to obtain Board approval prior to admitting additional classes.
- On November 2, 2012, the Executive Officer denied Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, admission of 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing January 7, 2013, graduating March 13, 2014, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate December 22, 2012; **and**, required the program to obtain Board approval prior to admitting additional classes; **and**, placed the program on the February 2013 Board agenda.
- On December 13, 2012, the Board assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On December 28, 2012, the Board received correspondence from the program director and 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 placed Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program on Provisional Approval for a two (2) year period from February 22, 2013 to February 28, 2015 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; **and**, required the program to bring its average annual pass rate up to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; **and**, required the program to submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than **November 1, 2013**, and 21 months, but no later than **November 1, 2014**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:
 - a) Admission Criteria.
 - b) Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c) Terminal Objectives.
 - d) Curriculum Objectives.
 - e) Instructional Plan.
 - f) Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g) Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h) Textbooks.
 - i) Attendance Policy.

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

Required the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526; **and**, required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; **and**,

Denied Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, admission of 36 students with three (3) alternates commencing March 18, 2013, graduating May 21, 2014, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate December 20, 2012; **and**, required the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board; **and**, place the program on the **February 2015** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On March 4, 2013, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Approval Status specifying identified deficiencies and required corrections.
- On March 13, 2013, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of two (2) copies and one (1) CD or Flash drive of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On March 28, 2013, the Board received correspondence from the program director and 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 the Santa Barbara Business College's request to admit 36 students on August 5, 2013, only, graduating October 9, 2014. This class will **replace** students that will graduate on August 1, 2013; **and**, required the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board.
- On November 22, 2013, the Board approved the Santa Barbara Business College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 36 students on January 6, 2014, only, graduating March 12, 2015. This class will **replace** students that graduated on August 1, 2013; **and**, continued to require the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board.
- On May 16, 2014, the Board approved Santa Barbara Business College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 36 students on August 4, 2014, graduating October 8, 2015; **and**, continue to require the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board.

- On November 21, 2014 the Board approved the Santa Barbara Business College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 36 students on January 5, 2015 graduating March 10, 2016, **provided** the program has no more than ten (10) students per instructor during clinical experience; and, required the program to continue to require the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board.
- On February 13, 2015, the Board extended Santa Barbara Business College Vocational Nursing Program's provisional approval for a one (1) year period from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 and issue a certificate accordingly; **and**, continued to require the program to bring its average annual pass rate up to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; **and**, approved the program's request to admit a class of 36 students on May 26, 2015, only; graduating July 28, 2016 to **replace** students that will graduate on March 12, 2015, **provided** the program has no more than ten (10) students per instructor during clinical experience; **and**, required the program director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected dates of graduation by **June 1, 2015**; **and**, required the program to submit an analysis of the effects of employed interventions delineated in the most recent submitted comprehensive analysis in nine (9) months, but no later than **November 1, 2015**; **and**, continued to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526; **and**, continued to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; and, continued to require the program to admit no additional students without prior Board approval; and, placed the program on the **February 2016** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
- On February 23, 2015, the Board forwarded per certified and U.S. mail a Notice of Change in Approval Status. The Notice specified identified deficiencies, required corrections, and a timeline for completion.
- On March 2, 2015, the Board received documentation from the director acknowledging receipt of the Notice.
- On August 21, 2015 the Board Approve Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 36 students on October 12, 2015, **only**, graduating December 15, 2016, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate October 8, 2015; **and**, **required** the program to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all newly enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected dates of graduation no later than **October 23, 2015**; **and**, **continued** the program's requirement to admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.
- On November 2, 2015, the Board received program correspondence regarding the comprehensive analysis of the program. as required per the Board's February 13, 2015 decisions.

Agenda Item #17.A.9., Attachment B.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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CERTIFIED MAIL

February 23, 2015

Carolyn Santiago, B.S., R.N.
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield
5300 California Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status

Dear Ms. Santiago:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on February 13, 2015, the provisional approval of the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program was extended for the one – year period from March 1, 2015 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 approval completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Approval Status" form by **Monday, March 2, 2015**.

AREAS OF NON COMPLIANCE (VIOLATIONS)

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

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation¹ 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."

The program pass rates of the Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program for the past 28 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	75%	94%	+19
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	96%	+22
Jul - Sep 2008	74%	92%	+18
Oct - Dec 2008	73%	88%	+15
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	78%	+6
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	78%	+8
Jul - Sep 2009	72%	94%	+22
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	85%	+12
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	85%	+11
Apr – Jun 2010	74%	87%	+13
Jun – Sep 2010	75%	86%	+12
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	82%	+6
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	70%	-7
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	63%	-13
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	56%	-20
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	55%	-20
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	53%	-21
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	54%	-20
Jul – Sep 2012	74%	55%	-19
Oct – Dec 2012	74%	58%	-16
Jan – Mar 2013	73%	62%	-11
Apr – Jun 2013	73%	65%	-8
Jul – Sep 2013	74%	68%	-6
Oct – Dec 2013	76%	73%	-3
Jan – Mar 2014	76%	70%	-6
Apr – Jun 2014	73%	63%	-10
Jul – Sep 2014	73%	62%	-11
Oct – Dec 2014	72%	68%	-4

Based on this data, the program failed to meet regulatory requirements for vocational nursing programs relative to annual average pass rates.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, 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 admit no additional students without prior approval by the Board.
3. The program shall submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected dates of graduation by **June 1, 2015**.
4. The program shall submit an analysis of the effects of employed interventions delineated in the most recent submitted comprehensive analysis in nine (9) months, but **no later than November 1, 2015**.
5. 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.
6. The program shall demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
7. Failure of the program to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
8. 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 for reconsideration of your approval status. The nursing education consultant assigned to your program will ask you to submit documentation of the correction of your violation(s) by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to that Board meeting. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 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 is required for the admission of each class.**

Notice of Change in Approval Status
Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield
Vocational Nursing Program
February 23, 2015
Page 4 of 4

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 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

Enclosure

cc: Board Members

TBJ:cca



TITLE 16 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

2526.1. Provisional Approval.

- (a) Provisional approval 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 approval shall be granted for a period determined by the Board.
- (c) 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. If the program has not met all requirements at the end of the initial provisional approval period, provisional approval 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 approval 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 approval.
- (e) A program placed on provisional approval 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 approval.
- (f) A material misrepresentation of fact by a vocational nursing program in any information submitted to the Board is cause for revocation of provisional approval.
- (g) A program whose provisional approval has been revoked shall be removed from the Board's list of approved 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 approved 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.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
Phone (916) 263-7800 Fax (916) 263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



February 23, 2015

TO: Education Division

FROM: Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program

SUBJECT: *Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board Meeting Materials*

I, hereby acknowledge receipt of the following documents with attachments memorializing Board decisions rendered at the February 13, 2015 Board Meeting.

➤ ***Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield, Vocational Nursing Program.***

1. *Notice of Change in Approval Status.*
2. *California Code of Regulations Excerpt Section 2526.1. Provisional Approval.*
3. *Certificate of Provisional Approval.*

Please sign and fax the ***Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board Meeting Materials*** to the Board at (916) 263-7866 by Monday, March 2, 2015.

(Signature, Director)

(Date)

Name of Program: _____

***Please complete this form and fax to the Board at
(916) 263-7866 by Monday, March 2, 2015.***



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Phone 916-263-7800 Fax 916-263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



CERTIFICATE OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

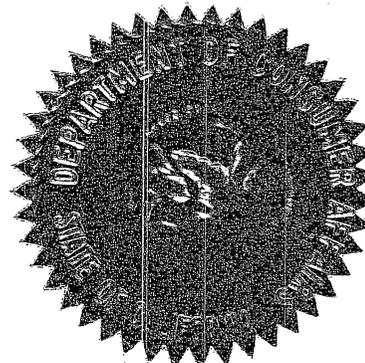
for

Santa Barbara Business College, Bakersfield Vocational Nursing Program

This document reflects that the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) has provisionally approved the above-named program pursuant to Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations. A copy of documents related to the provisional approval may be obtained by contacting the Board at the address above. A candidate's completion of an approved vocational nursing program is partial fulfillment of requirements for the vocational nurse licensure examination.

Effective: March 1, 2015

Todd D'Braunstein, P.T.
President



Expires: February 28, 2016

Teresa Bello-Jones
Executive Officer

Agenda Item #17.A.9., Attachment C



BVNPT RECD VIA
EMAIL 10/28/15 JG

Bakersfield Campus
5300 California Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93309
www.sbbcollege.edu

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

October 29, 2015

Dear Jessica,

SBBCollege – Bakersfield campus acknowledges the decline in the pass rate for first time test takers on the NCLEX-PN in 2011 and 2012 and placement on provisional accreditation at the February 2013 Board meeting. The pass rate for 2013 was 72 % and 68 % for 2014, which reflected the changes the College, faculty and staff implemented in 2011 and 2012. The second quarter results for 2015 was a pass rate of 79 % with a rolling four quarter pass rate of 81 %.

An analysis of the components follows as required by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. The changes have had a positive impact on 2013 and 2014 and are continuing in 2015.

Analysis of the Admission Criteria

In 2011, when first time test takers pass rates on the NCLEX-PN declined, the College evaluated its internal processes. The screening process was evaluated and the Admission Policy was revised on March 15, 2011 and submitted to the Board on March 18, 2011, to allow for better screening / selection of applicants. The ACCUPLACER was chosen to replace the Wonderlic Basic Skills Test due to reliability and validity of the examination. The requirements for admission for the vocational nursing program are set at a 10th grade reading level and 9th grade math level. I believe this has positively impacted the pass rates as evidenced by the pass rate for 2013, 2014 and 2015 which are trending upwards.

Analysis of the pass rates and how they correlated with admission test scores revealed that those with reading scores near the 10th grade reading level had a higher propensity for failure when taking the NCLEX-PN. The 9th grade math score did not have as high a correlation. The score with the least significance is the Sentence Structure. The nursing instructors expressed they are comfortable teaching math concepts. A greater emphasis is placed on the ACCUPLACER reading and reading comprehension scores for admission into the vocational nursing program at SBBCollege. The policy states the potential candidate must pass two of three components on the ACCUPLACER. Sentence Structure is the score with the lowest impact. Each candidate is evaluated as described in the Analysis of the Screening and Selection Criteria (below).

Additional requirements of the Admission Policy include completing a physical examination, providing proof of immunizations, a negative urine drug screen and a background screening. These components are required by the clinical facilities for a student to perform clinical hours. Failure to provide the necessary documents will result in removal from the applicant pool.

Potential students are questioned about criminal history and must sign a disclaimer that completion of the program is not a guarantee that they will obtain a license upon passing the NCLEX-PN. The potential students criminal history is evaluated because clinical placement maybe an issue. If the clinical facility will not allow a student in the facility, they are eliminated from the applicant pool.

Analysis of the Screening and Selection Criteria

The Screening and Selection Criteria has not changed but the policy has been utilized to assist with selection of candidates who will be successful in the program and on the NCLEX-PN. Tests scores are evaluated but are only part of the equation. Motivation for selecting nursing as a career choice is investigated. Students are encouraged to assess their support systems in place to assist with their endeavors. The potential candidate is interviewed by a member of the Admissions team, the Director of Nursing and a Financial Services Representative as they progress through the process for admission into the vocational nursing program. Assessment of appropriateness for the program is assessed by each person. High School transcripts and GED results are assessed for grade point average (GPA). Work history is also evaluated regarding type of work performed, length of employment in position and attitude about position and tasks performed. The potential student is evaluated as a whole being and not scores on the ACCUPLACER. This has decreased the number of students who have dropped (failed) in the program and has positively impacted the pass rate for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Analysis of the Terminal Objectives

The Terminal Objectives for SBBCollege were evaluated to determine if they addressed all aspects of nursing. Nurses must practice according to the Nurse Practice Act in the State they are licensed and practice in. As nurses, we are legally and ethically accountable to the patients and families we serve. Nurses care for patients across the lifespan and must strive to meet their needs via a therapeutic relationship that allows for open communication. Patient safety as well as personal safety is paramount as nursing skills are performed to assist patients with healing or a peaceful demise. Nursing utilizes the nursing process to provide comprehensive individualized care. The assessment of patients is crucial in identifying anomalies and communicating observations with the medical provider. Self-evaluation is ongoing as growth cannot occur unless we evaluate and modify our behavior to improve our delivery of nursing care. Passing the NCLEX-PN exam is the final Terminal Objective and once licensed, nursing is a commitment to lifelong learning.

The Terminal Objectives comprehensively reflect all aspects of nursing. It is every nursing instructors desire to instill in the graduates a love of learning, as nursing is a commitment to lifelong education.

Analysis is of the Curriculum Objectives

The Curriculum Objectives are divided into quarters. Analysis of the first and second quarter was completed to guarantee that all skills / tasks that may be completed by a vocational nurse were incorporated. The skills list needed to be comprehensive and include tasks that may be completed by a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA=unlicensed assistive personnel) as this is not an admission requirement for enrolling in the vocational nursing program at SBBCollege. Nurses must be able to perform basic nursing care as some facilities do not employ CNA's who are in reality assisting the nurse to meet the patient's needs.

Analysis of terms three, four, five and six are organized to include identification of disease states / complication and how to manage alteration in health and chronic diseases utilizing the nursing process. Holistic care of patient across the lifespan is emphasized with leadership and supervision being the focus in the final term as LVN's are supervisors in many positions.

The Curriculum Objectives are comprehensive and are integrated in the vocational nursing program. The role of the vocational nurse in various settings, transition from student to graduate to Licensed Vocational Nurse is addressed in term six of the program. The role of nursing organizations and the need to maintain a current knowledge base is emphasized with the commitment for lifelong learning.

Analysis of the Instructional Plan

An evaluation of the instructional plan revealed some instructors were not utilizing all the textbooks / resources available for the classes they were teaching in 2010 and 2011. The instructional plan is comprehensive and when followed will graduate students who are equipped to pass the NCLEX-PN on the first attempt. The proof of this is SBBCollege – Bakersfield campus pass rates for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014, as well as the Santa Maria and Rancho Mirage campuses pass rates. Following the instructional plan is not optional at SBBCollege as this a Board approved guide for the vocational nursing program.

Faculty members are evaluated twice a year and are encouraged to evaluate their teaching styles and the types of learners they have in the classroom or clinical cohort.

Analysis of the Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course

SBBCollege vocational nursing faculty participate in Curriculum Review annually which involves evaluation of the individual class syllabi, outlines and skills check off sheets for relevance to scope of practice and current principles of nursing education. The review was held on April 22, 2015 and all syllabi and outlines were updated on May 28, 2015. The Clinical Objectives were evaluated and revised by the nursing faculty at the faculty meeting on October 4, 2013, and submitted to the Board on October 9, 2013. The scope of practice for a vocational nurse as well as facility guidelines in the communities served by SBBCollege (Kern County, northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties and Riverside County) were taken into consideration.

Analysis of the Lesson Plans

The lesson plans for the entire program have been reviewed to ensure that the content was sufficient and meet the standard of practice for an entry level vocational nurse. The content was evaluated to ensure the following concepts were including and being taught in the classroom, lab and clinical setting:

- All the skills that a vocational nurse may perform
- Ethical / legal issues and dilemmas
- Cultural diversity and care of clients across the lifespan in a variety of settings
- Therapeutic relationships / communication
- The nursing process and application
- Normal versus abnormal anatomy and relation to disease processes
- Self-evaluation and reflection to improve nursing practice
- Lifelong learning and the need to maintain current nursing knowledge
- Pharmacology – commonly used medications and side effects
- Basic nutrition and how it relates to health, wellness and disease states
- Patient education across the lifespan in a variety of settings
- Critical thinking in reference to clients and how to prioritize care
- Role of the Licensed Vocational Nurse in a variety of settings
- Leadership styles and supervision of unlicensed unassertive personnel

The lesson plans contain content sufficient to prepare students to be successful on passing the NCLEX-PN on the first attempt and become successful entry level Licensed Vocational Nurses. This is supported by the pass rates of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014 for the Bakersfield campus as well as the pass rates of the Santa Maria and Rancho Mirage campuses.

Analysis of the Textbooks

The textbooks utilized for the program are comprehensive with all but one of the books being published by Elsevier. This made the adoption of HESI (Health Education Systems, Inc.) practical. This provided students with Case Studies, Practice exams, standardized exams (10 specialties) throughout the program and a comprehensive predictor of NCLEX success near the completion of the program. A two day live NCLEX review as well as unlimited access to the Mosby's Nursing Video Skills Online is included.

The textbooks are comprehensive and when utilized to the fullest extent are sufficient to prepare students for passing the NCLEX-PN and meeting the challenges of nursing when employed in the field. Prior to the adoption of HESI, the College utilized the NLN (National League of Nursing) standardized testing materials (online). They offered practice exams but do not offer the remediation which is vital to comprehending and retention of information.

The textbook for the vocational nursing program include:

- Foundations and Adult Health Nursing (7th ed) - Cooper

- Mosby Dictionary (9th ed).
- Study Guide for Foundations and Adult Health Nursing (7th ed) – Cooper
- Introduction to Medical Surgical Nursing (6th ed) – Linton
- Study Guide for Introduction to Medical Surgical Nursing (6th ed) – Linton
- Virtual Clinical Excursion (6th ed) – Linton
- Calculation of Drug Dosages (9th ed) – Ogden
- Saunders Question & Answer NCLEX-PN Exam (4th ed) – Silvestri
- Saunders Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX-PN exam (5th ed) – Silvestri
- Mosby Drug Guide for Nursing Students – Skidmore
- Structure and Function of the Body (14th ed) – Thibodeau
- Study Guide for Structure and Function of the Body (14th ed) – Swisher
- Mosby's Manual of Diagnostic and Laboratory Tests (5th ed) – Pagana
- Quick & Easy Medical Terminology (7th ed.) – Leonard
- Roach's Clinical Pharmacology (10th ed) – Ford & Roach
- Study Guide for Roach's clinical Pharmacology (10th ed.) - Ford

The graduating class of October 2014 is the first class to benefit from exposure to HESI for the entire program.

Analysis of the Attendance Policy

The Attendance Policy for SBBCollege allows for ten (10) % absenteeism per class according to Accrediting Council of Independent colleges and School (ACICS) recommendation. Due to the excessive number of hours the College allows, the vocational nursing program has a Board approved Addendum that states all hours absent must be made up within the ten week quarter they are missed. The objective is to graduate a nurse that can not only pass the NCLEX-PN but is a safe and competent nurse. Attendance and ability to pass tests in the program and the NCLEX-PN have a direct correlation. The Addendum for the Attendance Policy will remain in effect for the vocational nursing program.

Analysis of the Remediation Policy

The Remediation Policy for the vocational nursing program allows for remediation of a failed examination if the student is in good standing (attendance and clinical performance is satisfactory). It is the student responsibility to initiate a review with the instructor, Lead faculty or Director of the program. Regardless of the grade earned a 77% (lowest passing C) will be recorded for the examination upon passing an exam consisting of the same content on the second attempt.

Remediation of clinical is scheduled with the Director or Lead Faculty member who will schedule the clinical experience at an approved clinical site within ten days. If the hours are not completed prior to end of the class an "incomplete" will recorded for the class. If the hours are not completed within ten (10) days after the class ends, the "incomplete" will become an "F-failed." This results in failure in the program.

The Remediation Policy is effective. Instructors are available after class every day to tutor students in areas of weakness. This can be done individually or in small groups. The College also has tutors available through the Learning Resource Center (LRC) and appointments may be made with tutors.

The Board approved Grading Policy for the vocational nursing is:

- A 93 – 100
- B 85 – 92
- C 77 – 84
- D Below 76 (not applicable)

A student must maintain a "C" or 77 % in each class to remain in enrolled in the nursing program. Failure to do so will result in exclusion from the program. This policy is effective and will remain in effect to graduate students who are successful on the NCLEX-PN examination and become safe, competent nurses.

Analysis of the Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty

The College requires annual evaluation of all faculty members. With the decline in pass rates in the vocational nursing program and reflection on how to improve, instructors as well student variables were examined. Evaluations of faculty were increased to twice a year. All faculty regardless of teaching assignment are evaluated twice a year in the classroom and clinical arena for effectiveness as a nursing educator. I believe the twice yearly evaluations have a positive impact on the instructor's performance as educators and subsequently the pass rates of 2013 and 2014. The twice yearly evaluations of vocational nursing instructors in the classroom and / or clinical will remain in effect.

Analysis of Theory Presentations

Analysis of theory presentations includes the Lesson Plans and evaluations of faculty. Instructors are evaluated twice a year and delivery of the materials is analyzed. Most instructors use PowerPoint's provided by the Publishers and modify them to stimulate learning. Correlation of lesson plans and class syllabi for the class is evaluated during the process. The classroom is evaluated to determine if it is interactive and response of the students to the instructor as they guide the learning process. Classroom management is evaluated to determine that a safe learning environment is being provided to the vocational nursing students and instructors are utilizing various teaching styles to appeal to all the learning styles. This includes lecture, discussion, group assignments, case studies and role play. The student's response has been positive on examinations (including standardized exams) and their evaluations of instructors upon completion of classes indicate their experiences are positive and promote learning. The attrition rate has improved as instructors are challenging students to take an active role in the learning process.

Analysis of the Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations

Clinical sites are discussed every two weeks in the faculty meetings. Concerns regarding staff issues, student issues, types of patients on the units, etc. are evaluated. Clinical instructors are given sign in sheets for students with the classes in session for

the ten weeks with contact information for the instructor (to communicate attendance). Kern County has numerous acute care facilities and SBBCollege – Bakersfield is fortunate to partner with several to provide a quality clinical experience for the vocational nursing students. Kern County also has numerous skilled nursing facilities and they appreciate the vocational nursing students and have hired many of SBBCollege – Bakersfield’s graduates. Clinical sites also include specialty sites such as day care for fragile children and the elderly with Alzheimer’s/dementia, a rehabilitation hospital and psychiatric facilities. This produces an educated vocational nursing graduate who is prepared for the NCLEX-PN and to enter the workforce as a safe and competent licensed vocational nurse.

Clinical sites are evaluated yearly with the Curriculum Review to determine the following:

1. Are clinical objective achievable at the site
2. Did the population served on the unit provide the students the opportunity to meet the clinical objectives
3. Could the unit / floor accommodate the students and instructor
4. Were there opportunities for serendipity learning experiences
5. Was the clinical staff accommodating of the students
6. Could instructors make clinical assignments

If areas of concern are identified, what follow up action was needed / taken, by whom, and the resolution of concern. The Bakersfield’s community has the resources to provide a quality education to nursing students.

Analysis of the Evaluation of Student Achievement

Student progress is evaluated by quizzes, examinations, skills lab and clinical performance. The examinations for all classes are reviewed by one of three Master’s prepared RN’s for content, comprehensiveness and relevance to the practice of a vocational nurse. The grading scale for the nursing program (Board approved) is set higher than other programs at SBBCollege. It is:

A = 93 – 100 %

B = 85 – 92 %

C = 77 – 84 %

Each test must be passed with a “C” or higher to remain in the nursing program. Students are allowed to remediate according to the Board approved policy.

The Skills Lab / Clinical Check Off Sheets were reviewed for content and comprehensiveness of tasks specific to the practice of the Licensed Vocational Nurse. All skills are practiced in a laboratory setting in Nursing Skills Lab I and II on peers, mannequins and simulators. Skills are perfected in clinical with supervision of an instructor. At the end of every ten week term, students “skill out” in a lab setting on tasks that are limited in the clinical setting (ex. tracheostomy care and nasogastric tube insertion).

Aspects of professionalism are included on the Skills Check Off Sheets as the students represent the nursing profession, themselves and the College.

Current Enrollment at SBBCollege – Bakersfield campus (vocational nursing)

Current enrollment in the vocational nursing classes is 68. The three classes in session started on January 5, 2015, May 26, 2015 and October 12, 2015. .

Other Factors Affecting the Pass Rate

The College identified other factors affecting the pass rate for first time test takers of the NCLEX-PN and measures that have employed to assist graduates waiting to test. They include:

1. Length of time between graduation and testing was greater than three months in 2011 and 2012. The following measures were instituted in 2011 and have continued:

- a. The College offers Extended NCLEX-PN Review classes after graduation for four (4) weeks.
- b. The College purchases the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension five (5) week subscriptions for students with perfect attendance in the Extended NCLEX-PN Review classes.
- c. The College will reimburse the graduate the test fee (\$200.00) plus the license fee (\$150.00) if they test and pass in the quarter they receive their Authorization to Test (ATT).
- d. The College coordinate intravenous (IV) Therapy and Blood Withdrawal classes after each graduating class with a Board approved provider.

2. Instructor to student ratio was decreased

The ratio of instructor to student was decreased from one (1) to ten (10) in skills lab and clinical remains one (1) instructor to eight (8) to ten (10) students. This allowed for better supervision at clinical and individualized attention in the skills lab to practice and master skills pertaining to the scope of practice as a vocational nurse.

3. Classes offered prior to enrollment

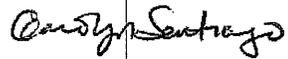
Classes are offered prior to enrollment in the vocational nursing program for those who are actively pursuing enrollment in the vocational nursing program. The classes include reading comprehension, math concepts and study skills. Potential students are encouraged to identify learning styles and re-acquaint themselves with reading and math concepts.

SBBCollege – Bakersfield campus faculty and staff are pleased to note the pass rate for 2013 was 72 %. The 2014 pass rate was 68 % and was not consistent with our expectations. This includes graduates who have waited over a year to test. This does not exclude the College from our responsibility to the graduates. Currently the pass rate for the second quarter of 2015 is 79 %. However, meeting the State standard is not our

goal. The nursing faculty would like to return to the range achieved in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Following Board approved policies will ensure the Bakersfield campus will continue to graduate students who are equipped to pass the NCLEX-PN and meet the challenges of nursing as a safe and competent nurse.

Please advise if additional documentation is needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Santiago, MSN, RN, NP-C
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