

Agenda Item #5.B.I.



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE	November 8, 2020
TO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Members <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer Review
FROM	<input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer <input type="checkbox"/> SNEC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LNEC
REVIEWED BY	Beth DeYoung, MPH, RN Lead Nursing Education Consultant (LNEC)
PREPARED BY	Cindy Fairchild EdD, MSN, RN, PHN Nursing Education Consultant (NEC)
SUBJECT	Request to Increase Class Size
PROGRAM	American Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program (Program) (Director: Holly Long, Anaheim; Orange County, Private)

Please note: The NECs make recommendations. The recommendations are forwarded to one or more: the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee or the full Board for action.

PROGRAM REQUEST:

1. Increase class size from 50 students to 60 students per class in the part-time program beginning with the projected January 25, 2021, class, to replace graduating classes only.

BACKGROUND:

Prior Board Decision

At the August 20, 2020, Board meeting the following decisions were rendered:

1. Deny American Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing program's request to increase class size from 50 students to 60 students for each part-time class, starting with the projected July 6, 2020, class.

2. Require the program to demonstrate students are scheduled for clinical experiences in Board approved clinical facilities to meet 50 percent of clinical hours in a hands-on clinical setting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Place the program on the November 20, 2020, Board meeting agenda for reevaluation of resources and reconsideration of request to increase class size from 50 students to 60 students for each part-time class.

On September 17, 2020, the program director submitted the required supporting documentation related to the request to increase class size in the part-time program.

The program has added additional faculty and facilities.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The NEC reviewed and analyzed the documents provided by the program director to verify adequate resources to meet the program's Board approved objectives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been displaced from several clinical sites. However, the Program is able to place students into clinical facilities to complete 50 percent of the clinical hours performing direct-patient care per term. Theory is conducted via an online format.

The Program has adequate faculty and facilities to accommodate the increase in student population.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please note: These are not NEC decisions, rather the recommendations presented at the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee and/or the full Board for action.

1. Approve the Program's request to increase class size from 50 students to 60 students for each part-time class, starting with the projected January 25, 2021, class, to replace graduating classes only.
2. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Continue to approve the program's ongoing admissions.
2. No additional classes are to be added to the program's pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. A full-time class of 60 students is admitted four times a year and a part-time class of 50 students is admitted twice each year to replace graduates only.
3. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.

4. Notify the NEC when a course is 50 percent complete, and submit an update related to clinical sites.
5. Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate each quarter, the number of graduates taking the licensure examination, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the program director, and conducting Program Record Surveys.
6. Continue 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16.

RELEVANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Enrollment

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

“(k) The program shall have prior Board approval to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of admission of classes. Criteria to evaluate a school's request to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of class admissions include but are not limited to: (1) Sufficient program resources as specified in Section 2530(a). (2) Adequacy of clinical experience as specified in Section 2534. (3) Licensure examination pass rates as specified in Section 2530(l).”

The Program is approved to offer both full-time and part-time classes. A full-time class of 60 students is admitted four times a year and a part-time class of 50 students is admitted twice each year to replace graduates only. The pattern of admissions for current and projected classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents current and projected student enrollment based on current and projected class starts and completions. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 378 students for the period from July 2019 through January 2021.

ENROLLMENT DATA TABLE

Class Start Dates	Class Completion Dates	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Current	Number of Students Considered Graduates	Total Enrolled
7/19 PT *(2/21)		40	35		35
8/19 FT *(9/20)		33	26		35 + 26 = 61
11/19FT *(12/20)		38	37		61+37 = 98
1/20PT *(9/21)		50	47		98+47 = 145
2/20 FT *(3/21)		50	45		145+45 = 190
5/20 FT *(6/21)		47	44		190+44 = 234
8/20 FT *(9/21)		50	50		234+50 = 284
	9/20 (8/19)	26		- 26	284 - 26= 258
11/20FT *(12/21)		60	60		258+60 = 318
1/21 PT *(6/22) projected		60			318+60 = 378

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.”

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 October 2018 through September 2020, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®) and the variance from state average annual pass rates.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data

Quarterly Statistics				Annual Statistics *			
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	Percent Passed	State Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR 2530(1)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct–Dec 2018	46	41	89%	79%	88%	79%	+ 9
Jan–Mar 2019	34	31	91%	80%	91%	81%	+ 10
April–Jun 2019	42	36	86%	83%	89%	81%	+ 8
Jul–Sept 2019	56	49	88%	79%	88%	79%	+ 9
Oct–Dec 2019	35	34	97%	79%	90%	79%	+ 11
Jan–Mar 2020	45	40	89%	78%	89%	79%	+ 10
April–Jun 2020	42	41	98%	81%	92%	79%	+ 13
Jul–Sept 2020	18	15	83%	75%	93%	78%	+ 15

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most recent data available (July through September 2020), the program’s average annual pass rate is 83 percent. 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 78 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is fifteen percentage points above the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

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

“For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor.”

The total number of Board-approved faculty is 37, including the director. The director has 100 percent administrative duties. Thirty instructors are designated to teach clinical. For a maximum enrollment of 378 students, 26 instructors are needed for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that the clinical instruction is covered adequately.

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 the resources to accommodate the student’s learning needs and ability to meet the program’s Board approved objectives with sufficient direct patient care clinical experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Considerations

Social Distancing

The campus has two skills labs, which have been arranged to allow for social distancing. Students are scheduled in small groups with 10 students and one instructor in the skills lab at a time.

The director submitted the following statement, via email.

“The campus has been working to complete a facilities usage plan to ensure safety for all students, faculty and staff. All classrooms have been labeled with capacity limits to allow for adequate social distancing. The program continues to deliver theory via an online format, the lecture rooms have been redesigned for social distancing. Chairs have been removed from classrooms to match capacity limits. A pre-screening app has been created for student use prior to coming on campus. Students must answer the pre-screening questions prior to coming to campus and display a green bar for approval to enter campus and take plus their temperature before being allowed into the classroom. Each classroom and skills lab have been equipped with cleaning supplies, and cleaning protocols have been implemented for each time a classroom is used. The restrooms and elevators have a capacity limitation. Water fountains have been replaced with water bottle fill stations. The HVAC circulation system has been improved with an ionization filtration system to improve the quality of air being circulated through the building. A Clorox 360 machine is being used for periodic deep sterilization of rooms. Self-cleaning nano-technology adhesives has been added to high traffic areas such as door handles and copy machines. All rooms have signage to identify capacity limits, along with signage stating that PPE is required in classrooms and face coverings are required in the building. The security team monitors incoming traffic as well as following ingress and egress protocols. The program has also worked with the department of health to assure that all protocols meet requirements.”

Faculty training for online teaching

Faculty has received training and support with the online teaching format.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Agenda Item #5.B.I., Attachment A

AMERICAN CAREER COLLEGE, ANAHEIM VOCTIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On November 16, 2001, the Board approved American Career College, Orange County, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 45 students on December 17, 2001, only; approved the program curriculum for 1560 hours (580 theory hours and 980 clinical hours);

Additionally, the Board denied the program's request to start new classes in April 2002, July 2002, October 2002, and January 2003.

- On September 6, 2002, the Board approved initial full accreditation for the American Career College - Orange County Vocational Nursing Program for the period December 17, 2001, through September 5, 2006, and issued a certificate accordingly.

The Board also approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students on September 30, 2002, only. The Board denied the program's request to admit three additional classes of 50 students each commencing January 2, 2003, March 31, 2003, and June 30, 2003.

- On November 8, 2002, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students on January 2, 2003, only.
- On February 21, 2003, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students commencing April 1, 2003 only, to replace students graduating in December 2002.
- On June 20, 2003, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students commencing June 30, 2003, only.
- On September 19, 2003, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students commencing October 1, 2003, only.
- On October 31, 2003, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students commencing January 5, 2004, only.
- On January 6, 2004, a new program director was Board-approved.
- On February 2, 2004, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a class of 50 students into the full-time program commencing April 5, 2004 only, to replace students graduating March 30, 2004.

Additionally, the program was approved to commence a part-time weekend program with an initial class of 30 students commencing March 1, 2004, only. The program was 80 weeks in length, divided into four (4) terms of 20 weeks each. Total program hours 1560 (580 theory hours and 980 clinical hours).

- On April 14, 2004, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 50 students to its full-time program on June 30, 2004, only to replace students graduating June 29, 2004. Additionally, the program was approved for ongoing admissions to its full-time program to replace graduating classes, only, with the stipulation that no additional classes are to be added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes four full-time classes of 50 students admitted each year (January, April, June and October) and one part-time class of 30 students admitted every 80 weeks (beginning March 2004).
- On September 10, 2004, the Board approved the program's request for ongoing admission of 30 students to their week-end, part-time program in March and September of each year changing the program's pattern of admissions to four full-time classes of 50 students admitted each year (January, April, June and October), and two part-time classes of 30 students admitted each year (March and September).
- On January 12, 2005, the Board approved the program's request to increase the number of students from 30 to 45 per class for the part-time weekend classes effective March 2005.
- On April 12, 2006, the Board approved continued full accreditation for the American Career College - Orange County Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period, from May 12, 2006, through May 11, 2010, and issued a certificate accordingly.
- On January 8, 2007, the Board approved the program's request to increase the class size of its 20-month part-time program from 45 to 60 students each, commencing March 19, 2007.
- On December 11, 2007, the Executive Officer approved American Career College, Orange County, Vocational Nursing Program's request to increase the size of each admitted full-time class from 50 to 75 students four times annually, effective January 2, 2008.
- On July 10, 2010, the Executive Officer approved continued full accreditation for the American Career College, Orange County, Vocational Nursing Program for the four – year period from May 12, 2010 through May 11, 2014, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and**, approved the program's pattern of admissions of four (4) full – time classes of 75 students each year and two (2) part – time classes of 60 students each year only.
- On April 10, 2014, the Executive Officer approved continued full accreditation for the American Career College, Orange County, Vocational Nursing Program for the four –

year period from May 12, 2014 through May 11, 2018, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and**, approved the program's pattern of admissions of four (4) full – time classes of 75 students each year and two (2) part – time classes of 60 students each year only.

- On November 13, 2015, the Board approved a new director.
- On June 8, 2017, the Board approved a new director.
- On October 31, 2017, the Board approved a new director.
- On December 20, 2017, the Board reapproved a minor curriculum revision. The total program hours are 1570, which includes 615 theory, and 955 clinical hours.
- On May 11, 2018, the Executive Officer approved
 1. Continue full approval of the American Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing Program for the four – year period from May 12, 2018 through May 11, 2022 and issue a certificate accordingly.
 2. Continue approval of the program's ongoing admissions to replace graduating classes, only, with the following changes in the stipulations:
 - a. No additional classes are added to the program's pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's pattern of admissions will include admission of one (1) class of 50 full-time students four (4) times per year, only, and, one (1) class of 50 part-time students two (2) times per year, only; and,
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students; and,
 - c. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530 (l) of the Code.
- On November 10, 2019, the Board approved a new director.
- On July 14, 2020, the Executive Officer approved the following
 1. Approve American Career College, Orange County, Vocational Nursing program's request for a minor curriculum change beginning August 24, 2020.
 2. Continue to approve the program's ongoing admissions with the following stipulations:
 - b. No additional classes are added to the program's pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's pattern of admissions will include admission of four full-time classes of 50 students per calendar year, and two part-time classes of 50 students replacing graduating classes only.

- c. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - d. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
3. Continue 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16.
- On August 20, 2020, the full Board rendered the following:
 1. Deny American Career College, Anaheim, Vocational Nursing program's request to increase class size from 50 students to 60 students for each part-time class, starting with the projected July 6, 2020, class.
 2. Require the program to demonstrate students are scheduled for clinical experiences in Board approved clinical facilities to meet 50 percent of clinical hours in a hands-on clinical setting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 3. Place the program on the November 20, 2020, Board meeting agenda for reevaluation of resources and reconsideration of request to increase class size from 50 students to 60 students for each part-time class.
 4. Require the program director to submit the following documents by September 15, 2020:
 - Current facility roster
 - Current faculty roster
 - Faculty/facility assignments
 - Enrollment table, including projected class
 - Course calendar for term 1 for projected class
 - Submit documentation that will be given to potential students informing the student that the class may pause due to 50% of simulation being met.
 5. Require the program director to submit documentation of adequate resources demonstrating scheduled clinical sites by October 30, 2020 for the projected January 2021 part-time class.
 6. Continue 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16.