

Agenda Item 5.D.III.



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE	February 9, 2021
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	Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; and Request to Admit Students
PROGRAM	Institute of Technology, Clovis, Vocational Nursing Program (Program) (Director: Paula Richards, Clovis, Fresno County, and 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:

Remove from provisional approval and return for full-approval.

Admit a full-time class of 30 students commencing March 15, 2021, graduating April 15, 2022, to replace the April 16, 2021, graduating class.

Prior Board Decision:

Reconsideration of provisional approval. The Program was placed on provisional approval for a two-year period starting August 24, 2018, due to NCLEX-PN® pass rates more than 10 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

On August 21, 2020, the Program's provisional approval was extended for six-months and to be placed on the February 19, 2021, Board agenda.

BACKGROUND:

The program implemented the following interventions in February 2017 to improve NCLEX-PN® pass rates.

- Attendance and admission policies were updated to decrease the number of missed hours.
- A new entrance examination was adopted.
- Implemented a critical thinking component to the admission testing and selection criteria
- Implemented a concept-based curriculum and updated textbook
- Initiated a 90-hour anatomy and physiology course
- Implemented ATI throughout the program and 12-week post graduate virtual comprehensive review

The Program's NCLEX-PN® pass rates have continued to show incremental improvement. The NCLEX-PN® pass rates have been above the passing standard for the seven of the past eight quarters.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The NEC reviewed and analyzed the documents provided by the program director to verify adequate resources to meet the program's approved objectives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been displaced from several clinical sites. However, the Program can place students into clinical facilities to complete 50 percent of the clinical hours performing direct-patient care. The program utilizes the skills lab, while theory is conducted on online.

The Program has maintained an average annual pass rate on the NCLEX- PN® above the state annual average pass rate, with an annual NCLEX-PN® pass rate of 89 percent for the fourth quarter of 2020.

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. Grant the Program full approval for a period of four years beginning February 19, 2021, through February 19, 2024, and issue a certificate accordingly.
2. Approve the Program's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students commencing on March 15, 2021, graduating on April 15, 2022, to replace the April 16, 2021, graduating class.
3. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
2. Notify the NEC when a course is 50 percent complete, and submit an update related to clinical sites.
3. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Executive Officer.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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 offers a full-time course of instruction that is 51 weeks in length. Currently, the program must obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. The following table represents current and proposed student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completion dates. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 112 students for the period from March 202 through March 2021.

ENROLLMENT DATA TABLE

Class Start Dates	Class Completion Dates	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Current	Number of Graduates	Total Enrolled
3/20 *(4/21)		30	24		24
7/20 *(8/21)		30	28		24 + 28 = 52
11/20 *(12/21)		30	30		52 + 30 = 82
3/21 *(4/22) proposed		30			82 + 30 = 112

*indicates projected graduation dates

Licensing Examination Statistics

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 January 2019 through December 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
Jan-Mar 2019	1	0	0%	80%	77%	81%	- 4
Apr-Jun 2019	2	1	50%	83%	76%	81%	- 5
Jul-Sep 2019	0	0	0	79%	81%	79%	+ 2
Oct-Dec 2019	25	18	72%	79%	68%	79%	- 11
Jan-Mar 2020	16	14	88%	78%	77%	79%	- 2
Apr-Jun 2020	8	8	100%	81%	82%	79%	+ 3
Jul-Sep 2020	16	14	88%	75%	83%	78%	+ 5
Oct-Dec 2020	13	11	85%	75%	89%	77%	+12

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

Based on the most current data available (October through December 2020), the program’s average annual pass rate is 89 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 77 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is twelve 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 11, including the program director. The director has 80 percent administrative duties and 20 percent teaching duties. All instructors are designated to teach clinical. For a maximum enrollment of 112 students, eight instructors are needed for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that 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.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the program’s approved clinical facilities have displaced students, thereby not allowing student access to all clinical sites. Submitted documentation indicates sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with approved competency-based objectives and theory being taught for the current enrollment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Agenda Item #7.D.III., Attachment A

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CLOVIS VOCTIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On October 10, 2014, the Executive Officer approved the following:
 1. Approve the Institute of Technology, Clovis, request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 30 students on January 5, 2015 only, and graduating January 4, 2016.
 2. Approve the program curriculum for 1575 hours, including 585 theory and 990 clinical hours.
 3. Require the program to obtain prior Board approval before admission of subsequent classes to maintain compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526(c) that states:

“c. A Board representative shall make a survey visit prior to graduation of the initial class. A program shall not commence another class without prior Board approval.”
- On February 10 and 11, 2016, a Board representative conducted a scheduled program inspection. One (1) violation was identified and corrected.
- On February 17, 2016, the Institute of Technology, Clovis, Vocational Nursing Program was granted approval for the four – year period through February 16, 2020 and was approved to admit the second class on March 14, 2016.
- On June 9, 2016, the Institute of Technology, Clovis, Vocational Nursing Program was granted approval to admit one (1) class of 30 students beginning July 11, 2016 and graduating August 18, 2017.
- On March 24, 2017, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant’s report relative to the Institute of Technology Vocational Nursing Program – Request to admit 30 students on March 27, 2017 and consideration of approval of curriculum changes. The following decisions were rendered: **Approved** the Institute of Technology, Clovis, Vocational Nursing Program’s request to admit one (1) class of 30 students, beginning March 27, 2017 and graduating April 27, 2018. **Approved** the submitted curriculum changes. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor programs licensure examination pass rates.
- On July 27, 2017, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant’s report relative to the Institute of Technology

Vocational Nursing Program, Clovis – Request to admit 30 students on July 31, 2017.

The following decisions were rendered: **Approve** to admit a full-time class of 30 students, July 31, 2017 and graduating August 17, 1018. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor programs licensure examination pass rates.

- On May 11, 2018, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant’s report relative to the Institute of Technology Vocational Nursing Program, Clovis – Request to Admit Students. **The Board Recommended that the following decisions be forwarded to the Education Committee for review. The following decisions were rendered:** **Place** program on provisional approval for the period May 18, 2018, to May 31, 2020.
Approve request to admit one class of 30 students beginning August 27, 2018, ending September 2, 2018 to replace the class graduating August 17, 2018. Continue to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor program’s licensure examination pass rates. **Require** the director to submit follow-up reports in 6 months, but no later than February 1, 2019, and 12 months after that. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken with implementation of the revisions to improve pass rates, and evaluation of the effect of the interventions. the following elements must be addressed in the analysis:
 - Admission Criteria
 - Screening and Selection Criteria
 - Terminal Objectives
 - Curriculum Objectives
 - Instructional Plan
 - Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course
 - Lesson Plans for Each Course
 - Textbooks
 - Attendance Policy
 - Remediation Policy
 - Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty
 - Evaluations of Theory Presentations
 - Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations
 - Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - Current Enrollment
- On August 24, 2018, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, (Board) meeting, considered the consultant’s report regarding Request for Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval; Request to Admit Students. The following decisions were rendered: **Place** program on provisional approval for the two-year period starting August 24, 2018. **Approve** the program’s request to admit one class of 30 students beginning August 27, 2018, ending September 2, 2019, to replace the class graduating August 17, 2018. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the

admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor program's licensure examination pass rates. **Require** the director to submit follow-up reports in 6 months, but no later than February 1, 2019, and 12 months after that. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken with implementation of the revisions to improve pass rates, and evaluation of the effect of the interventions. the following elements must be addressed in the analysis:

- Admission Criteria
 - Screening and Selection Criteria
 - Instructional Plan
 - Attendance Policy with summary of current students' attendance
 - Remediation Policy with summary of current students who have completed remediation
 - Evaluation of students' academic status in the current terms.
 - Current Enrollment
- On November 16, 2018, The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians considered the consultant's report regarding -Request to admit students. The following decisions were rendered: **Approve** the Institute of Technology, Clovis, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit one class of 30 students beginning November 26, 2018, ending January 17, 2020, to replace the class graduating August 17, 2018. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor the program's licensure examination pass rates. Require the director to submit follow - up reports in 6 months, but no later than June 1, 2019, and 12 months after that. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken the revisions to improve pass rates, and evaluation of the effect of the interventions. Require the program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the Board, no later than two months prior to the requested start date for the class.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
 - d. 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.
 - 1. On May 17, 2019, The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, at its meeting considered the consultant's report regarding -Request to Admit Students. The following decisions were rendered: **Approve** request to admit a full-time class of 30 students, starting May 20, 2019,

graduating June 26, 2020. **Approve** request to admit a full-time class of 30 students, starting July 15, 2019, and ending August 14, 2020, to replace the class that graduates September 2, 2019. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. **Require** the director to submit follow-up reports first one in 6 months, but no later than December 1, 2019. The reports should include; evaluation and analysis of findings of student academic progress, attendance, remediation and any actions taken as indicated.

2. On February 21, 2020, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, at its meeting, considered the consultant's report regarding - Request to Admit Students. The following decisions were rendered: **Approve** request to admit a full-time class of 30 students, starting March 16, 2020, graduating April 16, 2021. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. **Require** the director to submit follow-up reports, first one in 6 months, but no later than October 1, 2020. The reports should include; evaluation and analysis of findings of student academic progress, attendance, remediation and any actions taken as indicated.
- On May 20, 2020, the full Board approved the following
 1. Grant the director's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students, starting July 13, 2020, ending August 13, 2021, to replace the class that graduates August 17, 2020.
 2. Approve the modified instructional plan for the admission of 30 students starting July 13, 2020, during COVID-19 pandemic
 3. Continue to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class.
 4. Require the director to submit follow-up reports, first one in 6 months, but no later than November 1, 2020. The reports should include; evaluation and analysis of findings of student academic progress, attendance, remediation and any actions taken as indicated.
 - On August 21, 2020, the full Board approved the following
 4. Extend the Program's provisional approval for a six-month period beginning August 21, 2020 and issue a certificate accordingly.
 5. Place the Program on the Board's February 19, 2021 agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
 6. Approve the Program's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students commencing on November 9, 2020, graduating on December 10, 2021 to replace the December 11, 2020, graduating class.

7. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Program director to submit documents demonstrating that the class which began July 13, 2020 has been scheduled for clinical experiences in Board approved clinical sites by September 1, 2020, to meet the term 1 program objectives.
2. Program director to notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
3. Program director to notify the NEC when a course is 50 percent complete, and submit an update related to clinical sites.
4. Obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
5. When requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all required documentation in final form by the fifteenth day of the second month preceding the month of the Board meeting at which the changes will be considered.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Maintain an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
6. Submit a report to the Board no later than November 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The elements below must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Terminal objectives
 - b. Evaluation of current curriculum including:
 - Instructional plan
 - Theory objectives for each term
 - Clinical objectives for each term
 - Lesson plans for each term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - Admission policy
 - Screening and selection policy
 - Attendance policy
 - Remediation policy
 - Evaluation of student achievement
 - Credit granting policy
 - d. Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected students.
 - e. Evaluations of faculty

- f. Methodologies for:
 - Faculty meetings
 - Clinical evaluations
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the Board to revoke the program's approval.