

**Proposed Change of Approval Status from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional
 Valley Grande Institute in Weslaco, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Program from full with warning to conditional based upon the review of the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Rule 214.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Last Change in Approval Status
2010	78.95%	75/95	Pending	
2009	78.64%	81/103	Full with Warning	
2008	74.45%	102/137	Full with Warning	July 2009
2007	59.65%	34/57	Full	
2006	82.93%	34/41	Full	
2005	66.67%	2/3 (not a full class)	Full	
2004	87.50%	14/16 (Boards merged)	Full	

- Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program has been in operation since 1992.
- In a review of NCLEX examination pass rates since 1995, the pass rate was 80% or higher for only 6 of the years.
- Valley Grande was required to complete a Self-Study report because of the 2007 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented included:
 - undertaking a comprehensive review of the curriculum
 - examining grading policies
 - offering tutoring to students
 - revising clinical evaluation tools and clinical grading criteria
 - developing readmission policies
 - developing and implementing a structured faculty evaluation and faculty development plan
 - developing a faculty policy manual
 - implementing better test security
 - revising the Total Program Evaluation Plan and developing a method of continuous evaluation
- Even though the program has been implementing ongoing corrective measures since 2005 to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, NCLEX pass rate has continued below 80%.
- The last survey visit was conducted on March 17-18, 2010 and the program was issued two

recommendations, one related to number of students enrolled. At the time of the survey visit, the projected NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate looked positive. The pass rate for the next exam year looked very promising, the survey visit was very positive, and the program remained on full approval with warning.

- However, even though the pass rate has improved over time, it has not met the 80% requirement.
- The cohorts progressing through the curriculum at the present time:
 - Cohort #1 (29 students) who enrolled April 19, 2010, and will graduate July 1, 2011.
 - Cohort #2 (8 students) who enrolled July 12, 2010, and will graduate September 29, 2011.
 - Cohort #3 (28 students) who enrolled November 29, 2010, and will graduate February 16, 2011.
 - Cohort #4 (30 students) who enrolled March 21, 2011, and will graduate May 30, 2012.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- Administration has made some changes in the organizational structure of the program to facilitate implementation of corrective measures.
- Program has made a number of positive changes including resequencing of courses, developing test plans and test blueprints, and revising Clinical Evaluation Tools, but the effectiveness of these measures cannot be evaluated until cohorts graduate under these new processes.
- During the March 17-18, 2010 survey visit, board staff found indications that the physical facilities, resources, clinical experiences, and instruction were more than adequate for a successful program.

Cons-

- Currently enrolled students may be at risk for passing the NCLEX examination.
- Board staff have received complaints from students and a past faculty member relating to the teaching environment.

BACKGROUND FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Rule 215.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the program the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

(A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional status.

(B) The Board may establish specific criteria to be met in order for the program's conditional approval status to be removed.

Therefore, the purposes of conditional approval status are to allow faculty additional time to correct deficiencies which include improving the performance of graduates on the licensing examination and to protect additional students from the risk of receiving educational preparation that does not meet Board standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the following as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1):

1. Change the approval status of Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from full with warning to conditional.
2. Specify the time for conditional approval status be set at until the program demonstrates a pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the annual NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in Spring 2012 to evaluate the effectiveness of changes and strategies of the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

DRAFT LETTER

May 2, 2011

Leo Galvan, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
345 S. Texas
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Galvan:

At the April 28-29, 2011 meeting, members of the Board of Nurse Examiners discussed the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2010, review of the 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Rule 214. The Board wishes to thank you and for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to:

1. Change the approval status of Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from full with warning to conditional.
2. Specify the time for conditional approval status be set at until the program demonstrates an annual pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the NCLEX-PN® examination.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in Spring 2012 to evaluate the effectiveness of changes and strategies of the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

Rule 215.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the program the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

(A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional status.

(B) The Board may establish specific criteria to be met in order for the program's conditional approval status to be removed.

The purposes of conditional approval status are to allow faculty additional time to correct deficiencies which include improving the performance of graduates on the licensing examination and to protect additional students from the risk of receiving education preparation that does not meet Board standards. **Therefore**, the program must continue to evaluate the changes and strategies implemented over the past few years and initiate new strategies to improve student success. **The program shall not admit students until given permission by the Board.**

Once the program has met all requirements issued by the Board, the program may petition for a change of approval status and permission to admit students prior to the next scheduled Board meeting.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit in Spring 2012. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Mari Aviles, Vice President, Valley Grande Institute
TWC
ABHES