

**Consideration for Change in Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval
Fortis Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the change in approval status for Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program located in Grand Prairie, Texas, from initial to full approval based upon the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, a review of information in the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), previous Board restrictions on enrollment, and compliance with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- Fortis Institute VN Program was approved at the October 2009 Board meeting to begin operating in Grand Prairie, Texas.
- The program has had acceptable NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for 2011 (83.33%) and 2012 (100%).
- Due to significant attrition in the first cohort (sixteen students), only six (6) students graduated and took the NCLEX examination. Five (5) of the six (6) passed the examination as first-time candidates.
- The approval status was not changed in 2012 because of complaints about the program from students. Board Staff conducted a survey visit on March 16, 2012, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214 were identified.
- The Board changed the approval status of the program from initial approval to initial with warning at the April 2012 Board meeting, issued requirements, and prohibited further enrollments until areas of noncompliance were resolved.
- Board Staff conducted a follow-up survey visit jointly with the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) on July 2, 2012. At the July 2012 meeting, the Board issued two requirements related to inadequacy of clinical experiences and incorrect documentation in student records. The program remained on restrictions in enrollment of students.
- In August 2012, the program met the Board-issued requirements.
- The Board reviewed the status of the program at the October 2012 meeting, changed the approval status from initial with warning to initial approval, allowed an enrollment of twenty (20) students per quarter, and authorized a survey visit in Fall 2013.
- In December 2012, Vicki L. Dominguez, MSN, RN, was approved by Board Staff to serve as director of the program.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2012 was 100% (6/6).

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The program has new leadership and has met the Board-issued requirements.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2012 was 100%.

Cons:

- The program has had significant attrition of students and faculty turnover.

Rationale for Recommendation:

- The VN Program at Fortis Institute has undergone administrative and faculty changes, and has taken measure to comply with Rule 214.
- Because of the program's history and the limited number of students completing and testing for the NCLEX examination pass rate for 2012, Board Staff recommend changing the approval status to full approval but continuing to limit the enrollment to twenty (20) students per quarter until an assessment of the program during the survey visit in Fall 2013.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the program approval status of the Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Grand Prairie, Texas, from initial to full approval. Further, move to impose the requirement that is set out in the Attached Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 18, 2013

Vicki L. Dominguez, MSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Fortis Institute
401 E. Palace Parkway, Suite 100
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Dear Ms. Dominguez:

At the April 18-19, 2013 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status of the Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Grand Prairie, Texas. Based upon the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and evidence that the program has taken measures to fulfill Board requirements issued at the July 2012 meeting, it was the decision of the BON to change the approval status from initial to full approval. However, the Board decided to restrict the enrollment of new students to twenty (20) per quarter until an assessment of the program is made during the survey visit authorized by the Board at the October 2012 meeting as indicated in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff by email at janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board

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

Copy: William Bowker, Fortis Campus President
The Texas Workforce Commission
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of:
Fortis Institute
Vocational Nursing Education Program
in Grand Prairie, Texas

ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 18, 2013, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Grand Prairie, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2012, review of the 2012 NEPIS, and reports indicating requirements have been met, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214.

Board members in attendance were: Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP; Nina Almasy, MSN, RN; Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC; Patti Clapp, BA; Tamara Cowen, MN, RN; Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR; Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA; Shelby Ellzey, BBA; Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN; Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN.

After review and due consideration of the written materials filed by Fortis Institute in Grand Prairie, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Fortis Institute Vocational Nursing Program in Grand Prairie, Texas, from INITIAL to FULL APPROVAL, and hereby imposes the following condition/requirement:

1. Fortis College shall limit the enrollment of students to twenty (20) per quarter until an assessment of the program is made by Board Staff during a survey visit in Fall 2013 and the Board approves lifting this admission restriction.

Entered this 18th day of April, 2013

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board