

**Report of Routine Survey Visit
Panola College in Carthage, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the October 22, 2012, routine six year survey visit to Panola College in Carthage, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The previous survey visit was conducted in December, 2004.

Historical Perspective:

- The Panola College (PC) in Carthage, Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program began in 1976. An extension site is located in Center. Both Carthage and Center were included in the visit.
- The VN program is part of the Department of Health Science which also includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN), Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- The Department of Health Science is physically located in the Dr. W.C. Smith Health Science Center building which is across the highway and approximately four blocks from the main campus in Carthage. The building is at capacity since it houses four health science programs.

The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided in the table:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2011	85.45%	47/55	Full
2010	74.14%	43/58	Full
2009	84.62%	55/65	Full
2008	88.52%	54/61	Full
2007	78.69%	48/61	Full

- Dr. Barbara Cordell, Dean of Nursing and Health Science, served as director of the VN program from 2007 until August, 2012.
- Pam Pike, RN, BSN, was appointed Director of the VN program in August, 2012. Both Dr. Cordell and Ms. Pike were involved throughout the survey visit.
- Six (6) full-time and one (1) adjunct faculty teach in the VN program.
- Dr. Cordell does not have a teaching load, but Ms. Pike carries a classroom teaching load of up to thirteen hours (13) per week in addition to her duties as director of the VN program. This semester Ms. Pike is teaching a medical-surgical class in Carthage and a maternity and professional development class in Center.
- The program admits one (1) cohort of forty (40) students in January of each year in Center and one (1) cohort of forty (40) students in June of each year in Carthage. Findings from the survey visit indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214 (See Attachment #1).

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- The Dean of Health Science and VN program director are both experienced educators who are respected by administration, faculty and students.
- In interviews with Board Staff, administration and faculty Dr. Cordell was credited for the high morale and stability in the VN program.
- The dean, director, and faculty reported that the VN program receives strong support from PC administration and the community.
- The program has a cohesive, supportive faculty, and faculty turnover rates are low.
- Students interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program and confidence that the dean, director, and faculty are committed to their success.
- The program serves to meet a need in the community for a vocational nursing education program and receives strong support from clinical affiliates.
- The program has a number of contracts with clinical affiliating agencies which provide a variety of clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings. Preceptors are utilized for observational experiences. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes. The director and all faculty are active in the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE).
- The VN program submitted a Self Study Report to the BON for the 2009-2010 academic year and have implemented the corrective measures as outlined in the study.

Cons:

- The VN program in Carthage is not located on the main campus but students have access to the student support services such as the library and cafeteria on the main campus.
- There are forty (40) computers located in two adjoining rooms at the Center campus. At one time, there were plans to put a window between the two rooms so that one faculty could proctor an exam in both rooms. This was never carried out, so presently a faculty member cannot see both groups of students simultaneously. In order to insure test security, it is suggested that a window is installed between these two rooms.

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

The recommendation will improve computer testing security on the Center campus.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) year survey visit to Panola College in Carthage, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program, and issue the following recommendation.

Recommendation #1: The college administration is encouraged to install a window between the two computer classrooms in Center for observational purposes during testing. (See draft letter in Attachment #2.)

**Summary of Survey Visit
Panola College in Carthage, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey Visit: routine six year survey visit.

Date of Visit: October 22, 2012

Board Staff Conducting Visit: Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, Contracted Program Evaluator

Board Staff met with:

- Barbara Cordell, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, CCAP, Dean of Health Sciences
- Pam Pike,BSN, RN, Director VN Nursing Program
- Dr. Gregory S. Powell, President
- Dr. Joe F. Shannon, Vice President of Instruction
- Micheal S. Edens, Director of Administrative Services
- Shelbea Comer, RN, BSN, Instructor VN Program
- Mickie Cash, Secretary (Carthage)
- Annissa Jackson, BSN, RN, Asst. Director VN Program (Center)
- Jana Watson, BSN, RN, Instructor VN Program (Center)
- Whitney Echart, BSN, RN, Instructor VN Program (Center)
- Dr. Treacy Hagan, RN, Instructor VN Program (Center)
- Sandra Allen, Secretary (Center)
- Twenty-four (24) Vocational Nursing Students (2nd semester) Carthage
- Twenty-nine (29) Vocational Nursing Students (3rd semester) Center

The Program Evaluator:

- reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi,
- reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook,
- reviewed tests and clinical evaluation tools,
- toured the facilities housing the nursing program at both Carthage and Center campus, and
- observed classroom teaching at both Carthage and Center campus.

Summary of Findings:

Barbara Cordell, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, CCAP is the Dean of Health Science and has been the Director of the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program at Panola College (PC) since 2007. In August 2012, Pam Pike, BSN, RN, was appointed Director of the VN Program. She is responsible for both the Carthage and Center campus and reported data for the main campus and the extension site on the 2012 NEPIS report this fall.

The program has strong administrative support for the VN program. PC offers other educational programs in health science at the Dr. W.C. Smith Health Science Center building including Association Degree Nursing (ADN), Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Carthage that is not currently located on the main campus. Relocating the Health Science Department to the main campus is under consideration.

The VN program is also offered at the Shelby College Center in Center, Texas approximately 35 miles from the main campus. The Shelby College Center also houses Cosmetology and Adult and Continuing Education programs.

The dean and director reported that the majority of graduates remain in the community and are able to find employment in local hospitals and clinical agencies.

Program of Study:

- The VN program is a 12-month 42-credit hour program of study, based on sequential learning. There are a total of 1440 clock hours in the program of study: 608 didactic hours (464 class + 144 lab); and, 832 hours for clinical practice.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex, with the first semester laying the foundation for the program. Skills are “front-loaded” in the first semester.
- The program has implemented the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) into the curriculum for spring 2013 semester. A matrix will be maintained and reviewed for updating as needed.
- The curriculum includes IV therapy.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective.

Faculty:

- The VN instruction is carried out by an experienced RN faculty.
- Six (6) full-time and one (1) part time faculty teach in the program.
- Faculty are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation between campuses.
- Faculty reported that morale is high and they receive strong support from one another as well as the program director and dean.
- Faculty stated that they attend the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) annual conference each year.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

A full array of student services is offered on the Panola College campus which is approximately four (4) blocks from the Dr. W.C. Smith Health Science Center building which houses the VN program in Carthage.

There are eighty-three (83) computers in Carthage and forty (40) computers in Center for student use and for computer testing.

- The computers in Center are located in separate rooms located adjacent to each other. This makes it difficult to proctor exams simultaneously in both rooms. A glass window between these two rooms would enhance test security and alleviate the need for two proctors.
- The buildings that house the VN program both in Carthage and Center is spacious, modernly equipped, aesthetically pleasing, and offers a positive learning environment.
- The director has a large private office that is conveniently located to a conference room, program assistant, and faculty offices.
- Full-time faculty are provided with fully-furnished private offices.
- The facilities include faculty and student restrooms as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas with microwave.
- The VN program classroom and nursing skills laboratory are adequate and comfortable with Modern equipment. Several mannequins and simulation models are available for instructional purposes in the skills lab.
- There is an ICU unit at ETMC Carthage that is no longer used for patients, but has a mannequin and equipment available to the students and faculty. Faculty from both the Carthage and Center utilize this simulation lab with their VN students to enhance learning.
- The campus is well-maintained.
- There is one secretary at the Carthage site that is designated 75% OTA and 25% VN program.
- There is one half-time secretary for the VN program in Center.
- The dean and director stated that resources are adequate.

Students:

- Twenty-nine (29) students are currently enrolled in the program in Center and are scheduled to graduate in December 2012.

- Twenty-four (24) students are currently enrolled in the program in Carthage and are in their second semester.
- Students stated that they enrolled in the PC-VN program because of convenience and location.
- Students unanimously agree that the program of study has prepared them well for clinical practice in the work setting.
- Students cited clinical experiences along with the VN program director and faculty as being the highlights of the program.
- Several students reported they plan to seek further education to become registered nurses.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies which provide a variety of appropriate clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty-supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on clinical settings.
- The clinical experiences are scheduled to match related didactic in the classroom.
- The clinical evaluation tools are individually based upon the course content and measure progression of student behaviors across the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.

DRAFT LETTER

January 21, 2013

Pam Pike, BS, RN, Director,
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Panola College
820 West Panola
Carthage, TX 75633

Dear Ms. Pike:

At the January 17-18, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six year survey visit to the Panola College in Carthage, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program, and the extension site in Center, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following recommendation:

Recommendation: The administration is encouraged to install a window between the two computer classrooms in Center for observational purposes during testing.

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which a program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
President of Panola College