

**Summary of a Routine Survey Visit
South Texas College, McAllen, Texas
Professional Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the August 29-30, 2013 routine six (6) - year survey visit to South Texas College (STC) in McAllen, Texas, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program. The previous survey visit was conducted in June 2002.

Historical Perspective:

- South Texas College was established in 1993 as South Texas Community College.
- In 2004, the college name changed to South Texas College.
- The college has campuses in McAllen, Weslaco and Rio Grande City, Texas.
- South Texas College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- The South Texas College Associate Degree Nursing Program began in 1998.
- Jayson Valerio, MSN, RN, has been the program chair since June 2010. He has over twelve (12) years' experience in professional nursing education at South Texas College.
- Twenty-five (25) full-time and six (6) adjunct faculty teach in the ADN program at STC.
- There are three (3) tracks for admission: traditional, paramedic to ADN, and LVN to ADN.
- The program admits two (2) cohorts per year to the traditional and LVN to ADN tracks and one (1) cohort per year to the paramedic to ADN track.
- The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five (5) years are reflected in the table below:

Examination Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2012	92.90 %	144/155	Full
2011	85.87%	158/184	Full
2010	90.10%	173/192	Full
2009	84.24%	155/184	Full
2008	83.13%	138/166	Full

Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1):

- Board Representative identified many strengths in the program.
- Findings from the survey visit indicate the program is in compliance with Board Rule 215.

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- The ADN program director is an experienced educator and is respected by administration, faculty, students, and the community.
- Success of the program is credited to faculty longevity and experience.

- Administration expressed support for the ADN program, stating that the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a continued need for nurses in the communities served.
- The ADN education program receives strong support from clinical affiliates. Feedback from employers indicates graduates are well prepared to practice competently upon graduation.
- Students expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program.
- The program of study incorporates diverse methods for course delivery, including frequent communication with faculty, face-to-face instruction, student-centered learning activities and utilization of simulation learning experiences.
- All clinical learning experiences are faculty supervised, with students providing direct-patient care in hands-on clinical settings. Simulation is utilized to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation.
- A lab coordinator and information technology (IT) support staff assist with learning experiences.
- The program has a number of active contracts with clinical affiliating agencies that provide a wide variety of clinical learning experiences.
- ADN graduates are able to obtain employment in the local hospitals, home care agencies and long term care facilities.
- The college provides funds every year for faculty to attend at least one state or national conference as well as local opportunities for professional development.
- A formal articulation agreement with Texas A & M University was signed in the summer of 2013.

Cons:

- No areas of noncompliance with Rule 215 were noted.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) - year visit to South Texas College in McAllen, Texas, Professional Nursing Education Program (see draft letter in Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
South Texas College, McAllen, Texas
Professional Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey visit: Routine six (6) - year survey visit

Date of Visit: August 29-30, 2013

Contract Program Evaluator Conducting Visit: Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract program evaluator

Contract Program Evaluator met with:

- Juan E. Mejia, Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Anahid Petrosian, Ph.D., Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Melba Trevino, Dean, Nursing & Allied Health
- Jayson Valerio, MSN, RN, Associate Degree Nursing Program Chair
- Approximately 25 faculty
- Approximately 20 students

Contract Program Evaluator:

- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook;
- Reviewed exams and clinical evaluation tools;
- Toured McAllen facilities housing the nursing program;
- Met with twenty (20) students;
- Held initial conference with program chair and administration;
- Met with approximately twenty-five (25) faculty members;
- Observed simulation lab/teaching assignment as well as classroom teaching;
- Reviewed records and documents including: student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan; and,
- Conducted exit interview with program chair and administration

Summary of Findings:

Administration

- Administration indicated the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a need in the local community, crediting the program director for strong leadership and enthusiasm for professional nursing quality education.
- The ADN program is in the Division of Nursing & Allied Health which also includes the following programs: vocational nursing (VN), emergency medical technology (EMT), health information technology (HIT), medical assistant technology (MA), pharmacy technology, patient care assistant (PCA), occupational therapy assistant (OTA), physical therapy assistant (PTA), radiology technology and respiratory therapy.
- The ADN program is also offered at the Mid-Valley extension site in Weslaco, Texas.
- The program chair has been the director of the ADN program for over three (3) years and has been a faculty member since 2001.
- The program chair typically teaches a two (2) hour per week leadership and management course. The program chair indicates the typical workload is adequate time to fulfill the director responsibilities.
- The program chair commended the faculty for their experience, dedication and hard work.
- Clear channels of communication between the program chair and administration were evident.
- The program chair and faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.

Program of Study:

- The ADN program traditional track is twenty-four (24) months with seventy-two (72) credit hours of study, the LVN to ADN track is eighteen (18) months with fifty-two (52) credit hours of study, and the paramedic to ADN track is twenty (20) months with fifty-eight (58) credit hours of study. All are based on sequential learning.
- The program is well organized and includes all Board required content.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* have been fully incorporated into the curriculum.
- The teaching model is based upon face-to-face and hybrid modalities. There are no online courses.
- The organization of the curriculum is designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting.
- Standardized testing is used throughout the program for admission, progression, remediation, and graduation purposes.
- Admission policies have sufficient rigor to ensure that qualified applicants are admitted to the program. Admission criteria include a weighted point system in college level prerequisite courses.
- Evaluation methods and tools to measure progression are according to Board Rule 215.9

Faculty:

- Twenty-five (25) full-time faculty and six (6) adjunct faculty teach in the ADN program.
- Faculty members possess many years' teaching experience as well as diversity in content expertise and clinical backgrounds.
- Faculty reported they receive strong support from one another, the program chair, the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Faculty members are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty express satisfaction with having a skills lab coordinator and IT support which allows adequate time for preparation.
- Faculty has regular meetings with minutes maintained. Decision making is collaborative.

Students:

- The program admits two (2) cohorts of students per year to the traditional and LVN to ADN tracks and one (1) cohort per year to the paramedic to ADN track. The number admitted varies based on the number of qualified applicants.
- At the time of the survey visit, three hundred sixty-three (363) students were in the program. In August 2013, one hundred two (102) were admitted to the traditional track and eleven (11) were admitted to the paramedic to ADN track. Forty-two (42) were admitted in the summer semester to the LVN to ADN track.
- Students agreed the program of study is preparing them well for clinical practice and they cited hands-on learning experiences as being the most rewarding part of the program.
- Student policies are well-defined, written, and available to students.
- Student representatives and faculty/course evaluations are utilized for input into the development of policies.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies that provide rich clinical opportunities for the curriculum.
- A designated coordinator has the responsibility for procuring and maintaining clinical agreements and sites.
- Skills lab and simulation lab activities are also utilized. The simulation lab has both mid- and high-fidelity mannequins.
- Clinical learning experiences are faculty supervised.
- Preceptors are also utilized in the program.
- Clinical learning experiences are scheduled to correlate with didactic content.
- Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined.

- Formative and summative evaluations are evident.
- Board faculty-to-student ratios are maintained.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- A full array of student services is offered at both sites.
- A large library and ample computer resources are available.
- There is adequate, open parking available adjacent to the program building.
- The facilities housing the ADN program are conducive to learning, spacious, equipped with numerous classrooms and well equipped skills and simulation labs.
- Media equipment is available in every classroom.
- The program chair and full-time faculty are provided with fully furnished private offices.
- The program has full-time clerical and secretarial support.
- The program chair and faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.
- The facilities include restrooms, faculty and student lounges and lockers, and break areas.
- There are adequate mannequins and simulation models for the number of students.

Records and Reports:

- Faculty files provide evidence of faculty qualifications, responsibilities, and faculty evaluations.
- The program has a Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan that is used for decision making.
- Meeting minutes indicate when decisions are made and are prepared in a legible format.
- Student files contain all documents required by Rule 215.
- Clinical affiliation agreements are up to date.
- Storage of files meets the requirement of Rule 215.

DRAFT LETTER

January 24, 2014

Jayson Valerio, MSN, RN, Program Chair
Professional Nursing Education Program
South Texas College
P. O. Box 9701
McAllen, TX 78501-9701

Dear Mr. Valerio,

At the January 23-24, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six (6) - year survey visit to the South Texas College in McAllen, Texas, Professional Nursing Education Program. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

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

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Dean, Nursing & Allied Health