

**Report of a Survey Visit  
Lamar State College, Orange in Orange, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request**

Consider the report of the October 8, 2013, routine six (6) - year survey visit to Lamar State College, Orange in Orange, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program.

**Historical Perspective:**

- Lamar State College - Orange (LSC-O) is accredited by the Southern Association on Colleges and Schools (SACs). The most recent reaffirmation was in 2005, with the next reaffirmation in 2015.
- The LSC-O Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program began in 1975. The last routine survey visit was conducted in November 2003.
- In addition to the VN program the following allied health programs are offered at LSC-O: physical therapist assistant; radiologic technology; dental hygiene; information management; therapeutic manufacturing; veterinarian technology; emergency medical services; fire science; and, associate degree nursing (ADN).
- The Allied Health Programs at LSC-O in Orange moved into a new building in October 2013.
- The LSC-O VN NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided in the following table:

<b>Exam Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>
2012	88.89%	120/135	Full
2011	79.39%	104/131	Full
2010	81.89%	114/127	Full
2009	85.31%	122/143	Full
2008	86.54%	90/104	Full

**Survey Visit Findings:**

**Pros:**

- The program receives strong support from college administration and the community.
- The program director has over twelve (12) years' experience in the role of director.
- The faculty are dedicated to the success of the students.
- The curriculum is developed according to BON rules and *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* objectives.
- The program meets 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.
- The program relocated to a brand new facility in September 2013. This facility provides state of the art classroom and laboratory spaces for allied health students.

**Con:**

- Clinical evaluation tools lack formative and summative evaluations.

**Rationale for Staff Requirement:**

The following recommendation is made for the program to be in compliance with Rule 214.10(f) ensuring that students receive a formative and summative evaluation for each clinical in the curriculum.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) - year survey visit to Lamar State College - Orange Vocational Nursing Education Program in Orange, Texas, and issue one (1) requirement.

Requirement #1:

The program director and faculty shall revise the clinical evaluation tools to include a formative and summative evaluation for each clinical course in the curriculum. The program director shall submit a copy of each clinical evaluation tool to Board staff no later than March 15, 2014. (See Attachment #2.)

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Lamar State College in Orange, Texas  
Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program**

**Purpose of Survey Visit:** routine six (6) - year survey visit.

**Date of Visit:** October 8, 2013

**Nursing Education Consultant Conducting Visit:** Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN

**Program Evaluator met with:**

- Lorrie LeBlanc, RN, BSN
- Dr. J. Michael Shahan, President
- Joseph M. Kirkland, Ph.D., Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Gina A. Simar, RN, BSN, MEd, Director of Allied Health
- Jessica Moore, LVN, VN Program Faculty
- Jo Andrews, RN, VN Program Faculty
- Terri Procella, RN, VN Program Faculty
- Sherri Foreman, RN, BSN, VN Program Faculty
- Suzanne Baker, RN, VN Program Faculty
- Angie Cole, RN, BSN, VN Program Faculty
- Eight (8) Vocational Nursing Students

**Activities Carried Out by Program Evaluator During Survey Visit:**

- conducted initial meeting with director and administration
- interviewed faculty
- interviewed students
- observed classroom teaching
- toured the facilities housing the nursing program
- reviewed records and documents (student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, examinations, and other program documents)
- conducted exit meeting with director and administration

Findings Related to Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes:

- The program philosophy/mission is congruent with that of the governing entity, reflecting the community it serves.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies, 2010* (DECs) are reflected in the program objectives/outcomes.
- Clinical objectives are stated in behavioral terms, reflect progression from one level to the next, and are utilized to evaluate student progression.

Findings Related to Administration and Organization:

- The program is administered by Lorrie LeBlanc, BSN, RN, who served as faculty in the VN program prior to her appointment in 2001 as program director. Ms. LeBlanc's nursing experience includes experience in the roles of licensed vocational nurse (LVN) and registered nurse (RN).
- Lamar State College - Orange administration expressed its support for the VN program and stated that the nursing program adds value to the college and fulfills a need in local communities.
- The director voiced appreciation for the strong support received from college administration
- Ms. LeBlanc expressed appreciation for the support and mentoring she receives from the Director of Allied Health and the Lamar State College LVN-RN Director.
- The director reports she carries a half-time teaching assignment in addition to her administrative duties and responsibilities in the VN program and that this is a manageable workload.

#### Findings Related to Faculty:

- Seven (7) full-time and seven (7) part-time faculty provide the VN instruction.
- Faculty members meet BON requirements and offer a rich diversity in their experiential backgrounds.
- Faculty reported they receive strong support from one another as well as the program director.
- Faculty discussed their teaching assignments and responsibilities. Faculty expressed excitement about teaching the students.
- Faculty stated that funding and release time are available for professional development opportunities. In past years, faculty have attended the annual Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) conference.
- Regular faculty meetings are held and decision-making is collaborative.
- Part-time faculty actively participate in faculty meetings and contribute to program assessment and evaluation.
- Review of faculty meeting minutes reveal documentation regarding faculty actions and rationale was evident.
- Written faculty policies are in place, and files provide evidence that policies related to faculty qualifications and faculty evaluations are met.
- Faculty described their process for selecting and evaluating clinical learning sites/facilities.

#### Findings Related to Students:

- Four (4) student cohorts are admitted annually: Each January, one (1) day and one (1) evening cohort are admitted; each August, two (2) day cohorts are admitted. According to the director, there are always two (2) levels of students in the program at any one time. The program has the capacity and resources to admit eighty (80) students in each cohort.
- Current enrollment includes sixty-five (65) Level III students and seventy-seven (77) Level II students.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of location and program reputation.
- Students articulated appreciation for the opportunity to attend a VN program in their local community as well as the employment opportunities available to new graduates in local hospitals and other health care settings.
- Students cited clinical experiences and the skills/simulation labs as being the highlight of the program.
- Students agreed that the program of study and methods of instruction are effective.
- Student policies are written, available to students, and enforced by faculty.
- Students receive required information both in written and oral formats. Students report receiving declaratory order information.
- Students emphasized that all faculty are caring and committed to their success.
- The majority of students interviewed shared the intent to continue their education to become registered nurses. The program provides the foundation for seamless transition to the LVN-RN Upward Mobility program at Lamar State College – Orange.
- The director reports that graduates have no difficulty finding employment and often have employment offers prior to graduation.
- Students report that the student council provides a mechanism for them to offer input to faculty regarding program policies through the student council.

#### Findings Related to Program of Study:

- The VN program is twelve (12) months in length and designed to be completed in three (3) semesters.
- There are a total of 1448 contact hours in the program of study: 438 didactic hours; 20 computer lab hours; 176 skills lab hours; 48 simulation lab hours; and, 766 patient care clinical hours.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon sequential learning, with the first semester laying the foundation for the program.
- The program of study includes all required content and the curriculum is sound and logically organized. The program of study is designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS) (2010)* have been fully incorporated into the

- curriculum.
- All didactic instruction is accomplished via face-to-face classes.
- The director has planned for further simulation training for herself and the faculty. The future goal is provide VN students with opportunities to participate in simulated experiences with the other allied health programs, and develop the skills needed for interdisciplinary teamwork.
- Standardized testing is used for admission, progression, and remediation purposes.

#### Findings Related to Clinical Learning Experiences:

- All clinical experiences are faculty supervised. The program of instruction does not include precepted clinical experiences.
- The program's active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies provide exemplary opportunities for student clinical learning experiences.
- Clinical experiences are scheduled to match related didactic content in the classroom.
- The clinical evaluation tool demonstrates progression from one level to the next. Formative and summative evaluations are not included on the clinical evaluation tool.
- The Simulation Center is staffed with a full-time simulation director and staff.
- The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical and for remediation purposes.

#### Findings Related to Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- A full complement of student services is offered on the LSC-O campus. The physical library has adequate operational hours and provides resources for student use. Students have access to online holdings from campus or home.
- In September 2013, the program relocated to a newly built, 32,000 square foot allied health building. In addition to administrative offices, the building houses state of the art general purpose classrooms, two (2) skills labs, and a suite of simulation rooms, all equipped with the latest technology. The general purpose classrooms include an eighty (80) seat lecture hall.
- The director has a spacious private office that is conveniently located to the program assistant.
- Faculty are provided with individual, fully equipped offices in close proximity to the newly built building.
- Numerous restrooms are located throughout the facility as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas.
- The VN program shares one (1) full-time administrative assistant with the LVN-RN Upward Mobility program.
- Student and program files are maintained locked file cabinets, located in a secure area.

#### Findings Related to Records and Reports:

- The program Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan includes all essential elements and minutes indicate when decisions are made.
- Student and faculty files reviewed contained all documents required by Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

January 24, 2014

Lorrie Le Blanc, BSN, RN  
Director, Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Lamar State College - Orange  
410 West Front Street  
Orange, Texas 77807

Dear Ms. LeBlanc:

At the January 23-24, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the October 8, 2013 routine six (6) - year survey visit to the Lamar State College - Orange Vocational Nursing Education Program in Orange, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following requirement:

Requirement #1:

The program director and faculty shall revise the clinical evaluation tools to include a formative and summative evaluation for each clinical course in the curriculum. The program director shall submit a copy of each clinical evaluation tool to Board staff no later than March 15, 2014.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon program assessment directly related to the rule that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN  
President

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy:

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Dr. J. Michael Shahan, President, Lamar State College - Orange  
Gina A. Simar, RN, BSN, MEd, Director of Allied Health