

**Summary of a Routine Survey Visit
 Vernon College, Wichita Falls, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the June 12, 2014, routine survey visit to Vernon College in Wichita Falls, Texas, Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program. The previous survey visit was conducted in July 1999.

Historical Perspective:

- Vernon College was established in 1970 as Vernon Regional Junior College.
- Campus construction began in May 1971 and included an Academic Science Center, Administration-Fine Arts Center, Applied Arts Center, Library, and Student Center.
- The following year, on September 5, 1972, classes met for the first time on the Vernon campus with a total of 608 students.
- The scope of the VN Program was enlarged during the 1976-77 academic year with the assumption of the Bethania School of Vocational Nursing in Wichita Falls.
- The college has campuses in Wichita Falls, Vernon, and Seymour, Texas providing education to area residents.
- Vernon College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC). The next reaffirmation is scheduled for 2019.
- Lynn Kalski, RN, M.Ed., was appointed Program Director for the VN program in 1999 and has been with the college over twenty-six (26) years.
- 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
2013	86.60%	84/97	Full
2012	88.19%	112/127	Full
2011	80.73%	88/109	Full
2010	94.85%	92/97	Full
2009	88.70%	102/115	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 214.

Pros:

- The VN Program Director is an experienced educator having taught in the VN program from 1988 until his appointment as Director. He is well respected by administration, faculty, students, and the community.
- The Director is dedicated to administration of the VN program and does not have teaching responsibilities.
- Administration expressed full support for the VN program and it fulfills a continued need for nurses in the communities served.
- The VN education program receives strong support from clinical affiliates based on feedback that indicates graduates are prepared to practice upon graduation.
- Students interviewed expressed satisfaction with the program.
- The program of study incorporates creative methods for course delivery, including frequent communication with faculty, face-to-face instruction, student centered learning activities and utilization of simulation.

- All clinical learning experiences are faculty supervised with hands on direct-patient care in clinical settings. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation.
- The program has a variety of active contracts with clinical affiliating agencies that provide a wide array of clinical learning experiences.
- VN graduates are able to obtain employment in the local and surrounding areas including hospitals, clinics and long term care agencies.
- The college provides funds every year for faculty to attend the annual conference of the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) and other conferences related to education.

Cons:

- One classroom was limited on space for faculty to utilize when delivering didactic course content and the projector screen was not totally visible to all students.

Rationale for staff recommendation

Rule 214.11(d) (5) related to Facilities, Resources, and Services: "Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used."

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of the routine survey visit to Vernon College in Wichita Falls, Texas and issue one (1) recommendation (see draft letter in Attachment #2).

Recommendation:

Administration is encouraged to improve instructor space in the classroom and move the projector screen to enable viewing by all students attending class.

**Summary of Survey Visit
Vernon College, Wichita Falls, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey visit: Routine survey visit

Date of Visit: June 12, 2014

Board Representative Conducting Visit: Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator

Program Evaluator met with:

- Dusty Johnston, Ed.D., President, Vernon College
- Garry David, CPA, Dean of Administrative Services
- Gary Don Harkey, Ph.D., Dean of Instructional Services
- Lynn Kalski, M.Ed., RN, VN Program Director
- Rilda Novak, RN, Faculty
- Mary Jane Batchelor, BSN, RN, Faculty
- Latricia Fitzwater, RN, Faculty
- Zela Haney, RN, Faculty
- Thomas Hickey, BSN, RN, Faculty
- Kathy Nault, RN, Faculty
- Della Porter, RN, Faculty
- Pam Rotz, RN, Faculty
- Michael Scott, RN, Faculty
- Cassie Shaw, BSN, RN, Faculty
- Kimberly Ann Perkins, RN, Faculty
- Six (6) VN students

Program Evaluator:

- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook;
- Reviewed exams, assignments, and clinical evaluation tools;
- Reviewed clinical affiliation agreements;
- Interviewed six (6) students;
- Toured Wichita Falls facilities housing the nursing program;
- Held initial conference with director and administration;
- Met with faculty members;
- Reviewed records and documents including: student and faculty files, minutes of faculty meetings, and the Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan;
- Conducted exit interview with director and administration.

Summary of Findings:

Administration

- Administration indicated the nursing program fulfills a need in the local and surrounding community and has comparable status to other education units in the college.
- The VN program is included in the Instructional Organizational Chart as part of the Career & Technical Education Programs with External Accreditation along with Associate Degree Nursing, Cosmetology, Emergency Medical Services, Health Information Management, Pharmacy Technician and Surgical Technology.
- The VN program is also offered at extension sites in Vernon and Seymour, Texas.
- Lynn Kalski, M.Ed., RN, has been the Director of the Program over fifteen (15) years and taught in the VN program prior to his appointment as director.
- Mr. Kalski does not carry a teaching load and is dedicated to his program director duties.

- Clear channels of communication between the director and administration were evident.

Program of Study:

- The full-time, twelve (12) month program of study is designed to be completed in four (3) semesters. The part-time evening eighteen (18) program is designed to be completed in five (5) semesters
- The program is comprised of a total of 1512 clock hours: 560 didactic hours and 952 clinical hours.
- The program of study is well organized and includes all Board required content.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex and designed to ensure students are competent in skills prior to entering the clinical setting and to facilitate educational mobility.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS)* (2010) have been fully incorporated into the curriculum.
- Standardized testing is used throughout the program for admission, progression, and graduation purposes.

Faculty:

- Eleven (11) full-time and four (4) adjunct faculty teach in the VN program.
- Faculty members possess strong experience teaching as well as diversity in content expertise and clinical backgrounds.
- Faculty reported they are a cohesive group and receive solid support from one another and the program director.
- VN faculty workload is forty-two (42) load hours per year. For clinical, nine (9) load hours are equivalent to eighteen hours (18) of actual clinical time which faculty indicates varies from the ADN faculty with clinical load hours counting hour for hour.
- Faculty members are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty has regular meetings. Decision making is collaborative.
- An adequate faculty development plan is in place and utilized including attendance at the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) annual conference.
- The majority of faculty members were available for interview.
- Faculty policies are in place per BON requirement.

Students:

- The program admits four (4) cohorts per year into the day program, two (2) on the Wichita Falls campus in January and August, and one (1) cohort on the Vernon and Seymour campus every August. The number admitted varies based on the number of qualified applicants.
- The program admits two (2) cohorts every eighteen (18) months to the evening program.
- At the time of the survey visit, one hundred fifty-one (151) students were in the program.
- Students reported they enrolled in the VN program because of the desire to become a nurse, location, and availability of enrollment slots.
- 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.
- Students verbalized the challenge of time management between home responsibilities and school. They cited faculty is available to assist with student success.
- Student policies are well-defined, written, and available to students.
- Student representatives are utilized for input into the development of policies.
- Six (6) students were available for interview.
- The majority of students expressed the desire to further their education to become an RN.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies that provide rich clinical opportunities for the curriculum.
- Skills lab and simulation lab activities are also utilized.
- Intravenous therapy is taught as part of the clinical learning experiences.
- Faculty provides supervision during all clinical learning experiences and maintains BON required ratios.
- Clinical learning experiences are scheduled to correlate with didactic content.
- Criteria for selecting clinical agencies are well-defined.
- The clinical evaluation tools are based upon course content, the DECs and are used for formative and summative evaluations throughout the program. Student expectations are detailed and clear.
- Students are well received and have a good reputation among clinical affiliates.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- A full array of student services is offered at all sites.
- Several computer labs are available in the nursing building and students have twenty-four hour access to online resources.
- There is ample, open parking available adjacent to the program building.
- The VN program building is conducive to learning, spacious, equipped with numerous classrooms and well equipped skills and simulation labs.
- The program director and full-time faculty are provided with fully furnished private offices.
- The program has full-time clerical and secretarial support.
- The program director and faculty agreed that resources are adequate to meet all teaching needs.
- The facilities include restrooms, faculty and student lounges, lockers, break areas, study areas and a snack bar.
- One VN program classroom was limited on space for faculty to utilize when delivering didactic course content and the projector screen was not fully visible to all 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 consistently reflect implementation of the TPE.
- Student files contain all documents required by Rule 214.
- Clinical affiliation agreements are up to date.
- Storage of files meets the requirement of Rule 214.

DRAFT LETTER

October 24, 2014

Lynn Kalski, M.Ed., RN, Program Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Vernon College
4105 Maplewood Avenue
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Dear Mr. Kalski,

At the October 23, 2014 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the report of the routine survey visit to the Vernon College in Wichita Falls, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue one (1) recommendation:

Recommendation:

Administration is encouraged to improve instructor space in the classroom and move the projector screen to enable viewing by all students attending class.

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) 305-7660.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Gary Don Harkey, PhD. Dean of Instructional Services