

**Report of Survey Visit
Career Point College in Austin, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of an unannounced survey visit to Career Point College (CPC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Austin, Texas on July 9, 2015. Conducted by Nursing Consultants for Education (EC) Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN and Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, the unannounced survey visit to the CPC VN Program at the Austin extension campus was prompted by written student complaints.

Historical Perspective:

- The CPC VN Program received initial approval in April 2008.
- CPC is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- The main CPC VN Program campus is located in San Antonio, Texas. Board Staff approved the Austin, Texas CPC extension campus location in August 2014.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the CPC VN Program for the past five (5) years are presented in the table below:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2014	Full	93.67%	207/221
2013	Full	94.67%	142/150
2012	Full	92.61%	163/176
2011	Full	86.41%	89/103
2010	Full	90.48%	57/63

- The CPC NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates in the table reflect only graduates from the San Antonio campus as no students from the Austin extension site graduated from the program in the 2013-2014 reporting time frame.
- In the past three (3) years, the CPC VN Program has had six (6) program directors. The current director, James L. Patterson, BSN, RN, was approved by Board Staff on September 11, 2015.
- The CPC extension site in Austin has had three (3) coordinators since it opened in July 2014. At the time of the visit, no coordinator was in place.
- An unannounced visit made on July 9, 2015 was prompted by student complaints received by Board Staff over a four (4) month time frame. Written complaints reported frequent turnover in personnel, including faculty and site coordinator and a lack of available classroom space.
- The CPC Austin extension site request reported plans to admit eleven (11) student cohorts annually. Both morning and weekend/night student tracks are offered as program options.
- A February 9, 2015 cohort enrolled five (5) students. A second cohort began April 8, 2015.

- Neither the VN Program Director nor an extension site coordinator was present during the site visit. The CPC school director, Christine Urdialez, provided the EC's with a map of the campus classrooms to locate a class in session.
- Enrollment at the CPC Austin extension campus at the time of the visit is noted below:

Site	Start Dates	Students accepted	Students completed	Total Site Enrollment
Austin	7/14/2014	14	No completers to date	28
	11/17/2014	9		
	2/9/15	5		

Survey Visit Findings:

- Board Staff found the extension site to be in non-compliance with Rule 214.12 *Faculty* (See Attachment #1).

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The facility is large and spacious with parking convenient for students and visitors.

Cons:

- The CPC VN Program has experienced frequent turnover in program leadership with six (6) directors approved by Board Staff in the past three (3) years and two (2) extension site coordinators in the past eight (8) months. At the time of the unannounced visit, no extension site coordinator was in place.
- The faculty member teaching the Medical-Surgical II class observed by Board Staff does not meet Board qualifications for teaching a didactic class in a VN education program.
- Evidence of the program director's authority to direct the VN education program in all its phases is unclear.

Staff Rationale:

Board Staff has provided rationale for the requirement in the attached letter.

Staff Rationale for Requirement #1:

Rule 214.7(c)(2)(A) states: "Each nurse faculty member shall: Have been actively employed in nursing for the past three (3) years or have advanced preparation in nursing, nursing education, and/or nursing administration;..."

The job application form for the individual observed teaching the Medical-Surgical II class does not indicate employment as an LVN within the past three (3) years. The individual's advanced academic preparation is not in nursing.

Therefore, the CPC VN Education Program Director shall ensure that each faculty member meets faculty qualifications as stipulated in Rule 214.7(c). The CPC VN Education Program Director shall submit to Board Staff a comprehensive list of faculty members, to include: name, license number, and area/s of teaching responsibility, on a monthly basis beginning November 1, 2015 and ending June 1, 2016.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of the survey visit to CPC VN Education Program in Austin, Texas and impose requirements/conditions as noted in the attached letter (See Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
Career Point College in Austin, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Visit: Focused visit related to written student complaints specific to classroom instruction

Date of Survey Visit: July 9, 2015

Board Staff Conducting Survey Visit: Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN, and Virginia Ayars, Ed.D, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultants for Education

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit.

§214.7 (c) Faculty Qualifications and Responsibilities:

Standard/Criteria	Evidence	Comments
(1) Documentation of faculty qualifications shall be included in the official files of the program. (2) Each nurse faculty member shall: (A) Hold a current license or privilege to practice nursing in the State of Texas; (B) Have been actively employed in nursing for the past three (3) years or have advanced preparation in nursing, nursing education, and/or nursing administration; (C) Have had three (3) years varied nursing experiences since graduation; and, (D) Show evidence of teaching abilities and maintaining current knowledge, clinical expertise, and safety in the subject areas of teaching responsibility.	Transcripts of individual teaching VN class document Doctor of Chiropractic and Bachelor of Science degree conferred on 6/7/11. Employment application lists graduation from vocational nursing education program – no date specified. Licensure confirmation indicates current licensure as Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Employment application does not list any LVN work experience in the past eight (8) years.	Licensure as LVN is clear and current; not actively employed as LVN within past three (3) years; documentation of recent clinical expertise as LVN not evident

Education Guideline 3.5.3.a. Utilization of Licensed Vocational Nurses as Faculty in Vocational Nursing Education Programs:

Standard/Criteria	Evidence	Comment
<p>1. Licensed vocational nurses work under the supervision of a registered nurse.</p> <p>2. Didactic courses taught by licensed vocational nurses are generally limited to Fundamentals and Vocational Nursing Skills.</p> <p>3. Licensed vocational nurses teaching didactic courses other than Fundamentals and Vocational Nursing Skills must have the documented academic credentials to do so.</p>	<p>The program director at the time of the survey visit reports she did not hire nor assign the faculty member to teach the Medical-Surgical II class.</p>	<p>The class being taught was not a Nursing Skills or Fundamentals course. No evidence that the individual teaching the course has advanced academic preparation in nursing</p>

DRAFT LETTER

October 26, 2015

James L. Patterson, BSN, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing
Career Point College
4522 Fredericksburg Rd, Suite A-18
San Antonio, TX 78201

Dear Mr. Patterson:

At the October 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) reviewed the report of the July 9, 2015 focused survey visit conducted by Board Staff to the Career Point College Vocational Nursing Education Program extension site in Austin, Texas. Based upon the review of the documents, it was the decision of the Board to accept the survey visit report and impose the following requirements/conditions:

Requirement:

The program director shall ensure that each faculty member meet faculty qualifications as stipulated in Rule 214.7(c). The Career Point College Vocational Nursing Education Program Director shall submit to Board Staff a comprehensive list of faculty members, to include: name, license number, area/s of teaching responsibility, and date of hire on a monthly basis beginning November 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing

Copy: Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
ACICS