

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON
 2008 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE AND REVIEW OF THE
 2008 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY (NEPIS) AND THE
 2008 COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP)
 VALLEY GRANDE INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT WESLACO, TEXAS**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Weslaco, Texas, based upon the review of the 2008 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2008 NEPIS and the 2008 CANEP.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2008	Pending	74.45%	102/137
2007	Full	59.65%	34/57
2006	Full	82.93%	34/41
2005	Full	66.67%	2/3 not a full class
2004	Full (10/22/04)	88.00%	14/16
2003	Conditional	68.75%	22/32

- Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program has been in operation since Spring 1993.
- Valley Grande was required to complete a Self-Study report because of the 2007 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report (received in board office on September 10, 2008) evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and included a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- Even though the program has been implementing ongoing corrective measures since 2007 to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, the 2008 NCLEX was 74.45%. The program has hired a nursing education consultant who is presently working with the program.
- The last survey visit to Valley Grande was conducted in July 2004.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- The administration at Valley Grande has been in communication with board staff and supports measures to improve the program's performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination.
- An experienced nursing educator is serving as consultant to the program.

Cons-

- A new program director was appointed in April 2009.
- The program has admitted a larger number of students during the past year as indicated by the number taking the NCLEX-PN® examination.
- Even though the program has implemented several positive corrective measures, the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate has continued to fall below 80%.
- The program has been developed for a 15-month completion schedule which may contribute to the shifts in the pass rate from year to year.
- The program presently has over 200 students enrolled.

BACKGROUND FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(C) related to Approval sets forth the parameters of changing the approval status from full to full with warning as follows:

(C)A warning shall be issued to the program when the pass rate of first-time candidates ... is less than 80% for two consecutive examination years.

When a program is placed on full with warning program approval status, the program is given a list of the deficiencies and a specified time in which to correct deficiencies. Board staff usually conduct a survey visit to a program after the program is placed on full with warning program approval status in order to identify areas of concern and provide assistance to the program by suggesting corrective measures for the program to improve the performance of the graduates on the NCLEX examination.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the following as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1):

1. Change the program approval status of Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program from full approval to full approval with warning.
2. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit to identify areas of concern and suggest strategies to the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

DRAFT LETTER

July 27, 2009

Ruben Pena, BSN, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Educational Program
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
345 S. Texas
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Pena:

At the July, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) discussed the approval status of Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Weslaco, Texas, based on the 2008 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and reviews of the 2008 NEPIS and CANEP. The Board wishes to thank you and for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to:

1. Change the approval status of Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Weslaco, Texas from full approval to full approval with warning.
2. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit to identify areas of concern and recommend strategies for the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(A) sets forth the parameters of the change in approval status as follows:

(C)A warning shall be issued to the program when the pass rate of first-time candidates...is less than 80% for two consecutive examination years.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit during the next academic year. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Maria Aviles, Vice President, Valley Grande Institute
TWC