

**REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT
 VALLEY GRANDE INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES IN WESLACO, TEXAS
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the report of the survey visit to Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies in Weslaco, Texas, related to NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates and approval status of full with warning.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Exam Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
Most recent cohort - 77 Graduates 11/09	Full with Warning	84.00% = current 81.82%	63/75 assuming 63/77
2009	Full with Warning	78.64%	81/103
2008	Full with Warning	74.45%	102/137
2007	Full	59.65%	34/57
2006	Full	82.93%	34/41

- Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Educational Program has been in operation since Spring 1993.
- Valley Grande submitted a self-study report on September 10, 2008 which evaluated factors which had contributed to graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and described corrective measures to be implemented.
- The program has utilized a nursing consultant to assist them in program and curriculum revisions.
- In July 2009 the Board changed the program approval from full to full with warning and authorized a survey visit.
- A survey visit was conducted March 17-18, 2010 by Janice I. Hooper and Virginia Ayars. A summary of the survey visit is attached (Attachment #1).

SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:

- The program has made significant changes to the curriculum, teaching strategies, and faculty organization.
- The new curriculum is based upon the BON Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC).
- The faculty discussed their involvement in the curriculum revisions and their commitment to the success of the students.
- The administration, director and faculty indicated their dedication to the program and the students.
- The physical resources for the program provide a good teaching environment and a professional atmosphere.
- Students who graduated in the November 2009 cohort, the first class to graduate under the revised curriculum, have achieved a 84% pass rate (63/75). Even if the other two students test and fail, the pass rate for this cohort will be 81.81%.
- The program is seeking to determine the optimal number of students for each admission period.
- The clinical learning experiences provide a wide range of clinical practice in the acute care setting as well as long term care.

Pros:

- The program sought the expertise of a nursing education consultant to guide their curriculum revision and program organization.
- The faculty have worked together to revise the curriculum and define the objectives and outcomes on the DELC.
- The commitment of the administration, faculty and director is evident and was demonstrated through interviews and observation.
- The program provides an excellent array of clinical learning experiences for the students.
- Interviews and review of documents indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214 in all aspects.

Cons:

- Past graduates from the program who have not taken the NCLEX-PN® examination for the first time will affect the pass rate in the future.

CONCLUSION:

Valley Grande Institute has met all Board recommendations and requirements, and has implemented numerous program and curriculum changes. Based upon the survey visit and the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the November 2009 cohort, board staff recommend that the program remain on full approval with warning for another year until a further evaluation of the effectiveness of the new curriculum can be made.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move to accept the survey visit report, continue the full approval status with warning, and issue the commendation and recommendations in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT
VALLEY GRANDE INSTITUTE VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
MARCH 17-18, 2010**

NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Leo Galvan, RN

REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT: Board authorized visit related to approval status of full with warning.

SURVEY VISITORS: Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN and Virginia Ayars, MS, RN

DATE OF LAST SURVEY VISIT: 2004

NAME OF ACCREDITING AGENCY:

ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY VISIT:

- Meetings with:
 - Director of Program
 - Administration of Valley Grande Institute
 - Nursing faculty (11)
 - Nursing students
- Visited clinical area where students and faculty were engaged in clinical learning experiences in pediatrics and a step-down unit
- Review of records and documents

Prior to the survey visit, board staff reviewed the entire curriculum, clinical evaluation tools, and total program evaluation plan.

SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION:

- The faculty have been involved in restructuring the faculty organization and function through the committee structure.
- The faculty and director expressed their satisfaction with the open communication that has been established among the administration, director, and faculty.
- The administration is very supportive and committed to the program.
- The director plans to enroll in a Master's Degree in Nursing program in the future to further his expertise. The director presently works as in the Emergency Room of Knapp Hospital on the weekends and has an excellent relationship with the clinical affiliating agencies in the community.
- The director has only been in the leadership role since December, 2009.

FACULTY:

- The faculty have become an effective organizational unit with active committees carrying out the work of the program and making decisions together.
- The process of change in the program has resulted in a strong bond of unity and collegiality among the faculty.

STUDENTS:

- The program realizes that the increased number of students previously admitted to the program placed a strain on their ability to meet the needs.
- The number of students admitted has been reduced to between 30 and 35 for each of three admission points.

- A total of seventy-seven (77) students graduated in November 2009 under the revised curriculum and program changes. The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for those who have taken the NLCEX examination from this cohort is 84% (63/75).
- Another cohort of thirty-four (34) students graduated in March 2010 and a cohort will graduate in June 2010. There are presently eighty-three (83) students enrolled in the program.
- The program has a potential to achieve an NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 80% or higher for the examination year of 2010.
- The program offered an NCLEX-PN® examination review course for the spring graduates and invited past graduates who have not tested to participate in this review. First time test-takers on the NCLEX-PN® examination report for 2009 date back to a graduation date of April 2007.

PROGRAM OF STUDY:

- The director and faculty discussed many changes made in order to implement corrective measures to the program.
- The program used an expert nursing education consultant who guided and stimulated the change process.
- The program has made significant changes in the curriculum, teaching strategies, textbooks, faculty members, admission policies, and testing and remediation processes.
- The faculty have been actively involved in analyzing and revising the entire curriculum. The revised curriculum is based on the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC).
- Board staff sensed the excitement and energy of the faculty as they are experiencing the positive outcomes of their efforts.
- The program is exploring the possibility of changing the program from a 15-month to a 12-month schedule.

CLINICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

- Clinical faculty expressed the challenges in scheduling clinical experiences because of the increased number of nursing programs in the area.
- They are still able to schedule valuable hospital experiences in pediatrics, maternity and intensive care but it is becoming more difficult.
- The students in the clinical area were well-prepared and discussed their patients and their nursing care with board staff.
- The clinical faculty demonstrated excellent supervision of students in the clinical area.
- Clinical evaluation tools and the documentation of student performance in the clinical area are more than adequate.
- A dedicated faculty member is responsible for scheduling all clinical experiences and monitoring student attendance in the clinical settings.

PROPOSED COMMENDATION:

The director and faculty are commended for their personal engagement and determined efforts in changing and improving the curriculum.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The program is encouraged to limit the number of students admitted into each cohort to 30 to 35.
2. The administration is encouraged to provide the support and resources for the director to receive professional development in the leadership role.

DRAFT LETTER

April 26, 2010

Leo Galvan, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies
345 S. Texas
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Galvan:

At the April 22-23, 2010 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the report of the survey visit and the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies in Weslaco, Texas. The Board wishes to thank you and for your attendance at the Board meeting to answer questions.

Based on the discussion and review of the survey visit report, and the NCLEX-PN® pass rate, it was the decision of the Board to continue the program's approval status of full with warning and issue the following commendation and recommendations:

Commendation:

The director and faculty are commended for their personal engagement and determined efforts in changing and improving the curriculum.

Recommendations:

1. The program is encouraged to limit the number of students admitted into each cohort to 30 to 35.
2. The administration is encouraged to provide the support and resources for the director to receive professional development in the leadership role.

If you have any questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814 or janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Mari Aviles, Vice President, Valley Grande Institute