

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval
RGV Careers in Pharr, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status from initial to full approval for RGV Careers in Pharr, Texas Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate; the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey; the 2011 Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Programs; Board Rule 214; and report of the March 8, 2012 survey visit.

Historical Perspective:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates Who Tested (Passed/Total)
2011	Pending	90.91%	20/22
2010	Initial	78.26%	18/23

- RGV Careers is a privately owned school established in September 2005 to offer the following programs: Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Technician/Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, Electrocardiogram Technician, Medical Office Specialist/Medical Billing, and Physical Therapy Technician Aide.
- The school was approved by the Texas Workforce Commission Career Schools and Colleges in May 2006.
- In July 2009, the Board granted initial approval to RGV Careers VN Education Program in Pharr, Texas. Classes began in August 2009.
- The program's first cohort of 25 students graduated in September 2010 and began taking the NCLEX-PN® examination in September 2010.
- Of the 23 candidates who tested in 2010, 18 passed the licensure examination and the program's overall pass rate for 2010 is 78.26%.
- Subsequent to the below 80% pass rate, the program director completed a comprehensive Self-Study Report.
- Corrective measures were identified and timely implemented.
- Of the 22 candidates who tested in 2011, 20 passed the licensure examination and the program's NCLEX-PN® pass rate for 2011 is 90.91%.
- Accreditation by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools was granted to RGV Careers in December 2010; approval to award Title IV Federal Funding was granted in February 2012.

- Board staff conducted a survey visit on March 8, 2012 (See Attachment #1).
- Three cohorts, comprised of 72 students, are currently enrolled.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The program's 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate is 90.91%.
- The survey visit conducted by Board staff on March 8, 2012 revealed no negative observations and consistently positive observations.

Cons:

- None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate; the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey; the 2011 Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Programs; Board Rule 214; and report of the March 8, 2012 survey visit; move to change the program approval status of RGV Careers Vocational Nursing Education Program from initial to full approval status as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment #2).

Survey Visit Summary Report

Name of Nursing Program:	RGV Careers Vocational Nursing Education Program Pharr, Texas
Nursing Program Director:	Jose H. Lejia, MS, RN
Reason for Survey Visit:	Focused survey visit to evaluate the program's compliance with Texas Board of Nursing rules and regulations regarding consideration of a change from initial to full approval status.
Date of Survey Visit:	March 8, 2012
Survey Visitor:	Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Texas Board of Nursing Approval Status:	Initial
Date of Last BON Survey Visit:	June 11, 2009
Name of Accrediting/Licensing Agencies:	Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools Texas Workforce Commission

Summary of Survey Visit:

During the visit, Board staff:

- met with School Administrator/Owner Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez and Program Director Jose H. Lejia, MS, RN for an opening conference;
- met separately with the Program Director;
- met with students;
- met with faculty;
- toured the classrooms, skills laboratory, and nursing offices;
- reviewed documents and files; and
- conducted a summary conference with School Administration and the Program Director.

Pertinent Survey Findings:

Administration and Organization:

Administration articulated support of the nursing program and resources have been dedicated to ensure student success. The administrator and program director are present on campus everyday to address any potential issues that may arise. They have worked diligently to establish the vocational nursing program in the community by participating in a variety of volunteer efforts, including Operation Lone Star, food drives, health fairs, and holiday toy drives.

Faculty:

Two full-time and two part-time faculty members deliver the curriculum with ownership of their individual courses. These individuals are veteran nurses with many years of clinical experiences in specialty areas. Faculty members provide individualized instruction to students. They provide immediate feedback to students regarding the students' clinical performance. The faculty are organized and meet every other week; faculty meetings are documented in minutes demonstrating review of information, discussion of issues, and decision-making. Faculty members articulated positive feelings regarding the variety of clinical learning experiences offered to the vocational nursing

students. In addition, the faculty members expressed that they are committed to the program to ensure it becomes well-established and recognized in the Rio Grande Valley for the production of highly skilled vocational nursing graduates.

Students:

Three cohorts, comprised of 72 students, are currently enrolled.

In meeting with two different groups of students, it was apparent that the student body is a cohesive community. Students spoke very positively about the program and expressed how delighted they were with their choice of nursing programs. No complaints were expressed. Students articulated that they feel a clear line of communication is in place and they are comfortable communicating with faculty members and the program director.

Program of Study:

The curriculum is being implemented as originally proposed to the Board at the time of initial approval. The VN curriculum is sound and logically organized.

The program includes the following contact hours:

Didactic	670 hours
Computer Lab	50 hours
Skills Lab	100 hours
Simulation Lab	20 hours
Direct Patient Care Experiences	790 hours

The *2010 Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs)* are fully integrated into the curriculum. Documents reflecting the incorporation of the DECs provided by RGV Careers were utilized as exemplars during the Texas Board of Nursing Education Department November 2011 DECs Webinar.

The Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) system is utilized throughout the program of study. Reading comprehension scores are a primary determinant of admission into the program. ATI remediation resources are timely implemented.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

Faculty supervised clinical learning experiences are offered at the following facilities:

- I. South Texas Health System
 - A. McAllen Medical Center
 - B. McAllen Heart Hospital
 - C. Edinburg Regional Medical Center
 - D. Edinburg Children's Hospital
- II. Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance

Students are provided a rich variety of direct patient care experiences in adult intensive care units, telemetry units, emergency departments, labor and delivery units, newborn nurseries, and post-partum units.

Facilities, Resources and Services:

The school has recently incorporated an additional suite in the building to provide a second classroom. The facilities are new and in pristine condition. All resources and services directed by Board Rule 214 are present.

Records:

The required records are maintained, and a brief review revealed that all expected elements of faculty, student, and program records were clearly evident. All documents were well organized.

Total Program Evaluation:

The program's Total Program Evaluation plan is comprehensive and well documented. It is constantly updated to reflect achievement of benchmarks.

<<DRAFT LETTER>>

April 23, 2012

Jose H. Lejia, MS, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
RGV Careers
1200 W. Polk Avenue
Suite P & Q
Pharr, TX 78577

Dear Mr. Lejia:

At the April 19-20, 2012 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) considered the approval status of the RGV Careers Vocational Nursing Education Program. The Board wishes to thank Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez and you for being present to answer questions.

Based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate; the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey; the 2011 Compliance Audit for Nursing Education Programs; report of the March 8, 2012 survey visit; and compliance with Rule 214; it was the decision of the Texas BON to change the RGV Careers Vocational Nursing Education Program approval status from initial to full approval. The Board wishes to congratulate you, along with the faculty and administration of RGV Careers, on the initial success of the program.

If you have any questions, or if we may provide assistance, please contact Board staff at virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov or by telephone at 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
Board President

Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Texas Workforce Commission
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools