

**Report of Regular Survey Visit
Trinity Valley Community College in Palestine, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the August 2, 2012, routine six year survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College in Palestine, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The last survey visit was July 2003.

Historical Perspective:

- The Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC), of Palestine campus began in 1972.
- Until 1 year ago, the vocational nursing (VN) program was housed with cosmetology on the three building campus on the west side of Palestine. A year ago, the VN program was relocated eight (8) miles away in a building that originally was a K-Mart, but had been leased to Blue Cross Blue Shield as office space. This is the only program presently housed at this site.
- General education courses for the VN program are offered in Athens on the main campus, on the Terrell campus, and on the main Palestine campus.
- Provost Reid who is physically located at the Kaufman campus is the Dean of Health Occupations and is accountable for the VN program. Jeff Watson is the Provost at Palestine and is responsible for the physical building and general education issues.

The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the table:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates Passed/Total	BON Approval Status
2011	92.59%	25/27	Full
2010	79.31%	23/29	Self Study
2009	89.66%	26/29	Full
2008	85.29%	29/34	Full
2007	100.00%	22/22	Full

- Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE has been the director of the VN program since 1983 and earned certification as a nurse educator.
- Dr. Reid became Dean in 1990 and later her title was changed to Provost of the Kaufman Campus. As the provost, she is in charge of the Kaufman building as well as being the Dean of Health Occupations which includes the ADN, LVN-to ADN Transition, Paramedic-to-ADN Transition, LVN, Surgical Technology, EMS, and Patient Care Technology programs.
- She is accountable for the VN programs in Kaufman and Palestine. Linda Bland, MSN, RN serves as the Coordinator for the Palestine VN program.
- Besides Linda Bland, there is one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time faculty who is the skills lab coordinator as well as works with the LVN students in clinical. There is another part-time faculty that is available if necessary.
- The Palestine VN program is a totally separate program from the one at Kaufman.
- The program at Palestine admits one (1) cohort of students in August of each year. The program has the capacity and faculty to admit forty (40) to forty-one (41) students annually. There currently are twenty-two (22) VN students in Palestine who just completed the program.
- Findings from the survey visit indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214.

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:**Pros:**

- The Provost and VN program director is an experienced educator respected by administration, faculty and students.
- The Coordinator has been employed by TVCC Palestine since 1980 and became coordinator in 1983.
- Students commended the administration and faculty for the high morale and stability in the VN Palestine program.
- Faculty turnover rates are low.
- The program meets a need in the community for a vocational nursing education program and receives strong support from clinical affiliates.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings.

Cons:

- The Coordinator of the VN program in Palestine teaches a full load besides handling administrative duties.
- The Coordinator, nursing faculty, and staff are responsible for maintaining the physical resources since they are separated from the main campus.
- The program objectives/outcomes are written in generic terms and are not individualized to the program.
- There are safety concerns in the skills lab due to insufficient electrical outlets in the room.

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

The program is meeting rule requirements but three (3) recommendations are made in an effort to ensure that the Coordinator has sufficient time for administrative duties, to improve the program objectives for the curriculum, and to ensure safety in the skills lab.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) year survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College in Palestine, Texas, Vocational Nursing Education Program, and issue three (3) recommendations (see draft letter in Attachment #2):

Recommendation #1:

The administration is encouraged to provide enough assistance for the program instruction to allow release time for the Coordinator to perform administrative duties for the Palestine VN Program.

Recommendation #2:

The faculty are encouraged to review and revise the program objectives/ outcomes so that they are more individualized to the program.

Recommendation #3:

The program should request funds in order that more electrical outlets may be installed in the skills lab.

**Summary of Survey Visit
Trinity Valley Community College at Palestine, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey Visit: routine six (6) year survey visit.

Date of Visit: August 2, 2012

Board Staff Conducting Visit: Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, Contracted Program Evaluator

Board Representative met with:

- Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE Provost, Health Occupations /Director, VN Nursing Program
- Linda Bland, MSN, Coordinator VN Program
- Dr. Glendon S. Forgey, President TVCC (met on July 31,2012 at Athen's campus)
- Dr. Jerry King, Vice President of Instruction TVCC (met on July 31,2012 at Athen's campus)
- Sandra Roberson, BSN, Full-Time Faculty
- Elizabeth Starr, BSN, Part-Time Faculty (currently working on MSN through UT Tyler)
- Sherry Landers, Secretary
- Two (2) Level III Vocational Nursing Students who just completed the program

Board Representative reviewed:

- curriculum documents and all syllabi
- Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and Clinical Contracts.
- minutes of faculty meetings.
- tests and clinical evaluation tools.

Board Representative toured the facilities housing the nursing program.

Summary of Findings:

- Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE was appointed director of the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program at Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program in 1983.
- Dr. Reid is a certified nurse educator.
- The administration expressed strong support for the VN program. The VN program has two sites, one in Kaufman that admits 20-24 students in the spring and a second one in Palestine that admits 40-41 students in the fall of each year.
- The Provost and Palestine Coordinator reported that the majority of graduates remain in the community and are able to find employment in local hospitals and clinical agencies.

Program of Study:

- The VN program is a 12-month 59-credit hour program of study, based on sequential learning.
- There are a total of 1664 contact hours in the program of study: 720 didactic hours; 304 skills lab hours; and, 640 patient care clinical hours.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex, with the first semester laying the foundation for the program. Skills are front loaded in the first semester.
- The program has implemented the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) into the curriculum for fall 2012 semester. A matrix will be maintained and reviewed for updating as needed.
- The curriculum includes IV therapy.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective.

Faculty:

- The VN instruction is carried out by experienced RN faculty.
- Two (2) full-time (including the coordinator) and one (1) part-time faculty teach in the program.
- Faculty are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty reported that morale is high and they receive strong support from the Provost/Program Director.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The VN program is located at a site eight (8) miles from the Palestine campus. The Palestine campus is approximately forty miles (40) from the main campus in Athens and eighty-three (83) miles from the Kaufman campus.
- A full array of student services is offered on the Palestine main campus. There are no student services at the VN Program site. Faculty and staff must drive to the Palestine main campus for PARs testing, printing services, and library.
- The building housing the VN program is adequately equipped, and offers a positive learning environment.
- There are an adequate number of computers for the faculty and staff, but currently the internet service is less than adequate.
- The coordinator has a large private office.
- Full-time faculty have private offices.
- The facilities include restrooms as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas.
- The VN program classrooms and study space are adequate.
- The eight bed nursing skills laboratory needs more electrical outlets for the beds. There are no suction or oxygen canisters on the wall to demonstrate their use. There are seven (7) mannequins.
- There are no simulation models available for instructional purposes.

Students:

- Twenty-two (22) students just completed the program.
- Students interviewed stated that they enrolled in the TVCC-VN program because of location, tuition, and the reputation of the program.
- Students unanimously agreed that they felt that the program of study has prepared them well for clinical practice.
- Students discussed ATI testing and the benefits they felt it provided as well as a capstone skills performance that was implemented this year.
- Students cited clinical experiences along with the VN program coordinator and faculty as being the highlights of the program.
- The majority of students reported they plan to seek further education to become registered nurses in the future.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies which provide a variety of appropriate clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty-supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on clinical settings.
- The clinical experiences are scheduled to match related didactic in the classroom.
- The clinical evaluation tools are individually based upon the course content and measure progression of student behaviors across the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings.

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2012

Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE
Director, Vocational Nursing Education Program
Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman
800 Hwy 243 West
Kaufman, Texas 75142

Dear Dr. Reid:

At the October 18-19, 2012 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six year survey visit to the Trinity Valley Community College in Palestine, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The Board members wish to thank the Director and Coordinator for the hospitality and collaborative spirit during the visit. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1:

The administration is encouraged to provide enough assistance for the program instruction to allow release time for the Coordinator to perform administrative duties for the Palestine VN Program.

Recommendation #2:

The faculty are encouraged to review and revise the program objectives/ outcomes so that they are more individualized to the program.

Recommendation #3:

The program should request funds in order that more electrical outlets may be installed in the skills lab.

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. Please provide a response to the recommendations to Board Staff by January 18, 2013.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at sandi.emerson.bon.texas.gov or (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
President of Trinity Valley Community College