

**Report of Routine Survey Visit  
 Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas  
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request**

Consider the report of the November 7, 2012, routine six-year survey visit to Tyler Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Tyler, Texas. The previous survey visit was conducted in 2006.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The Tyler Junior College (TJC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Tyler, Texas, began in 1973.
- The VN program is part of the Department of Health Sciences which also includes Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Sonography, Medical Laboratory Technology, Associate Degree Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, Surgical Technology, and Vision Care Technology.
- The Department of Health Science is physically located in the Pirtle Building on the Tyler Junior College main campus in Tyler, Texas. A \$25 million bond, passed in spring 2012, enables a new 150,000 square foot facility to be built on the main campus. The building is scheduled to open fall 2014. The new facility is expected to allow the Department of Health Sciences to expand their program offerings and to increase graduates in health care fields by 50 percent, from 600 to 900.
- The VN program has three (3) extension sites: 1) Jacksonville, Texas which began in 2008; 2) Lindale, Texas which began in 2009; and 3) Rusk, Texas which began in 2010.

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

<b>Exam Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>
2011	76.60%	144/188	Self-Study
2010	80.92%	123/152	Full
2009	88.95%	140/159	Full
2008	89.71%	122/136	Full
2007	91.43%	128/140	Full

- Holli Benge, MSN, RN, is the Department Chair/ Director of the VN Program effective August 15, 2012.
- Ms. Benge does not carry a teaching load.
- Students are admitted to the Tyler campus both in the fall and spring semester. In the fall, there are two classes admitted. Each class, day and evening, admits thirty-five (35) students. In the spring, only a day class of thirty-five (35) students is admitted.
- Students are admitted to the extension sites annually each spring. Jacksonville and Lindale admit a cohort of twenty (20) students. Rusk admits a cohort of thirty (30) students.
- Findings from the survey visit indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214 (See Attachment #1).

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

#### **Pros:**

- The Department Chair/Director of the VN Program is an experienced educator who is respected by administration, faculty and students.
- Ms. Bengé is new to the Director position, but not to the VN program. She has a clear vision for the direction of the VN program and has implemented the 2011 self-study.
- The dean, department chair, program coordinator, and faculty report that the VN program receives strong support from TJC administration and the community.
- The program has a cohesive, supportive faculty, and although there has not been stability in the department chair/director position, the faculty turnover rates are stabilizing and a higher NCLEX-PN® score is anticipated for December 2012. As of 12/4/12, the pass rate for 2012 is 90% (153/170).
- Students interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program and confidence that the department chair and faculty are committed to their success.
- The program serves to meet a need in the community for a vocational nursing education program and receives strong support from clinical affiliates.
- The program has a number of contracts with clinical affiliating agencies which provide a variety of clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.

#### **Cons:**

- The clinical coordinator is currently carrying a full teaching load and does not have the time to devote to the clinical coordinator position.
- Students interviewed reported that clinical rotations in the acute care setting were the highlight of the program, but they disliked going to nursing homes.
- Professional development funds are limited and the professional development provided by the institution does not always meet the needs of the faculty.
- The learning objectives in the course curriculum are not measurable and not all courses reflect the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECS)*.
- The clinical evaluation tool is lengthy and does not demonstrate leveling of DECs.
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#### **Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

Recommendations are made in an effort to facilitate effective faculty instruction and program development.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) year survey visit to Tyler Junior College VN Program in Tyler Texas, and issue the following five (5) recommendations:

##### Recommendation #1:

Provide release from teaching responsibilities for the clinical coordinator.

##### Recommendation #2:

To meet the needs of an aging population, work towards including more geriatrics into the curriculum and a positive clinical experience in long term care facilities.

##### Recommendation #3:

Provide more on-campus opportunities for nursing faculty development related to teaching. Encourage faculty to attend the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) annual conference.

##### Recommendation #4:

Develop measurable learning outcomes for all courses that reflect the DECs.

##### Recommendation #5:

Revise the clinical evaluation tools so DECs are measurable and demonstrate leveling.

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Purpose of Survey Visit:** Routine six-year survey visit.

**Date of Visit:** November 7, 2012

**Program Evaluator Conducting Visit:** Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN

**Program Evaluator met with:**

- Paul Monagan, Dean of Health Sciences
- Holli Benge, RN, Director VN Nursing Program
- Dr. Mike Metke, President
- Fifty-one (51) Licensed Vocational Nursing Students (3rd level) Tyler
- Site Coordinators:
  - Jacksonville: Kay, Blount, AAS, RN
  - Lindale: Jacob Cabrera, RN
  - Rusk: Felicia Mayo, BSN, RN
  - Tyler PM class: Mauretta Lux
- Clinical Coordinator: Maria Stewart, LVN
- Faculty:
  - Nancy Boone, BSN, RN
  - Kay Devereux, MS, BSN, RN
  - Eddie Dushuanack, ADN, RN
  - Jim Farmley, BSN, RN
  - Jessica Hill, ADN, RN
  - Genny Kilgore, LVN
  - Amy Massey, LVN
  - Cindy Petty, ADN, RN
  - Larkin Simmons, BSN, RN
  - Michael Tobin, RN
  - Luz Moya, LVN
- Secretary: Judy Durham

**Program Evaluator:**

- reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi, disciplinary actions, and self-study
- reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook, and Clinical Contracts
- reviewed minutes of faculty meetings
- reviewed student and faculty files
- reviewed tests and clinical evaluation tools
- toured the facilities
- observed classroom teaching.

**Summary of Findings:**

Holli Benge, MSN, RN, has been the Department Chair and Director of the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program at Tyler Junior College (TJC) since August 15, 2012. Ms. Benge was a faculty member of the Tyler Junior College VN Program from 2006 to her appointment as director.

The program has strong administrative support. Tyler Junior College Department of Health Sciences offers other educational programs in health science at the Pirtle building including Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Sonography, Medical Laboratory Technology, Associate Degree Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, Surgical Technology, and Vision Care Technology.

A \$25 million bond was passed in spring 2012, enabling a new 150,000 square foot facility to be built on the main campus. The building is scheduled to open fall 2014. The new facility is expected to allow the Department of Health Sciences to expand their program offerings and to increase graduate output in health care fields by 50 percent, from 600 to 900. The VN program also has three (3) extension sites: 1) in Jacksonville, Texas which began in 2008, (2) in Lindale, Texas which began in 2009, and (3) in Rusk, Texas which began in 2010.

The department chair/director 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, 48-credit hour program of study, based on sequential learning. There are a total of 1536 clock hours in the program of study: 879 didactic hours, 17 lab, and 640 hours for clinical practice.
- 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. Suggestions were offered regarding incorporating DECs into course objectives/ exams for benchmarking as well as clinical evaluation tools to demonstrate leveling of clinical courses.
- The curriculum includes IV therapy.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective.

#### Faculty:

- The VN instruction is carried out by an experienced faculty.
- Sixteen (16) full-time and one (1) adjunct faculty teach in the program with the addition of ten (10) part-time faculty for clinical rotations.
- Faculty members are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- The clinical coordinators effectively work as a team to ensure that course content is consistent. A single test bank is used for creation of course exams.
- There is communication on VN Tracker (an access program located on the campus G drive) to check immunization status, attendance, and remediation of students.
- Faculty reported that morale is high and they receive strong support from one another as well as the chair and program coordinator.

#### Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- A full array of student services is offered on the Tyler Junior College campus.
- Eighty-four (84) computers are housed in two rooms for student use, including testing.
- The building that houses the VN program is shared with other health occupation programs. It is spacious, modernly equipped, aesthetically pleasing, and offers a positive learning environment.
- Extension sites have comparable offices and skills lab. Library resources are accessed via internet.
- The director has a large, private office that is conveniently located to the program assistant and faculty offices.
- Full-time faculty members are provided with fully furnished private offices, including a computer. Faculty offices do not have an individual printer.
- The facilities include faculty and student restrooms as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas with microwave oven.
- The VN program classroom and nursing skills laboratory are adequate and comfortable with modern equipment. Several mannequins and simulation models are available for instructional purposes in the skills lab.
- The campus is well-maintained.
- There is one full-time secretary at the Tyler site for the VN program.
- The department chair stated that resources are adequate, but the new facility will give them an opportunity to expand.
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#### Students:

- One hundred seventy-eight (178) students are currently enrolled in the VN program: 1) one hundred thirteen (113) students in Tyler; 2) twenty students (20) in Lindale; 3) twenty students (20) in Jacksonville; and 4) twenty-five (25) students in Rusk.
- Forty-nine (49) students were offered admission for spring 2013.

- Students stated that they enrolled in the TJC-VN program because of convenience, cost, and location.
- Students unanimously agreed that they felt that the program of study has prepared them well for clinical practice.
- Students cited acute care clinical experiences along with the faculty as being the highlights of the program.
- Students expressed dissatisfaction with clinical rotations in long term care facilities.
- The majority of students visited reported they plan to seek further nursing education.

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.
- The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.

DRAFT LETTER

January 22, 2013

Holli Benge, MSN, RN, CNE  
Coordinator, Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Tyler Junior College  
P.O Box 9020  
Tyler, Texas 75711-9020

Dear Ms. Benge:

At the January 17-18, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six-year survey visit to the Tyler Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Tyler, Texas. The Board members wish to thank the Coordinator and Campus Administration for the hospitality and collaborative spirit during the visit.

It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit (*See attachment #1*) and issue the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1:

Provide release from teaching responsibilities for the clinical coordinator.

Recommendation #2:

To meet the needs of an aging population, work towards including more geriatrics into the curriculum and a positive clinical experience in long term care facilities.

Recommendation #3:

Provide more on-campus opportunities for nursing faculty development related to teaching. Encourage faculty to attend the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) annual conference.

Recommendation #4:

Develop measureable learning outcomes for all courses that reflect the DEC's.

Recommendation #5:

Revise the clinical evaluation tools so DEC's are measurable and demonstrate leveling.

A recommendation is a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which a program must respond in a method of their choosing. The coordinator shall respond to the recommendations by March 1, 2013.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: J. Michael DeLong, Policy Program Specialist, Texas Workforce Commission  
Chris Fowler, MPA, Senior Program Director, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Dr. L. Michael Metke, President, Tyler Junior College  
Paul Monagan, Dean of Health Sciences, Tyler Junior College