



**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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DATE: November 6, 2013

TO: Board Members

FROM:   
Pam Hinckley, R. N., M.S.N.  
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Advanced Computing Institute, Vocational Nursing Program –  
Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to  
Admit Students (Director: Bethel De Rossett, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County,  
Private)

On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014 due to pass rates on the licensure examination that were noncompliant with requirements set forth in California Code of Regulations Section 2530 (l), which states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period...”

The program was required to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations. Further, the Board directed that if the program failed to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program’s approval.

The Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program requests Board approval to admit a class of 20 students on November 25, 2013; completing on December 19, 2014. This class would **replace** students that graduated on September 24, 2012.

### History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A History of Prior Board Actions)

### Enrollment

The program requires Board approval prior to the admission of each class. The program offers full – time classes that are 48 weeks in length. Additionally, the program offers part – time classes that are 60 weeks in length. The pattern of admissions for current classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current** and **proposed** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 65 students** for the period from **January 2006 through November 2013**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
1/06		13	12	12
	8/07 (01/06 Class)		-12	12 - 12 = 0
10/07 (PT)		11	11	0 + 11 = 11
2/08 (PT)		12	12	11 + 12 = 23
1/09 (PT)		23	23	23 + 23 = 46
	5/09 (10/07 PT Class)		-11	46 - 11 = 35
8/09 (PT)		23	23	35 + 23 = 58
	10/09 (2/08 PT Class)		-12	58 - 12 = 46
7/10		21	19	46 + 19 = 65
	8/10 (1/09 PT Class)		-23	65 - 23 = 42
11/10 (PT)		16	12	42 + 12 = 54
	4/11 (8/09 PT Class)		-23	54 - 23 = 31
	7/11 (7/10 FT Class)		-19	31 - 19 = 12
	7/12 (11/10 PT Class)		-12	12 - 12 = 0
11/13 Proposed	11/14	20		0 + 20 = 20

### Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by Pearson VUE, and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," for the period January 2008 through September 2013, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the

Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*		
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jan – Mar 2008	5	3	60%	75%	60%	75%	-15
Apr - Jun 2008	5	0	0%	70%	30%	74%	-44
Jul - Sep 2008	1	0	0%	74%	27%	74%	-47
Oct – Dec 2008	No Candidates Tested			73%	27%	73%	-46
Jan – Mar 2009	1	1	100%	70%	14%	72%	-58
Apr – Jun 2009	No Candidates Tested			71%	50%	70%	-20
July-Sep 2009	No Candidates Tested			74%	100%	72%	+28
Oct – Dec 2009	No Candidates Tested			76%	100%	73%	+27
Jan – Mar 2010	4	2	50%	76%	50%	74%	-24
Apr – Jun 2010	5	3	60%	74%	56%	75%	-19
Jul – Sep 2010	8	2	25%	75%	41%	75%	-34
Oct –Dec 2010	8	4	50%	77%	44%	76%	-32
Jan – Mar 2011	10	3	30%	80%	39%	77%	-38
Apr – Jun 2011	4	1	25%	71%	33%	76%	-43
Jul – Sep 2011	2	1	74%	74%	38%	75%	-37
Oct – Dec 2011	7	6	86%	74%	48%	75%	-27
Jan – Mar 2012	5	2	40%	77%	56%	74%	-18
Apr – Jun 2012	6	3	50%	72%	60%	74%	-14
Jul – Sep 2012	5	2	40%	74%	57%	74%	-17
Oct – Dec 2012	4	0	0%	70%	35%	74%	-39
Jan – Mar 2013	1	0	0%	75%	31%	73%	-42
Apr – Jun 2013	2	1	50%	78%	25%	73%	-48
Jul – Sep 2013	4	2	50%	75%	27%	74%	-47

The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three-quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most recent data available (July to September 2013), the program's average annual pass rate is **27%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 74%. The pass rate for the Advanced Computing

Institute Vocational Nursing Program is **47** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

### Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The total number of Board-approved faculty is nine (9), including the program director. The director has 90% administrative and 10% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, nine (9) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 65 students, five (5) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of faculty is adequate for the current and proposed enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught."

The program's clinical facilities are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. This information has been verified by the consultant.

### Other Considerations

Published examination statistics include 23 quarters of licensure data, dating back to the program's first class. **For 21 of the 23 quarters, in excess of five (5) years, the program's licensure pass rates have been more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate. The two (2) quarters in which the program was compliant were due to one (1) student testing and passing.** The program's current quarterly pass rate is **50%** and the average annual pass rate is **27%**. As such, the average annual pass rate is **47** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

As noted in the History of Board Actions, on January 7, 2010, the Executive Officer considered the program's request for approval to admit students. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 100%, based on the results of one (1) candidate. Concern was expressed relative to the program's continued difficulty in preparing safe and competent students who are able to pass the licensure examination. The program's request was approved. Additionally, the program was required to submit

a report by January 30, 2010 to include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions to improve program pass rates, and timeline for implementation.

The Board received the director's preliminary analysis of the program and a proposed curriculum on March 30, 2010. On June 22, 2010, the Board received additional modifications of the proposed curriculum. An updated program analysis and plan of correction were received on June 28, 2010.

On March 21, 2012, the director submitted a revised plan to improve student achievement and increase the licensure pass rates. Included in that plan were the following elements:

- Utilization of ATI exams.
- Pre-Nursing courses in which students must attain 75% or better to be considered for the VN program.
- NCLEX review

Despite the noted efforts, the program's pass rates continued noncompliant with regulatory requirements.

On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the program on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014 due to noncompliant pass rates on the licensure examination. The Board directed that the program was required to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate. Further, the program was required to submit a follow – up report by June 1, 2013. The report was to include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The program was required to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations. If the program failed to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval. The Board approved the program's admission of a class of 20 full – time students beginning September 24, 2012.

On September 19, 2012, the Board forwarded to the program the Notice of Change in Approval Status. That document identified program deficiencies and required corrections (see Attachment B). Included therein, the director was required to submit written reports by June 1, 2013 and June 1, 2014 to include a comprehensive program analysis, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. Reconsideration of the program's status was scheduled for September 2014.

On September 20, 2013, the NEC sent the director an electronic communication notifying her that the program was being placed on the November 2013 Board agenda due to the program's noncompliance with requirements specified in the Notice of Change in Approval Status and its declining pass rates. Forms were sent with the communication, and the director was advised that they needed to be completed and returned to the NEC by September 25, 2013.

On September 23, 2013, the NEC placed a call to the school and requested to speak with the director. The school's representative was evasive, and said she did not know when Ms. Ngassa would be in. When the discussion was pursued, the representative said "maybe Wednesday". The NEC asked if there was someone else there that would know about the vocational nursing program. The representative said "maybe Shawnie (unsure of the name and spelling). When asked what Shawnie's role with the Vocational Nursing program was, the representative said counseling. The consultant then asked if Daniel Mainea, owner, was available. The representative said he was not in. When asked when she expected him, she said "maybe tomorrow or Wednesday".

The NEC then called Ms. Ngassa's cell phone number that was on file. The message directory was full and not accepting new messages. The NEC called the school back and Daniel Mainea answered the phone. From the time that the NEC first placed the call to the school, until this call, was less than a 10 minute period of time. The NEC asked Mr. Mainea when Ms. Ngassa was expected in. He responded he expected her the next day, September 24, 2013, and would have Ms. Ngassa contact the NEC. Mr. Mainea requested the nature of the NEC's call.

The NEC advised Mr. Mainea that the program was being placed on the November Board agenda due to continued low licensure pass rates. Additionally, he was advised that the director did not submit the required comprehensive analysis that was due to the Board on June 1, 2013, as required by Corrective Action #4 in the Notice of Change in Approval Status. Mr. Mainea said, "We did not get any notification that this was due". The NEC advised Mr. Mainea that the comprehensive analysis is part of the terms of Provisional Approval and that these terms were presented at the September 6, 2012 Board meeting and mailed to the director on September 19, 2012.

On October 3, 2013, the NEC again contacted the school attempting to speak with Ms. Ngassa. The school representative (Zlad) indicated that neither Ms. Ngassa nor Mr. Mainea were in. Zlad said he would have Mr. Mainea contact the NEC within 30 minutes.

On October 4, 2013, the NEC had a telephonic message from Daniel Mainea verbalizing that his former director had been off ill and had resigned two (2) days earlier. He additionally indicated he was interviewing for her position and hoped to have a director's application to send for Board approval the week of October 7, 2013.

On October 4, 2013, the NEC received a telephonic message from Ms. Ngassa indicating she had terminated her employment with Advanced Computing Institute. She additionally indicated she would assist the school in training her replacement when hired.

On October 7, 2013, the NEC was able to speak personally with Elizabeth Ngassa. Ms. Ngassa stated she has been off work since June 2013 and that she had advised Mr. Mainea that she was terminating her employment at that time. She again advised him that she would not be able to work approximately three (3) weeks ago.

On October 7, 2013, the NEC forwarded forms relative to student enrollment to Mr. Mainea. Submission of the completed forms was requested by October 9, 2013.

**On October 9, 2013, the Board approved a new program director.** The NEC requested Mr. Mainea send the NEC the new director's contact information so that the new director orientation could be sent.

On October 21, 2013, the new program director responded to the NEC's request for current contact information.

On October 22, 2013, the new director orientation was sent to the new program director. A response was received from the new director indicating completion of the new director orientation.

On October 23, 2013, the NEC sent the new director forms for completion relative to enrollment and clinical rotations for currently enrolled students.

On October 24, 2013, the NEC received the enrollment table.

Given the foregoing, the following violations of the California Code of Regulations are identified.

**Section 2527 (a) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:**

**"The Board shall require such reports by schools and conduct such investigations as necessary to determine whether or not accreditation will be continued."**

**Violation #1:**

On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the program on Provisional Approval. On September 19, 2012, the Board forwarded to the program director the Notice of Change in Approval Status, informing the program of identified deficiencies and required corrections. Corrective Action #4 specified the program was required to submit a written report by June 1, 2013, relative to the following:

1. Comprehensive analysis of critical program elements impacting student achievement;
2. Specific actions taken to improve program pass rates;
3. Timeline for implementation; and
4. Effect of employed interventions.

The program failed to submit the report by June 1, 2013, as required.

**Plan of Correction #1:**

This violation is **not corrected**. To date, the program director has failed to submit the required report. This violation will be corrected when the director submits the comprehensive analysis addressing the identified criteria (a through o) as listed in the History of Prior Board decisions dated September 6, 2012.

**Section 2527(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:**

**“A school shall report to the Board within ten days of the termination of a faculty member.”**

**Violation #2:** The program failed to notify the Board of the termination of the director within the ten (10) days as required by existing regulations. On October 4, 2013, the program director of record notified the Board that she had been on leave since June 2013 and that she had terminated her employment with Advanced Computing Institute at that time. The director was requested to place that information in writing. At the time of report, the requested documentation had not been received. A **new director** was approved by the Board on October 9, 2013.

**Plan to Correct #2:** This violation is **not corrected**. On October 4, 2013, Daniel Mainea, owner, advised the Board of the director's termination of employment.

**Section 2530(I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:**

**“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.**

**(1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation.”**

**Violation #3:** The program's average annual pass rates for first time graduates have been noncompliant with regulatory requirements for 21 of 23 quarters. For the past 15 consecutive quarters, the program's average annual pass rates have been more than ten (10) percentage points **below** state average annual pass rates.

**Plan of Correction #3:** This violation is **not corrected**. The violation will be corrected when the program's pass rates improve consistent with regulatory requirements.

**Recommendations:**

1. Deny Advanced Computing Institute's request to admit a class of 20 students on November 25, 2013; completing on December 14, 2014. This class would **replace** students that graduated on September 24, 2012.

2. Revoke the provisional approval of the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program.
3. Remove the program from the *List of Approved Vocational Nursing Schools* effective immediately.

**Rationale:** As noted previously, the program was placed on provisional approval for the two (2) year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014 due to noncompliant pass rates on the licensure examination. The program was directed to demonstrate incremental progress satisfactory to the Board in correcting its violations. Further, the Board directed that if the program failed to demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval (see Attachment B, Notice of Change in Approval Status). Based on the aforementioned information, the program has failed to demonstrate incremental progress.

**At the time of placement on provisional approval, the program's quarter pass rate was 50% and its average annual pass rate was 60%, 14 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate. The program's current quarterly pass rate is 50% and the average annual pass rate is 27%. This is 47 percentage points below the current state average annual pass rate and 33 percentage points less than when originally placed on provisional approval.**

Published program statistics confirm that the program's pass rates have been below state average annual pass rates for 21 of 23 quarters. **As such, the program's pass rates have been noncompliant with regulatory requirements in excess of five (5) years or 91.30% of the quarters during which statistics are available.** It is noted that the two (2) quarters in which the program's pass rate was compliant with regulatory requirements were due to data reported for one (1) candidate. One (1) graduate tested and passed. It is important to note that for the most recent **15 consecutive quarters, 3.75 years, the program's average annual pass rates have been 14 to 48 percentage points below state average annual pass rates.**

Additionally, the program director was required to submit a comprehensive analysis as part of the terms of provisional approval (see Attachment B). To date, the program has failed to comply with this requirement in that the required report has not been received.

On October 4, 2013, the program director of record notified the Board that she had been on leave since June 2013 and that she had terminated her employment with Advanced Computing Institute at that time. The director was requested to place that information in writing. At the time of report, the requested documentation had not been received. **A new director** was approved by the Board on October 9, 2013.

The program has failed to comply with requirements specified in the California Code of Regulations and the Notice of Change in Approval Status. Said lack of compliance, demonstrated consistent lack of achievement of program graduates on the licensure exam, and the lack of effective program administration support the recommendation to revoke the program's approval. Should the Board adopt the recommendation, no students will be impacted. Per the new director, no students are currently enrolled in classes.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Attachment B: Notice of Change in Approval Status, Dated September 19, 2012

## Agenda Item #13.A.2., Attachment A

### ADVANCED COMPUTING INSTITUTE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

#### History of Prior Board Actions

- On November 1, 2005, the Executive Officer approved Advanced Computing Institute's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 36 students on January 16, 2006, only, and approved the program curriculum for 1560 hours, including 600 theory, and 960 clinical hours.
- On August 1, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program for the period from August 1, 2007, through July 31, 2011, and issued a certificate accordingly; approved the program's request to admit a part-time class of 36 students beginning September 17, 2007, only, to **replace** students graduating on August 3, 2007, with a projected graduation date of May 22, 2009; and approved the program's admission of a second part-time class of 36 students beginning January 21, 2008, only, with a projected graduation date of September 5, 2009.
- **On May 13, 2008, a new program director was approved.**
- On August 28, 2008, the director was notified that the program's average annual pass rate had fallen below more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for two (2) quarters. The consultant advised a careful review of program processes and policies, to identify areas for quality improvement.
- On November 13, 2008, the director was requested to review the curriculum, evaluate faculty effectiveness, and perform other quality improvement activities to address the program's low pass rates.
- On December 8, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a part-time class of 36 students beginning January 5, 2009, only, to **replace** students graduating on September 5, 2008, with a projected graduation date of August 31, 2010; and approved the program's request to admit a second part-time class of 36 students beginning April 6, 2009, only, with a projected graduation date of November 30, 2010.
- On March 18, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below state average annual pass rates for four (4) quarters.

- On May 14, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below state average annual pass rates for five (5) quarters.
- **On October 29, 2009, a new program director was approved.**
- On November 19, 2009, the assigned consultant met with the program director and administrator relative to the program's requests for additional classes.
- On January 7, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 36 students on January 11, 2010 only, with a projected graduation date of January 7, 2011; **and** required the program to submit a report by January 30, 2010, to include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions to improve program pass rates, and timeline for implementation. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
  - a. Current Student Enrollment.
  - b. Admission Criteria.
  - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
  - d. Terminal Objectives.
  - e. Curriculum Objectives.
  - f. Instructional Plan.
  - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
  - h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
  - i. Textbooks.
  - j. Attendance Policy.
  - k. Remediation Policy.
  - l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
  - m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
  - n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
  - o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- On March 30, 2010, the Board received the director's preliminary analysis of the program and a proposed curriculum.
- On June 22, 2010, the Board received additional modifications of the proposed curriculum.
- On June 28, 2010, the Board received the director's program analysis and plan of correction.
- On July 8, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program's revised curriculum for 1560 hours, including 600 theory hours and 960 clinical hours; **and**, approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 30 students on July 6, 2010 only, graduating July 29, 2011; **and**, approved the program's request to admit a part – time class day of 30 students on August 2, 2010 only, with a projected graduation date of February 17,

2012, to **replace** full – time students who graduated February 11, 2010; **and**, required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

- On March 21, 2012, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to implemented components of her plan to increase program pass rates.
- On July 24, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On September 6, 2012, the Board Approve Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program's full-time curriculum revision for 1648 hours, including 616 theory hours and 1032 clinical hours; **and**, required the program to submit the part-time curriculum revision by December 14, 2012; **and**, placed Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations; **and**, required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate; **and**,

Denied the program's request to admit a day class of 30 full-time students on September 24, 2012, graduating on August 30, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated July 29, 2011; **and**, approved the program's request to admit a day class of 20 full-time students on September 24, 2012, only, graduating on August 30, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated July 29, 2011; **and**,

Denied the program's request to admit an evening, part-time, class of 30 students on September 17, 2012, graduating April 18, 2014, to **replace** students who graduated July 14, 2012; **and**, required the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board; **and**,

Required the program to submit follow-up reports in nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2013**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2014**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.

- a. Admission Criteria.
- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Terminal Objectives.
- d. Curriculum Objectives.
- e. Instructional Plan.
- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.

- h. Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment; **and,**

Required the program to comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526; and, required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's accreditation; and, advised the program that failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's accreditation; and, place the program on the **September 2014** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On September 19, 2012, the Board forwarded the Notice of Change in Approval Status, identifying deficiencies and required corrections.
- **On October 9, 2013, the Board approved a new program director.**

# Agenda Item #13.A.2., Attachment B



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS  
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## CERTIFIED MAIL

September 19, 2012

Elizabeth Ngassa, B.S., R.N.  
Director, Vocational Nursing Program  
Advanced Computing Institute  
3470 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

**Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status**

Dear Ms. Ngassa:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on September 6, 2012, the status of the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program has been changed from full approval to provisional approval for the two – year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing accreditation completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Approval Status" form by **Friday, September 28, 2012**.

### AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE [VIOLATION(S)]

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period..."

The program pass rates of the Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program for the past seventeen (18) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Jan – Mar 2008	76%	60%	-16
Apr – Jun 2008	75%	30%	-45
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	27%	-47
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	27%	-46
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	14%	-58
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	50%	-20
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	100%	+28
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	100%	+27
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	50%	-24
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	56%	-19
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	41%	-34
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	44%	-32
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	39%	-38
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	33%	-43
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	38%	-37
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	48%	-27
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	-56%	-18
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	60%	-14

Based on this data, the program failed to meet the average annual pass rate requirement.

**REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)**

1. The Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program shall bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
2. The program shall demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
3. The program shall admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
4. The program shall submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than **June 1, 2013**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2014**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
  - a. Admission Criteria.
  - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.

- c. Terminal Objectives.
  - d. Curriculum Objectives.
  - e. Instructional Plan.
  - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
  - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
  - h. Textbooks.
  - i. Attendance Policy.
  - j. Remediation Policy.
  - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
  - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
  - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
  - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
  - o. Current Enrollment.
5. The program shall comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526.
  6. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
  7. In the event additional violations of the accreditation standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional approval.

#### FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **September 2014** Board Meeting agenda for reconsideration of your approval status. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on pages 2 and 3, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to the Board meeting.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Based on the above corrections, the full Board's permission will be required for each future class admission.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may no longer advertise that it has full approval, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,



**TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.**  
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Board Members

TBJ: ph



**TITLE 16**  
**CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

**2526.1. Provisional Approval.**

- (a) Provisional accreditation means a program has not met all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (b) Provisional accreditation shall be granted for a period determined by the Board.
- (c) The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526. If the program has not met all requirements at the end of the initial provisional accreditation period, provisional accreditation may be extended if the program demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board a good faith effort to correct all deficiencies.
- (d) Any program holding provisional accreditation may not admit "new" classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The admission pattern is defined by the number of students per class and the frequency of admissions for the six class admissions that immediately precede the Board action to consider provisional accreditation.
- (e) A program placed on provisional accreditation shall receive written notification from the Board. The notification to the program shall include specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. A program's failure to correct delineated areas of noncompliance is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (f) A material misrepresentation of fact by a vocational nursing program in any information submitted to the Board is cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.
- (g) A program whose provisional accreditation has been revoked shall be removed from the Board's list of accredited programs. The status of students as potential applicants for licensure will be determined by the Board.
- (h) A program that is removed from the Board's list of accredited programs subsequent to Board action based on the program's non-compliance with applicable regulations shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945  
Phone (916) 263-7800 Fax (916) 263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



## **CERTIFIED MAIL**

September 19, 2012

Elizabeth Ngassa, B.S., R.N.  
Director, Vocational Nursing Program  
Advanced Computing Institute  
3470 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

**Subject: Board Meeting Follow – Up**

Dear Ms. Ngassa:

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant's report relative to **Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students**, at its September 6, 2012 meeting.

Decisions rendered by the Board included, but were not limited to, the following:

1. Approve Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program's full – time curriculum for 1648 hours, including 616 theory hours and 1032 clinical hours.
2. Require the program to submit its revised part – time curriculum by December 14, 2012.
3. Place Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations.
4. Deny the program's request to admit a day class of 30 full – time students on September 24, 2012, graduating on August 30, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated July 29, 2011.
5. Approve the program's request to admit a day class of 20 full – time students on September 24, 2012, only, graduating on August 30, 2013, to **replace** students who graduated July 14, 2012.
6. Deny the program's request to admit an evening part – time class of 30 students on September 17, 2012, graduating April 18, 2014, to replace students who graduated July 14, 2012.

7. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.

**Rationale:** Since its inception, the program has admitted seven (7) classes. A total of 119 students have been enrolled in classes. One-hundred twelve (112) students have graduated. No students are currently enrolled in classes.

The program graduated its initial class in August 2007. Pass rates for the initial class were reported for Quarter 1 2008.

Published program statistics confirm that the program's pass rates have been significantly below state average annual pass rates for sixteen (16) of eighteen (18) quarters. During the six (6) quarters from January - March 2008 through April - June 2009, the program's average annual pass rates ranged from 15 to 58 percentage points **below** state average annual pass rates. During the next two (2) quarters, July - September 2009 and October - December 2009, the program's average annual pass rates were within the required ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate, however, this was due to **one (1) student** testing and achieving a 100%. Over the last ten (10) consecutive quarters, January - March 2010 through April - June 2012, the program's average annual pass rates have ranged from 14 to 43 percentage points **below** state average annual pass rates.

Such performance statistics support the recommendation to place the program on provisional approval. The program director reviewed the program's instructional plan and found it to be inadequate and has revised it in an attempt to bring up the programs licensure pass rates.

The demonstrated lack of achievement of program graduates on the licensure exam supports the recommendation to deny the program's request to admit two (2) replacement classes of 30 students each. Approving a smaller class size of 20 students, for the full-time class, only, to **replace** students that graduated on July 29, 2012, is recommended. This will allow the director time to focus on the newly enrolled students, implement the revised curriculum, perform the in-depth comprehensive analysis and evaluation in order to identify deficiencies in students' knowledge, and implement relevant corrective action.

The *Notice of Provisional Approval* is enclosed. This document identifies specific areas of noncompliance and required corrections. It is recommended that you review this document in its entirety. Additionally, the program's *Certificate of Provisional Approval* is enclosed. These documents should be retained in your official files. The attached

Acknowledgement Form should be completed and returned by Friday, September 28, 2012.

Please contact the Board should further clarification be needed.

Sincerely,



**CHERYL C. ANDERSON, M.S., R.N.**  
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant

Enclosures



**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945  
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**DATE:** September 19, 2012  
**TO:** Education Division  
**FROM:** Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program

**SUBJECT:** *Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board Meeting Materials*

I, hereby acknowledge receipt of the following documents with attachments memorializing Board decisions rendered at the September 6, 2012 Board Meeting.

- *Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program.*
- 1. Correspondence Documenting Board Decisions
- 2. *Notice of Provisional Approval.*
- 3. California Code of Regulations Excerpt Section 2526.1. Provisional Approval.
- 4. *Certificate of Provisional Approval.*

Please sign and fax the *Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board Meeting Materials* to the Board at (916) 263-7866 by Friday, September 28, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature, Director)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Name of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and fax to the Board at  
(916) 263-7866 by Friday, September 28, 2012.**



**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**

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Phone (916) 263-7843 Fax (916) 263-7866 Web [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov)



**CERTIFICATE OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL**

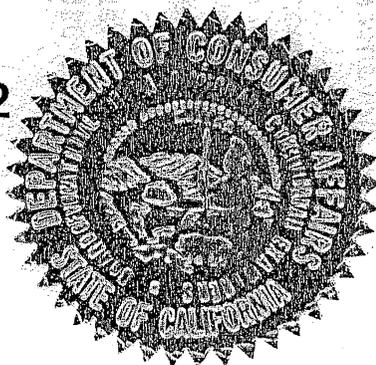
for

***Advanced Computing Institute  
Vocational Nursing Program***

This document reflects that the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) has provisionally approved the above-named program pursuant to Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations. A copy of documents related to the provisional approval may be obtained by contacting the Board at the address above. A candidate's completion of an approved vocational nursing program is partial fulfillment of requirements for the vocational nurse licensure examination.

**Effective: September 6, 2012**

**Expires: September 30, 2014**



Todd D'Braunstein, P.T.  
President

Teresa Bello-Jones  
Executive Officer



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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL

Program Name: Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program

Program Director: Elizabeth Ngassa Email Address: e.ngassa@yahoo.com

Address: 3470 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90010 Fax #: (213) 383-5765

I declare:

I am employed in the County of Sacramento, California, I am over the age of 18, and not a party to the within action. My business address is 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, California 95833-2945.

On August 27, 2012, I served the following document(s) described as:

Agenda Item #12.A.4. Advanced Computing Institute Vocational Nursing Program - Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Report and Attachments A through B)

By causing to be delivered a true and correct copy thereof to the addressee(s) as follows:

VIA U.S. MAIL:

By placing a copy in each of two separate sealed envelopes with postage thereon fully prepaid and causing them to be deposited in the mail at Sacramento, California for delivery by way of Certified Mail and First Class Mail.

Certified Mail Number:

VIA PERSONAL SERVICE:

I myself, or a designated courier, delivered such document(s) by hand to the offices of the addressee.

VIA FACSIMILE:

Such document(s) were transmitted to the facsimile number(s) listed above. The facsimile machine I used was in working order and no communication or delivery error was reported by the machine.

X VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the e-mail address listed above. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that my transmission was unsuccessful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. This declaration was executed at Sacramento, California on April 30, 2012.

Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R.N., S.N.E.C. (Typed Staff Name)

(Staff Signature)



BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS  
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## DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL

Program Name: Advanced Computing Institute

Program Director: Elizabeth Ngassa Email Address: e.ngassa@yahoo.com

Address: 3470 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100 Los Angeles, CA 90010

I declare:

I am employed in the County of Sacramento, California, I am over the age of 18, and not a party to the within action. My business address is 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, California 95833-2945.

On September 20, 2012, I served the following document(s) described as:

*in Approval Status & certificate Notice of Change*

By causing to be delivered a true and correct copy thereof to the addressee(s) as follows:

VIA U.S. MAIL:

By placing a copy in each of two separate sealed envelopes with postage thereon fully prepaid and causing them to be deposited in the mail at Sacramento, California for delivery by way of Certified Mail and First Class Mail.

Certified Mail Number: 7011 200 0000 5159 9019

VIA PERSONAL SERVICE:

I myself, or a designated courier, delivered such document(s) by hand to the offices of the addressee.

VIA FACSIMILE:

Such document(s) were transmitted to the facsimile number(s) listed above. The facsimile machine I used was in working order and no communication or delivery error was reported by the machine.

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the e-mail address listed above. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that my transmission was unsuccessful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. This declaration was executed at Sacramento, California on September 20, 2012.

Melinda Collins

(Typed Staff Name)

*Melinda Collins 9/20/12*  
(Staff Signature)