

Agenda Item #21.B.1.



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

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE: November 6, 2017
TO: Board Members
FROM: Faye Silverman, R.N., M.S.N./Ed., W.O.C.N., P.H.N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program - Request to Admit Students (Director: Adnan Almouazzen Pomona, San Bernardino County, Private)

The North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program is presented for consideration of a request to admit one (1) class of **thirty (30)** beginning **December 4, 2017** and graduating **April 23, 2019**. This class will **replace** the class which graduated on **August 21, 2017**. Approval is recommended.

The Board placed the program on provisional approval from May 13, 2016 to May 31, 2018; due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 42%.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Prior Board Actions)

Enrollment

The program was previously approved for the ongoing admission of three (3) classes per year of 40 students each into the 60 week full-time course of instruction. Effective **May 13, 2016**, the Board rescinded approval of the program's ongoing admissions and required the program to obtain Board approval prior to admitting students. 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 class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 46 students** for the period **May 2016 through December 2017**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		# Students Admitted	# Students Current or Completed	Total Enrollment
Start	Completed			
5/31/16 (*8/21/17) Class # 22		20	12	12
6/19/17 (*10/19/18) Class # 23	8/17	16	16	12 + 16 = 28
	8/21/17 Class # 22 5/16		-12	28 - 12 = 16
12/4/17 (*4/23/19) Class # 24		30	30	16 + 30 = 46

*Indicates projected graduation date

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 October 2015 to September 2017, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the North-West College, Pomona, 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 Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR §2530(l)]	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct - Dec 2015	10	3	30%	75%	41%	72%	-31
Jan - Mar 2016	7	3	43%	73%	42%	73%	-31
Apr - Jun 2016	10	5	50%	75%	41%	74%	-33
Jul - Sep 2016	15	9	60%	76%	48%	75%	-27
Oct - Dec 2016	9	6	67%	70%	56%	74%	-18
Jan - Mar 2017	7	6	86%	72%	63%	73%	-10
Apr - Jun 2017	11	8	73%	68%	69%	74%	-5
Jul - Sep 2017	7	6	86%	74%	76%	71%	+5

*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.

California Code of Regulations section 2530(l) 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 approved vocational nursing schools for the same period."

This data substantiates the program's **compliance** for the last **three (3) consecutive** quarters (January 2017 through September 2017) in which program candidates tested.

Based on the most recent data available (July – September 2017) the program's average annual pass rate is **76%**. 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 **71%**. The pass rate for the North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program is **5** percentage points **above** 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 number of Board - approved faculty is **19** including the program director and assistant director. The director has **100%** administrative duties. This program has **two (2)** instructors who teach theory only. This program has **one (1)** teacher assistant. Of the total faculty, **15** instructors are designated to teach in the clinical area. Based on submitted documents, twelve (12) faculty have been employed for periods of two (2) to ten (10) years. Board records substantiate the approval of seven (7) new faculty since January 2016.

Based on a maximum enrollment of **46** students, **five (5)** instructors are required for clinical supervision. 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 has clinical facilities that 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 has been verified by the consultant.

Other Considerations

On February 17, 2016, the Board requested an explanation for the four (4) consecutive quarters of low pass rates. After analysis, the director and faculty determined that: revision of the curriculum was identified as an important component of the plan to improve program pass rates.

On January 23, 2017, the Board approved the programs curriculum revisions which included **1740** total program hours, including **580** theory hours and **1160** clinical hours. At that time, the Board approved the admission of one (1) **full – time class** of **24** students on **February 13, 2017**, graduating **May 15, 2018**, to **replace** the class that will graduate **February 15, 2017**.

This class start date was postponed from **February 13, 2017** till **June 19, 2017** due to obtaining approval from ACCSC accreditation. This class is scheduled to graduate on **October 19, 2018**.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the admission of one (1) full – time class of **thirty (30)** students on **December 4, 2017**, graduating **April 23, 2019**, to **replace** the class that graduated on **August 21, 2017**.
2. Continue to require the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
3. Continue to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
4. Continue the program's requirement to maintain an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
5. Continue to require the director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class.
6. Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professionals Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.
7. Continue to require 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 approval.

Rationale: The Director of Nursing and the administrative staff of North West College, Pomona have implemented their revised curriculum with the June 19, 2017 class start.

Given the foregoing, approval of the program's request is supported.

Board staff will continue to monitor closely the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, resources, and the program's quarterly annual average pass rates.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Agenda Item #21.B.1., Attachment A

NORTHWEST COLLEGE, POMONA VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On September 9, 2005, the Executive Officer approved North-West College, Pomona's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 30 students on October 31, 2005, with a projected graduation date of December 1, 2006. The Board approved the program curriculum for 1624 hours, including 664 theory, and 960 clinical hours.
- On October 1, 2005, the director notified the Board that admission of the class had been delayed until January 17, 2006, due to lack of enrollment and faculty recruitment.
- On March 22-23, 2007, the program was inspected to determine compliance with Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. One (1) violation was identified and corrected.
- On April 12, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program for the period from April 12, 2007, through April 11, 2011, and issued a certificate accordingly. The Executive Officer also approved the North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a full - time class of 30 students to start on May 7, 2007, only, to **replace** students graduating on April 29, 2008.
- On March 4, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 35 students into a full - time class on April 15, 2008, only, with a projected graduation of June 28, 2009, thereby increasing frequency of admissions and increasing the class size from 30 to 35 students.
- **On May 14, 2008 a new program director was approved.**
- On June 11, 2008, the director notified the Board of a delayed start of the April 15, 2008, class to May 27, 2008, with a projected completion date of September 17, 2009, due to a delay in financial aid processing for the students.
- On August 13, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's admission of 35 students into a full-time class on September 9, 2008 with a projected graduation of December 12, 2009, to **replace** students graduating on August 10, 2008; and, denied the program's request for ongoing admissions at this time, pending continuing review of annual pass rate statistics.

- On November 16, 2010, the Board received the program's request for continued accreditation including the Program Records Survey.
- On May 6, 2011, a notice of **violation** was sent to the program related to **unapproved admission of classes**. A plan to prevent future occurrences is to be submitted by May 20, 2011.
- On May 9, 2011, the Board received requested documents.
- On May 13, 2011, the Executive Officer approved full accreditation for North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program for the four (4) year period from April 12, 2011 through April 11, 2015, and directed staff to issue a certificate accordingly; and, approved the program's request to admit a class of 35 students on June 6, 2011 and scheduled to graduate September 7, 2012, only to **replace** students who graduated in April 2011; and, required the program to **come before the full Board for further admission of unapproved classes**; and, required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- On November 3, 2011, the Executive Officer approved North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 35 students on November 28, 2011, only, with a projected graduation on March 30, 2013; approved the program's request to admit a class of 35 students on May 7, 2012, only, to **replace** a class scheduled to graduate on April 30, 2012. The anticipated graduation date is June 28, 2013; denied the program's request to admit 35 students to commence on September 24, 2012, graduating November 29, 2013, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on September 7, 2012; and required the program to submit a written plan identifying how they will increase the number of graduates (past, current and future) to take the NCLEX-PN® after graduation.
- On August 15, 2012, the Executive Officer approved the following recommendations:
 - a. Approve North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 40 students on October 1, 2012, to **replace** a class scheduled to graduate in September 2012. The projected graduation for this class will be on January 29, 2014.
 - b. Approve North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 40 students on April 29, 2013, to **replace** a class scheduled to graduate in March 2013. The anticipated graduation date is July 31, 2014.
 - c. Approve North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 40 students on September 30, 2013, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate in September 2013. This class would graduate December 20, 2014.
 - d. Deny North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request for ongoing admissions of three classes of 40 students each year.
 - e. Continue the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class

- On June 13, 2013 the Executive Officer approved North-West College, Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 40 students on July 29 2013, only. The projected graduation for this class will be on October 3, 2014; **and**, approved the program's request for ongoing admissions of three classes of 40 students each year with the following stipulations:
 - a. No additional classes are added to the program's pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's pattern of admissions will include admission of a class of 40 students in February, July and October of each year, only.
 - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. The program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530 (I) of the Code.

- **On August 25, 2014 the Board approved a new director.**
- On May 13, 2016, the Board placed the North West College Pomona, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from May 13, 2016, through May 2018, and issued a notice to the program to identify specific area of non-compliance and requirements for correction, as referenced in Section 2526.1 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** rescinded approval of the program's ongoing admission of three (3) classes of 40 students each year to **replace** graduating students only, effective immediately; **and** required the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board; **and** approved the program's admission of a class of 40 students commencing on May 31, 2016, and graduating on July 30, 2017, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate in May 2016; **and** required the director's to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class; **and** required the program to submit a report to the Board no later than seven (7) months, but no later than **December 1, 2016**, and twenty – one (21) months, but no later than **November 1, 2017**. The report 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

Additionally, the program is required to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professionals 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 approval. The Board placed the program on the Board's **May 2018** agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On January 23, 2017, the Board approved the following recommendations:
 - a. Approve the North-West College Pomona Vocational Nursing Program's curriculum revisions to include **1740** total program hours, including **580** theory hours and **1160** clinical hours.
 - b. Deny the admission of one (1) **full – time class** of **40** students on **February 13, 2017**, graduating **May 15, 2018**, to **replace** the class that will graduate **February 15, 2017**.
 - c. Approve the admission of one (1) **full – time class** of **24** students on **February 13, 2017**, graduating **May 15, 2018**, to **replace** the class that will graduate **February 15, 2017**.
 - d. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
 - e. Require the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
 - f. Continue to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - g. Continue to require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than (10) ten percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
 - h. Continue to require the director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class.
 - i. Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and

Professionals Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.

- j. Continue to require 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 approval.
- k. Continue to require the program to submit a report to the Board no later than **November 1, 2017**. The report 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
- l. Place the program on the Board's **May 2018** agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.