



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



DATE: February 9, 2018

TO: Board Members

FROM: Margarita Valdes, RN, MS
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program –
Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval and Request to
Admit Students (Director: Paula Richards, Modesto, Stanislaus County, Private)

STAFF SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION(S):

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, “The Board may place any program on provisional approval when a program does not meet all requirement as set forth in this chapter and in (Section 2526 for VN or 2581 for PT).

Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program is being presented to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional approval for a period of two (2) years. The program has been non-compliant with licensure examination pass rate requirements for the last six quarters. Additionally, the director of the program, requests approval to admit a group of 30 students, beginning March 19, 2018, and graduating April 20, 2019, to replace the December 15, 2017, graduates.

The program addressed the pass rate problem by revising curriculum, providing a review course for students and emphasizing faculty improvement and development (see page 4 for detailed information). Given these major interventions, the program should be allowed to admit a class that will be presented with the new curriculum. Close monitoring by the Board will be accomplished during the provisional approval period.

RECOMMEND:

- 1. Placement of the program on provisional approval for a period of two (2) years, to begin February 23, 2018.**
- 2. Admission of one (1) class of 30 students, beginning March 19, 2018.**

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Prior Board Actions)

Enrollment

The program is currently approved to offer a full-time program which is 51 weeks in length. The following table represents current and proposed student enrollment. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 50 students** for the period from November 2016 through March 2018.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
11/16 *(12/15/17)		30	27	27
3/17 *(4/27/18)		23	20	27 + 20 = 47
	12/15/17 (11/16 Class)		-27	47 - 27 = 20
3/18 *(4/20/19) (Proposed)		30		20 + 30 = 50

*indicate expected date of graduation

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the 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 July 2016 through December 2017, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®), and the variance from state average annual pass rates.

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 [CCR §2530(I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sep 2016	1	0	0%	76%	0%	75%	-75
Oct - Dec 2016	18	10	56%	70%	53%	74%	-21
Jan –Mar 2017	No Candidates Tested			72%	53%	73%	-20
Apr-June 2017	No Candidates Tested			68%	53%	74%	-21
Jul- Sept 2017	2	1	50%	74%	55%	71%	-16

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 [CCR §2530(I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct –Dec 2017	25	11	44%	69%	44%	71%	-27

*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.”

Based on the most current data available (October through December 2017), the program’s average annual pass rate **44%**. 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 average annual pass rate for Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program is **27** 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 80% administrative duties. All faculty are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of **50** students, four (4) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current 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.

Other Considerations:

On August 1, 2017, the Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program, received a letter from the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians stating that on July 27, 2017, the Board had approved the request to admit a class of 30 students with a start date of July 31, 2017, to **replace** the graduating class of August 2017.

At that time the Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program made an internal decision to delay the approved July 31st start to November 13, 2017. They decided the delay would best support the faculty in successfully implementing corrective actions developed to assist the graduating class in preparing for the licensing exam. The Board was notified of the decision to delay the start of the approved July 31, 2017 class.

The program director acknowledged awareness of their low pass rates and the program has implemented the following corrective actions:

- Revised the Institute of Technology Vocational Nursing Program curriculum and, after approval by the Board, implemented it on all campuses in March 2017. The first cohort of students in Modesto enrolled in March 2017 under the new curriculum and will graduate **April 2018**. That cohort is scheduled to take the NCLEX-PN® in the second quarter of 2018.
- Implemented a review course to assist students that graduated in **December 2017**, in preparing for the NCLEX-PN®.

The following policies were also revised and implemented with the March 2017 cohort:

- Increased minimum entrance requirements.
- Revised attendance policy and improved process for maintaining attendance.
- Raised exam passing score from 70% to 80% and required remediation of all content in which the students test below the 80%
- Purchased the NCSBN NCLEX-PN® prep course for all students enrolled under the old curriculum.
- Implemented an NCLEX-PN® study group for graduates.

In addition, the latest changes include:

- Hiring new faculty.
- Emphasizing instructor development:
 - Held two nursing summits for all instructors
 - Instructors are required to complete a faculty development plan and attend webinars on teaching methodologies, conceptual learning and classroom management.

- Implementing comprehensive assessment and testing throughout the program that utilizes progression testing, adaptive quizzing, and a structured remediation program.

Recommendations:

1. The Board place the Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program on Provisional Approval, for a period of two (2) years, from February 23, 2018 through February 28, 2018.
2. Approve admission of a group 30 students, beginning March 19, 2018, and graduating April 20, 2019, to replace the December 15, 2017, graduates.
3. Continue to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class.
4. Require the director to submit follow - up reports in 6 months, but no later than August 1, 2018, and 12 months, but no later than January 1, 2019. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken with implementation of the revisions to improve pass rates, and evaluation of the effect of the 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

Rationale:

The director and faculty have reported efforts and commitment by implementing the following actions:

- Implementation of approved curriculum changes with the class of March 2018.
- Development and implementation of action plan to assist the students who graduated on December 15, 2017, as previously outlined in the section titled *Other Considerations*

However, data that would demonstrate the results of these actions will not be available until possibly the second quarter of 2018 for December 2017 graduates and possibly until third or fourth quarter of 2018 for the April 2018 graduates.

Approval to admit a class of 30 students to replace the December graduates will provide the program the opportunity to have enough students to gather sufficient data to evaluate the effects of the plan of actions implemented.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Agenda Item #20.A.1., Attachment A

Institute of Technology, Modesto Vocational Nursing Program

History of Prior Board Action

- On April 1, 2015, the Executive Officer rendered the following decisions:
Approve the Institute of Technology, Modesto, request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 30 students on July 13, 2015 only, and graduating July 29, 2016, **and** approve the program curriculum for 1575 hours, including 585 theory and 990 clinical hours, **and** require the program to submit documentation substantiating current approval by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education prior to commencement of the initial class, **and** require the program to obtain prior Board approval before admission of subsequent classes to maintain compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526(c) that states:

“(c) A Board representative shall make a survey visit prior to graduation of the initial class. A program shall not commence another class without prior Board approval.”
- On May 18 and 19, 2016, an onsite inspection of the program was completed. The program was reviewed to determine compliance with Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations. No violations were identified.
- On June 9, 2016, the Executive Officer approved the program for the period June 9, 2016 through June 8, 2020. Additionally, the program was approved to admit one class of 30 full-time students, beginning July 11, 2016 and graduating August 18, 2017.
- On November 2, 2016, the Executive Officer approved the program’s request to admit one (1) class of 30 full time students beginning November 7, 2016 and graduating December 15, 2017 only.
- On March 24, 2017, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant’s report relative to the Institute of Technology Vocational Nursing Program – Request to admit 30 students on March 27, 2017 and consideration of approval of curriculum changes. The following decisions were rendered: **Approve** to admit a full-time class of 30 students, March 27, 2017 and graduating April 27, 2018. **Approve** the

curriculum changes; to be implemented on all three Institute of Technology campuses following the approval. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

- On December 7, 2017, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant's report relative to the Institute of Technology Request to admit one (1) class of 30 full-time students November 13, 2017, and graduating December 14, 2018. The following decisions were rendered: **Deny** the Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit one (1) class of 30 full-time students November 13, 2017, and graduating December 14, 2018. **Refer** the program to the Education Committee for consideration of placement on provisional approval. **Continue** to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. **Continue** to monitor programs licensure examination pass rates.
- On January 25, 2018, the Education Committee reviewed the consultant's report relative to referral of the Institute of Technology, Modesto, for Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval. During the meeting the program director asked to admit 25 students beginning March 19, 2018. The committee requested that the Board Report be updated to include information and documents presented at the Education Meeting by program director and present the revised report for review at the February 2018 Board Meeting.