

Agenda Item #27.C.5.



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

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: *Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students.* (Director: Carla Christensen – Pasadena, Los Angeles County, Community College).

The Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program is presented for consideration of a request to admit one (1) class of **twenty (20)** students beginning **August 28, 2017** and graduating **August 21, 2018** to **replace** the class scheduled to graduate **August 22, 2017**. Approval of the program's request is recommended.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit one (1) class of **twenty (20)** students beginning **August 28, 2017** and graduating **August 21, 2018**, to **replace** the class to graduate **August 22, 2017, only**.
2. Continue the program's requirement to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
3. Continue the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each additional class.
4. Continue the program's requirement to demonstrate sustained progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate sustained progress the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
5. Continue the program's requirement to submit follow - up reports in 10 months, but no later than **September 1, 2017**, and 22 months but no later than **September 1, 2018**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken with revisions to improve 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.
6. Continue the program's requirement to comply with all approval 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.
7. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.

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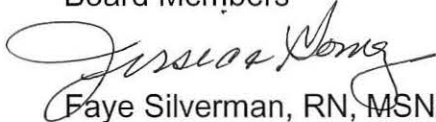
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DATE: January 23, 2017

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Faye Silverman, RN, MSN/Ed, PHN, WOCN
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Carla Christensen – Pasadena, Los Angeles County, Community College).

The Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program is presented for consideration of a request to admit one (1) class of **twenty (20)** students beginning **August 28, 2017** and graduating **August 21, 2018** to **replace** the class scheduled to graduate **August 22, 2017**. Approval of the program's request is recommended.

The Board initially placed the program on provisional approval on November 4, 2016 through November 30, 2018 due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates on the licensure examination.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Board Actions)

Enrollment

Pasadena City College, Vocational Nursing Program offers a 47 – week course of instruction. The program is required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

The following table represents **current and projected** student enrollment based on current and projected class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 20** students for the period August 2015 through August 2018.

| ENROLLMENT DATA | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| CLASS DATES | | #Students Admitted | #Students Current or Completed | Total Enrolled |
| Start | Complete | | | |
| 8/15 | | 17 | | 0 + 17 = 17 |
| | 8/16 (Class 8/15) | | -17 | 17 - 17 = 0 |
| 8/16 | | 20 | 18 | 18 |
| | 8/17 (Class 8/16) | | -18 | 18 - 18 = 0 |
| 8/17 (Proposed) | 8/18 | 20 | 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 2015 through December 2016, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Pasadena City College 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(I)] | Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate |
| Oct – Dec 2014 | 12 | 7 | 58% | 72% | 63% | 72% | -9 |
| Jan – Mar 2015 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 73% | 59% | 71% | -12 |
| Apr – Jun 2015 | 4 | 1 | 25% | 69% | 52% | 72% | -20 |
| Jul – Sep 2015 | No Candidates Tested | | | 73% | 47% | 72% | -25 |
| Oct – Dec 2015 | 1 | 1 | 100% | 75% | 33% | 72% | -39 |
| Jan – Mar 2016 | No Candidates Tested | | | 73% | 40% | 72% | -32 |
| Apr – Jun 2016 | No Candidates Tested | | | 75% | 100% | 74% | +26 |
| Jul – Sep 2016 | No Candidates Tested | | | 76% | 100% | 75% | +25 |
| Oct – Dec 2016 | 12 | 11 | 92% | 70% | 92% | 74% | +18 |

*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 § 2530(I) 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 **non - compliance** with Section 2530 (l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations for **six (6) of the previous nine (9) quarters** from October 2014 through December 2016. However it is important to note that from the program had no graduates tested for three quarters during that time.

According to data received from Pearson Vue, all eligible program candidates who graduated between August 2012, and July 2014, have taken the NCLEX-PN licensure examination. There were no graduates in 2015. Seventeen students graduated in August 2016 and are eligible to take the licensure examination. Of that total population, 12 of the program’s August graduates have tested and 11 passed. As such, 92% of the August graduate population passed the licensure examination on initial testing.

Based on the most recent data available (October 2016 through December 2016), the program’s average annual pass rate is **92%**. It must be noted that the Quarter 3 - 2016 average annual pass rate of 100% represents one candidate who graduated in 2014, and tested in the fourth quarter of 2015. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination for the first time during the same period is **74%**.

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.”

However, based on the Board’s November 2016 decision, the program is required to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical classes.

The total number of Board-approved faculty is eight (8) including the program director. The director and all instructors are approved to teach in the clinical area. For a maximum enrollment of **20** students, two (2) 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 sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught for current and proposed students.

Other Considerations:

On October 26, 2015, a curriculum change was approved. The total curriculum hours **changed** from **576 theory and 972 clinical** hours for a total of **1548** hours to **594 theory and 972 clinical** for a **total program hours of 1566 hours**.

On February 22, 2016, the Board received the director's response regarding the program pass rate performance. The program was closed for one year (August 2014 – August 2015) to evaluate and improve the program's curriculum.

The new curriculum was implemented with the current class of students. Other program enhancements include:

- Development of a plan for annual curriculum review.
- Schedule a minimum of two (2) meetings per semester with student representatives to provide feedback to faculty regarding the curriculum.
- Include Case Studies into classroom and homework assignments.
- Add Simulation three (3) times each quarter to enhance the clinical experience for student learning.
- Offer free tutors.
- Refer students to a retention counselor as soon as the first examination is failed.

The program stopped admitting students between August 2014 through August 2015, in order to evaluate the program and curriculum. A new curriculum was approved. The seventeen (17) students who graduated in August 2016, will be the first students to benefit from the program's new curriculum and improvement plan. To date twelve (12) of these seventeen (17) students have taken the NCLEX-PN exam and eleven (11) have passed.

On November 4, 2016, the Board initially placed the program on provisional approval on November 4, 2016 through November 30, 2018 due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates on the licensure examination. At that time, the program's approval for ongoing admissions was rescinded and the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit one (1) class of **twenty (20)** students beginning **August 28, 2017** and graduating **August 21, 2018**, to **replace** the class to graduate **August 22, 2017, only**.
2. Continue the program's requirement to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
3. Continue the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each additional class.

4. Continue the program's requirement to demonstrate sustained progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate sustained progress the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
5. Continue the program's requirement to comply with all approval 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.

Rationale:

The program's most current pass rate is 92%, 18 percentage points above the state. However, it is important to note one (1) program graduate tested from July 2015 through June 2016. No program candidates tested in Quarter 3, 2015, and Quarters 1 and 2 of 2016. Of the 12 total candidates tested in Quarter 4 – 2016, 11 passed.

The program elected to close the program for one year to evaluate and improve the program's curriculum. Additionally, an improvement plan and processes were put into place to address student needs and learning progress. The seventeen (17) students who graduated in August 2016 are the first graduates to benefit from the new curriculum, and improvement plan.

Considering the foregoing information it is recommended to approve the request for admission of twenty (20) students in August 2017.

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 #27.C.5., Attachment A.

Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program

History of Prior Board Actions

- The Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program was initially accredited in 1953.
- On May 16-17, 1984, the assigned Nursing Education Consultant conducted a survey visit. The Board considered the consultant's report and recommendation at its June, 1984 meeting that accreditation be continued after the program demonstrated compliance with violations in performance objectives, admission criteria, attendance policy, credit granting policy and posting of required information. The program subsequently substantiated full compliance to the Board's satisfaction.
- On January 1985, the Board approved a major curriculum change with changes in hours contingent upon meeting specified time lines for submission of curriculum material.
- On June 16, 2000, the Board approved the program's request for a major curriculum change, including philosophy, conceptual framework, curriculum objectives and program hours. New program hours are total program hours are 1, 557, with total theory hours being 585 and clinical hours being 972.
- On April 14, 2004, the Board approved continued full accreditation for the Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period from May 14, 2004, through May 13, 2008, and issued a certificate accordingly.
- On March 19, 2008 the Board approved continued full accreditation for the Pasadena City College Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period from May 14, 2008, through May 13, 2012, and issued a certificate accordingly.
- On February 1, 2012, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director and the completed Program Records Survey for continued approval.
- On July 8, 2014, the Board approved a new Director.
- On October 26, 2015 the Board approved a new curriculum increasing of program hours from **576 theory and 972 clinical** hours for a total of **1548** hours to **594 theory and 972 clinical** for a **total program hours of 1566 hours.**
- On February 17, 2016, the program was notified of four quarters of non-compliant pass rates.

- On November 4, 2016 the Board placed Pasadena City College on provisional approval for the two-year period from **November 4, 2016**, through **November 30, 2018**, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific area of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (c) of the California Code of Regulations; **and** rescinded the program's ongoing admissions of one class of 45 students per year immediately; **and** require the program to brings its average annual pass rate to no more than (10) ten percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; **and** required the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences; **and** required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each additional class; **and** required the program 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 by **December 1, 2016**; **and** required the director to submit follow - up reports in 10 months, but no later than September 1, 2017, and 22 months but no later than September 1, 2018. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken with revisions to improve 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
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- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement
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Additionally, the program was required to demonstrate sustained progress in correcting the violation. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate sustained progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval. The program is required to comply with all approval 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. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.