

AGENDA ITEM #5.E.IV



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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DATE	August 21, 2020
TO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Members <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer Review
FROM	<input type="checkbox"/> Education and Practice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SNEC
REVIEWED BY	Marie Cordeiro, MN, RN Supervising Nursing Education Consultant (SNEC)
PREPARED BY	Cindy Fairchild EdD, MSN, RN, PHN Nursing Education Consultant (NEC)
SUBJECT	Request to Admit Students
PROGRAM	Institute of Technology, Modesto, Vocational Nursing Program (Program) (Director: Cynthia Martin-Michalec, Modesto, Fresno County, and Private)

Please note: The NECs make recommendations. The recommendations are forwarded to one or more: the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee or the full Board for action.

PROGRAM REQUEST:

Admit one full-time class of 30 students commencing on November 9, 2020, graduating on December 10, 2021 to replace the August 14, 2020, graduating class.

BACKGROUND:

The Program was placed on provisional approval for a two-year period starting February 23, 2018. Provisional approval was extended for a two-year period starting May 21, 2020 due to changes in administration.

The Program was displaced from all clinical sites the week of March 9-13, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program began to deliver theory via an online format from March 24, 2020 through May 18, 2020. On May 19, 2020, the students returned to the campus for theory. Clinical was delivered via virtual simulation until June 29, 2020, at this time the students began clinical experiences in a hands-on simulated environment in the skill lab. The class graduating February 2021, returned to a Board-approved hands-on clinical site July 20, 2020. The August 2021

graduating class will not begin clinical experiences until September 2020, however they do not have a clinical site scheduled.

The Program has maintained an average annual pass rate on the NCLEX- PN® above the state annual average pass rate for the past five quarters, with an annual NCLEX-PN® of 88 percent for the second quarter of 2020.

The annual state NCLEX-PN® pass rate have been three to 11 percentage points above the state annual NCLEX-PN® pass rate. The quarterly NCLEX-PN® pass rate has been 100 percent for the past three quarters.

Board staff will continue to monitor the Program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions and the Program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.

Current program director is on a long- term medical leave and the Program is being administered by the assistant director.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The class that began in July 2020 is not scheduled for hands on clinical experiences in a Board-approved clinical site. However, the class will not begin clinical experiences until September 2020.

The proposed class begins November 2020 and will not begin their clinical experience until February 2021.

The Program has maintained an average annual pass rate on the NCLEX- PN® above the state annual average pass rate for the past five quarters, with an annual NCLEX-PN® of 88 percent for the second quarter of 2020.

Continue to require the Program 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please note: These are not NEC decisions, rather the recommendations presented at the Executive Officer Review, the Education and Practice Committee and/or the full Board for action.

1. Deny the Program's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students commencing on November 9, 2020, graduating on December 10, 2021 to replace the December 11, 2020, graduating class.
2. Recommend that the Executive Officer approve the class at the October 2020 Executive Officer review, pending the program director's submission of confirmation

of clinical sites for the July 13, 2020 class and the proposed November 9, 2020 class.

3. Place the Program on the Board's May 2022, agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
4. Comply with all program requirements listed below

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Program director to submit documents demonstrating that the class which began July 13, 2020 has been scheduled at Board-approved clinical sites by October 1, 2020.
2. Program director to submit the following documents by October 1, 2020 for the proposed class:
 - a. Faculty and facility clinical assignments
 - b. Maternity faculty student clinical assignment
 - c. Pediatric faculty student clinical assignment
3. Program director to notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
4. Program director to notify the Nursing Education Consultant when a course is 50 percent complete, and submit an update related to clinical sites.
5. Obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
6. When requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all required documentation in final form by the fifteenth day of the second month preceding the month of the Board meeting at which the changes will be considered.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Maintain an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
7. Submit a report to the Board no later than November 15, 2020 and February 15, 2021. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The elements below must be addressed in the analysis.

- a. Terminal objectives
 - b. Evaluation of current curriculum including:
 - Instructional plan
 - Theory objectives for each term
 - Clinical objectives for each term
 - Lesson plans for each term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - Admission policy
 - Screening and selection policy
 - Attendance policy
 - Remediation policy
 - Evaluation of student achievement
 - Credit granting policy
 - d. Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected students.
 - e. Evaluations of faculty
 - f. Methodologies for:
 - Faculty meetings
 - Clinical evaluations
8. 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16.
 9. Monitor the Program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions and the program's licensure examination pass rates each quarter.
 10. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the Board to revoke the Program's approval.

RELEVANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Enrollment

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

“(k) The program shall have prior Board approval to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of admission of classes. Criteria to evaluate a school's request to increase the number of students per class and/or increase the frequency of class admissions include but are not limited to: (1) Sufficient program resources as specified in Section 2530(a). (2) Adequacy of clinical experience as specified in Section 2534. (3) Licensure examination pass rates as specified in Section 2530(l).”

The Program offers a full-time course of instruction that is 51 weeks in length. Currently, the Program must obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

The following table represents current and proposed student enrollment. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 90 students for the period from July 2019 through November 2020.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
7/19 *(8/20)		29	20	20
1/20 *(2/21)		30	30	20 + 30 = 50
7/20 *(8/21)		30	30	50 + 30 = 80
	8/20 (7/19)		- 20	80 - 20 = 60
11/20 *(12/20) (Proposed)		30		60 + 30 = 90

*Indicates projected graduation date

Licensing Examination Statistics

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.”

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 July 2018 through June 2020, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the 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 Average 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 2018	8	6	75%	77%	62%	76%	- 14
Oct– Dec 2018	1	1	100%	79%	73%	79%	- 6
Jan– Mar 2019	No Candidates Test			80%	70%	81%	- 11
Apr – Jun 2019	15	12	80%	83%	79%	81%	- 2
Jul – Sep 2019	13	8	62%	79%	72%	79%	- 7
Oct– Dec 2019	16	16	100%	79%	82%	79%	+ 3
Jan - Mar 2020	8	8	100%	78%	85%	79%	+ 6
Apr – Jun 2020	5	5	100%	81%	88%	79%	+ 11

*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 current data available (April–June 2020), the Program’s average annual pass rate is 88 percent. 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 79 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is eleven 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 total number of Board approved faculty is 11 including the program director. The director has 80 percent administrative duties and 20 percent teaching duties. All instructors are designated to teach clinical. For a maximum enrollment of 90 students, six instructors are needed for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that clinical instruction is covered adequately.

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.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Program’s Board-approved clinical facilities displaced students, thereby not allowing student access to the clinical site. The class graduating February 2021, returned to a Board-approved hands-on clinical site July

20, 2020. The August 2021 graduating class will not begin clinical experiences until September 2020.

Other Considerations

Social Distancing Compliance:

Classroom configuration to allow for social-distancing



Main skills lab left side, beds six feet apart. Main skills lab right side, beds 6 feet apart



Practice Lab Bistro, 4 tables, 2 students per table Practice lab Bistro, 2 beds 6 feet apart

Ongoing attempts to reestablish clinical sites:

- The clinical coordinator has maintained weekly communication with all Board-approved clinical sites. The clinical sites have expressed interest in the return of students in the clinical site as soon as possible.
- According to the assistant program director, "After reaching out to Stanislaus County clinical sites they are awaiting approval from the Public Health to allow

students to come to facility as currently they are considered volunteer or visitors not essential workers.”

Faculty training for online education:

- Faculty members received professional development training in the following areas:
 - ATI Resources for Virtual Learning: How to Enhance Educational Opportunities with Simulation Solutions
 - NCSBN Policy Guidelines for the BON in Simulations
 - Best Practices for Moving Your Class Online
 - Best Practices in Online Instruction: Engaging Students
 - Moving Online: Response to COVID – 19
 - Online Clinical Plans
 - Proctario Training
 - Creative Ways to Teach Diverse Learners
 - Microsoft Teams training
 - OneNote Class – online platform training

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Agenda Item #5.E.IV., Attachment A

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MODESTO VOCTIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- 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.
- On February 23, 2018, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) considered the consultant's report relative to the Institute of Technology Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval and Request to Admit Students. The following decisions were rendered: 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, 2020. Approve admission of a group 30 students, beginning March 19, 2018, and graduating April 20, 2019, to replace the December 15, 2017, graduates. Continue to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. 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 the effect of the interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:
 - Admission Criteria
 - Screening and Selection Criteria
 - Terminal Objectives
 - Curriculum Objectives
 - Instructional Plan
 - Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course
 - Lesson Plans for Each Course
 - Textbooks
 - Attendance Policy
 - Remediation Policy
 - Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty
 - Evaluations of Theory Presentations
 - Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations
 - Evaluation of Student Achievement

- Current Enrollment
- On August 24, 2018, The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, considered the consultant's report regarding Request to Admit Students. The following decisions were rendered: Approve admission of a group of 30 students, beginning August 27, 2018, and graduating September 20, 2019, to replace the April 20, 2018, graduates. Continue to require the program to obtain Board-approval prior to the admission of each class. Require the director to submit a follow - up report in 6 months after the start of the August 2018 Class, and a report 12 month after that. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the programs, specific actions taken with implementation of the revisions to improve pass rates, and evaluation of the effect of the interventions. Areas to be addressed in the report should include the following:
 - Admission Criteria
 - Screening and Selection Criteria
 - Attendance Policy
 - Remediation Policy
 - Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty
 - Evaluations of Theory Presentations
 - Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations
 - Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - Current Enrollment
- On April 1, 2019, a new director was approved for the vocational nursing program.
- On May 17, 2019, The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians at their Board meeting considered the consultant's reports regarding- Request to Admit Students. The following Decisions were rendered: Approve the director's request to admit a class of 30 students, starting July 15, 2019, and ending August 1, 2020, to replace the graduating class of August 16, 2019. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. Continue to require the director to submit a follow-up report on November 1, 2019, but no later than January 15, 2020. The report should include: evaluation and analysis of data and findings on student academic progress, attendance, remediation, and any actions implemented as indicated.

On June 27, 2019, a new director was approved for the vocational nursing program.

- The director approved was the former director who had implemented the changes to assist students and improved the pass rates.
- New director was approved November 19,2019, Cynthia Martin-Michalec.
- On November 22, 2019, The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians at their Board meeting considered the consultant's reports regarding- Request to Admit Students. The following Decisions were rendered: Approve the director's request to admit a class of 30 students, starting January 23, 2020, ending February 12, 2021, to replace the class that graduated September 27, 2019. Continue to require

the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class. Continue to require the director to submit follow-up report six months after start of the class, but no later than July 1, 2020. The report should include: evaluation and analysis of data and findings on student academic progress, attendance, remediation, and any actions implemented as indicated

- One May 21, 2020 the Board rendered the following:
 1. Approve the director's request to admit a full-time class of 30 students, starting July 13, 2020, ending August 13, 2021, to replace the class that graduates August 14, 2020.
 2. Approval of the modified instructional plan to be utilized for the proposed admission of the class of 30 students starting July 13, 2020, during COVID-19 pandemic
 3. Extend provisional status for a period of two years beginning May 22, 2020.
 4. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
 5. Continue to require the director to submit follow-up report for current classes within 6 months from May 15, 2020, but no later than November 15, 2020. The report should include: evaluation and analysis of data and findings on student academic progress, attendance, remediation, and any actions implemented as indicated.