



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
 www.bvnpt.ca.gov



DATE	August 10, 2021
TO	Board Members
FROM	LNEC
REVIEWED BY	Beth DeYoung, MPH, RN Lead Nursing Education Consultant (LNEC)
PREPARED BY	Sharlene dela Rosa Nursing Education Consultant (NEC)
SUBJECT	Request to Admit Students
PROGRAM	Southeast California College Vocational Nursing Program (Program) (Director: Dr. Edna Domingo, San Bernardino, San Bernardino County – 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:

On June 13, 2021, the NEC received a request with supporting documentation from the program director for a request to admit a full-time class of 22 students to commence on September 20, 2021, with an expected graduation date of September 26, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

This program was initially placed on provisional approval for a two-year period beginning August 21, 2020, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements, specifically the NCLEX-PN® pass rates were significantly below the state average annual pass rate for first time candidates.

At the February 9, 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved the request to admit a full time class of 20 students to commence on March 1, 2021 with an expected graduation date of March 4, 2022, to replace the class which graduated on October 16, 2020.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Analysis of submitted program documents, materials, and information confirms that the program resources are adequate for the enrolled and projected student population.

The Program was approved to begin a vocational nursing program on February 6, 2018. The Program has had seven quarters of NCLEX-PN® pass rates results. The Program has not demonstrated compliance with NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past seven quarters (October 2019 through June 2021) and is currently on provisional

approval. Currently, the program's average annual pass rate is 57 percent, 17 percentage points below the state average.

The Program's first cohort graduated four students on April 26, 2019. Of the four students who graduated, three have taken the NCLEX-PN® and failed, one has not taken the NCLEX-PN® examination at this time.

The Program's second cohort graduated five students on October 16, 2020. Of the five students, four have taken the NCLEX-PN® and passed, one student failed. The Program had an 80% pass rate for this cohort and during the period of January through March 2021.

The Program did not have any testers for the current quarter. The Program will only have one tester (from the first cohort) until the current cohort graduates on April 4, 2022.

The Program had a curriculum revision approved on March 24, 2021. Full integration of the new curriculum will be implemented for Term 3 and Term 4 for the current cohort. A new class will allow the Program to implement the new curriculum and the new interventions listed below beginning in Term 1.

The Program submitted a comprehensive analysis on June 7, 2021 and identified the following problems encountered for the first cohort:

1. The Program did not use ATI Platform for exit exam or board vitals.
2. Student worked their way through school with less time to study.
3. The Program offered live review, only one student attended, and the others refused to attend the review.

The Program had implemented the following to increase the NCLEX pass rates for the succeeding cohorts:

1. Revised the curriculum to increase the medical surgical component including community health, geriatrics and mental health.
2. Initiated the ATI Board vitals, Capstone and NCLEX Live review.
3. Implemented the ATI Supreme mastery package. The supreme package included specialty focused review as students move from Term I to Term IV, 3-day live review and exit examination.
4. Initiated faculty development to strengthen faculty effectiveness in the transfer of knowledge and skills. Faculty development will be offered twice a year.
5. Implemented consistency with theory and clinical instructions through instructional team approach. Theory instructors will go with clinical groups to the

clinical area to enhance student learning and application of concepts to clinical practice.

6. Changed textbook to Elsevier and used new teaching strategies using smart classroom and integrated evidence-based scenarios to emphasize key points and critical elements.
7. The Program implemented remediation algorithm to help students who are struggling.

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.

1. Approve the Program's request to admit a full-time day class of 22 students to commence on September 20, 2021, with an expected graduation date of September 26, 2022.
2. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Continue to require the program to submit a comprehensive analysis report on the fifteenth month, with a submission date no later than June 1, 2022. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Terminal Objectives
 - b. Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - 1- Instructional Plan
 - 2- Theory & Clinical Objectives for each Term
 - 3- Lesson Plans for each Term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - 1- Admission Policy
 - 2- Screening and Selection Policy
 - 3- Attendance & Remediation Policy
 - 4- Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - 5- 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:
 - 1- Faculty Meetings
 - 2- Clinical Evaluations

- g. Documentation of required clinical resources for all terms for all current cohorts.
2. Admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
3. Require the Program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the NEC, no later than by the fifteenth day of the second month preceding the month of the Board meeting.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the California Code of Regulations.
4. Continue to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences. Regulation 2534(d) states, "For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor." Recommendation of one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences will enable more focused instruction and enhanced learning to closely monitor and evaluate the clinical performance of students.
5. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.
6. Continue the program's requirement to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at the California Business and Professionals Code, Section 2880, and Article 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526.
7. Continue the program's requirement to demonstrate incremental progress in NCLEX-PN[®] examination pass rates. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

RELEVANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Enrollment

Section 2530(k) of the California Code of 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(I)".

The program is Board approved to offer a 52-week full-time class. Board approval is required prior to the admission of each class.

The following table represents current and projected student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completion dates. The table indicates a maximum enrollment of 32 students for the period April 2021 through September 2021.

ENROLLMENT DATA TABLE

Class Start Dates	Class Completion Dates	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Current	Number of Graduated	Total Enrolled
4/5/2021 Class # 3 (*4/4/2022)		10	10		10
9/20/2021 FT Class # 3 *(9/26/2022) Proposed		22			10 + 22 = 32

*Indicates projected graduation date

Licensing Examination Statistics

California Code of Regulations Section 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.”

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 2019 through June 2021, specify the pass percentage rate for graduates of the Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®) and the variance from the 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	Variance from the State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2019	2	0	0%	79%	0%	79%	-79
Jan – Mar 2020	1	0	0%	78%	0%	79%	-79
Apr – Jun 2020	0	0	N/A	81%	0%	79%	-79
Jul – Sep 2020	1	0	0%	75%	0%	78%	-78
Oct – Dec 2020	1	0	0%	75%	0%	77%	-77
Jan – Mar 2021	5	4	80%	80%	57%	76%	-19
Apr – June 2021	0	0	N/A	72%	57%	74%	-17

*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 2021), the program’s average annual pass rate is 57 percent. No testers were reported for this quarter. 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 percent. The average annual pass rate for the Program is 17 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the California Code of Regulations states:

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

The current number of Board-approved faculty totals 10, including the director. This program has one teacher assistant and three additional faculty. The director has 60 percent administrative duties and 40 percent teaching responsibilities. Of the total faculty, five are designated to teach clinical.

At the August 21, 2020 Board meeting, the program was required to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences.

Based upon a maximum proposed enrollment of 32 students, four instructors are required for clinical supervision. The utilization of faculty at clinical facilities is such that clinical instruction is covered adequately.

Section 2534(b) of the California Code of 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.”

Submitted documentation indicates the program has sufficient clinical facilities to afford the number, type and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with Board-approved competency-based objectives and theory being taught for current and proposed student enrollment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Program History

Attachment A, Agenda Item 5.D.II

SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA COLLEGE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Program History

- On February 6, 2018, the Executive Officer approved Southeast California College, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 24 students on February 12, 2018, only.
- The program curriculum was approved for 1546 hours, including 578 theory hours, and 968 clinical hours.
- 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.”

1. *On April 2, 2019, the Executive Officer, approved the following:*
2. *Grant full approval for the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period beginning February 6, 2018, and issue a certificate accordingly.*
3. Require the program to correct **sixteen** existing violations identified during the onsite inspection and **one** additional violation identified after the visit. Submit documentation of all corrections of all violations no later than **May 3, 2019**.
4. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior Board approval.
5. Continue to require the program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the Board, no later than two months prior to the requested start date for the class.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.

- c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

- 6. Require 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 California Code of Regulations, Title 16 commencing at Section 2526.
 - On September 17, 2019, the Executive Officer, approved the following
 - Approve the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program request to admit one class of 16 students on September 23, 2019, only.
 - Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
 - Require the program, when requesting approval to admit students, to:
 - a. Submit all documentation in final form, using the forms provided by the Board, no later than two months prior to the requested start date for the class.
 - b. Provide documentation that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
 - c. Ensure that the program maintains an average annual pass rate that is compliant with Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
 - 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.
 - On August 21, 2020, the Board, approved the following
 - Deny the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program request to admit one class of 17 students on August 3, 2020, only.
 - Place the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period beginning August 21, 2020; and issue a certificate accordingly.
 - Issue a notice of change in approval status to the program identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 and Section 2530(l) of the California Code of Regulations.
 - Require the program to submit an action plan to correct their NCLEX-PN® first time takers score of zero percent passing by October 1, 2020.

- Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
- Require the program to submit a report to the Board in six months, no later than March 15, 2021, and fifteen months, no later than June 15, 2022. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - Terminal Objectives
 - Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - Instructional Plan
 - Theory & Clinical Objectives for each Term
 - Lesson Plans for each Term
 - Student Policies including:
 - Admission Policy
 - Screening and Selection Policy
 - Attendance & Remediation Policy
 - Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - Credit Granting Policy
 - Evaluations of approved clinical facilities which determine adequacy in number and variety of patients to accommodate current and projected students.
 - Evaluations of Faculty
 - Methodologies for:
 - Faculty Meetings
 - Clinical Evaluations
 - Documentation of required clinical resources for all terms for all current cohorts.
- Require the program to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences.
- 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.
- 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.
- Place the program on the Board's August 2022 agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

On February 9, 2021, the Board approved the following:

1. Approve Southeast California College Vocational Nursing Program to begin a full-time day class of 20 students with two alternate students to commence on March 1, 2021 with an expected graduation date of March 4, 2022, to replace the class which graduated on October 16, 2020.
2. Comply with all program requirements listed below.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Continue to require the program to submit a report to the BVNPT in six months, no later than March 15, 2021, and fifteen months, no later than June 15, 2022. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Terminal Objectives
 - b. Evaluation of Current Curriculum including:
 - 4- Instructional Plan
 - 5- Theory & Clinical Objectives for each Term
 - 6- Lesson Plans for each Term
 - c. Student Policies including:
 - 6- Admission Policy
 - 7- Screening and Selection Policy
 - 8- Attendance & Remediation Policy
 - 9- Evaluation of Student Achievement
 - 10- 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:
 - 1- Faculty Meetings
 - 2- Clinical Evaluations
 - g. Documentation of required clinical resources for all terms for all current cohorts.
2. Admit no additional classes without prior approval by the Board.
3. Continue to provide no less than one instructor for every ten students in clinical experiences. Regulation 2534(d) states, "For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."
4. Notify the NEC in the event a current class is displaced from clinical sites.

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. Continue the program's requirement 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.
- On March 24, 2021, the Executive Officer approved the Southeast California College, Vocational Nursing Program's curriculum revision to include 1555 total program hours, including 599 theory hours and 956 clinical hours.