

CITRUS COLLEGE
VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM REVIEW: 2004-2005

FINAL SUMMARY:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Nursing Program provides the nursing student with high quality college-level instruction. This educational opportunity will develop the social, technical and professional skills required of a licensed professional nurse. The program includes entry-level careers, certification in several areas, state licensure for vocational nurse and post-graduate courses. Upon completion of vocational nurse course work, a student may apply these credits towards an associate degree as electives.

Mission

Commendation:

- The Nursing Program conforms with the mission of Citrus College.
- The Nursing Program offers skill awards and a certificate which documents students' accomplishments.
- The Nursing Program conducts an annual Advisory Committee meeting plus monthly subcommittee meetings with the San Gabriel Valley Nursing Consortium.
- All levels of nursing students are from culturally diverse groups and non-traditional backgrounds.
- The course sequence leads to the program goal which includes preparatory classes and post graduate courses.
- The faculty is ethnically diverse.
- The Nursing Program has added a second part-time program to serve additional students in the healthcare workforce. *Recommendation in 1998-99 program review.*
- The Nursing Program has updated information in the college catalog and website. *Recommendation in 1998-99 program review.*

Recommendations:

- The Nursing Program should continue to evaluate and identify learning needs of incoming nursing students.
- Revise the preparatory course curriculum based on the findings of the evaluations.
- Maintain our enrollment patterns that demonstrate strong participation of traditionally underrepresented groups. *Recommendation in 2005 student equity plan*

- Increase community awareness of the high quality of instructional and support programs available to the (nursing) student at the college. ***Recommendation in 2005 student equity plan***
- Revise the course description for NRS 250, 260 and 263 and remove “*should be a licensed vocational nurse...*” Include a statement under **Entrance Skills/Prerequisites, or Co-requisites** which requires licensure as a vocational nurse.

Need

Commendations:

- The Nursing Program currently provides numerous nurse related preparatory courses and a vocational nurse program which meets some of the needs of the community. ***Recommendation/commendation in 1998-99 Program Review. The professional advisory committee consensus and Employment Development Department information confirm that there is a serious nursing shortage.***
- The Nursing Program provides two full-time vocational nurse admissions per year and one part-time vocational nurse admission per year. It also offers the nurse assistant course 5 times per year ***Recommendation/commendation in 1998-99 Program Review.***
- The Nursing Program provides a Career Ladder which has increased the recruitment of certified nurse assistants into the vocational nurse program. ***Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review.***
- Marketing and recruitment efforts have increased the number of non-traditional, male, displaced workers, homemakers and culturally diverse students into the nursing field. ***Recommendation/commendation in 1998-99 Program Review.***
- An identified discrepancy between certificated courses offered and what is listed in the Chancellor’s Office has been corrected. NRS180 and NRS 182 will be offered summer 2005 which now coincides with the total unit value for the Vocational Nursing Program.

Recommendations:

- Within the next 3 years, revise all NRS course objective to be updated to Student Learning Objectives as recommended by the Chancellor’s Office.
- The Nursing Program should explore the viability of an RN Program with a 30 unit option.
- Review the numbering sequence of the vocational nurse classes to mimic as they actually are offered. e. g. Semester II 170, 171L, 172,173,174, 183. Change 183 to 175.
- Offer a nurse assistant/home health aide course combining the two classes for entry level students. Continue to offer a stand alone HHA class for already certificated nurse assistants.

- Reword/retitle the NRS 260 Drugs and Solutions class for certified nurse assistants who plan to challenge the VN licensure exam and to more clearly explain what the course has to offer.
- Offer all courses each semester for nurses and allied health professional each semester.

Quality

Commendations:

- Nursing faculty attend conferences to keep abreast of current technology and methodology to bring students state of the art experiences and curricula. *Recommendation/commendation in 1998-99 Program Review*
- Nursing course syllabi contain clear grading standards, attendance and make-up policy, drop date, contact numbers for faculty, homework policy, and relevant student support services information and are also provided in a Student Nurse Handbook and contract. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review*
- The Nursing Program has hired an assistant director of vocational nursing to comply with the Board of Vocational Nursing requirements when the director is off campus. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review*
- All nursing faculty have continued their formal education with a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Nursing, the majority hold a master's degree and one is pursuing a doctorate in nursing.
- SCANS foundational skills are integrated into each course required for certification or licensure. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review*
- Critical thinking skills, nursing process, and competency skills related to nursing are evaluated throughout the program by nationally standardized comprehensive nursing related psychometric testing and review products purchased from VTEA Grant funds. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review*
- National licensure exam scores have increased from 83% in January 1 through December 31, 2000 to 87% in January 1 through December 31, 2004 in vocational nursing. The nurse assistant and home health aide scores remain between 97 and 100%.

Recommendations:

- Nursing faculty should continue to pursue advanced degrees in preparation for a Registered Nurse Program and to enhance their learning continue to demonstrate credibility
- Seek grants and other means to provide cutting edge technology within the department, fund activities that will enhance student/faculty learning, develop new courses, reduce attrition and improve licensing pass rates.
- Continue to find outside sources such as the Workforce Investment Board, CalWORKS and contract education, which will aid the student nurse meet their career goals

Feasibility

Commendations:

- Student enrollment in all nurse related courses have shown a marked increase from 979 Fall 2003 to 1,995 Spring 2004.
- The Vocational Nursing Program generated 277.78 FTES to Citrus College in 2004.
- The department has vigorously sought grant funding, partnered with outside agencies to provide high technical equipment and software, state of the art mannequins and other supplies to keep students current with what is used in health care settings.
- The VN Program offers courses days, evenings and weekends, 6hrs, 8 hrs, and 12 hrs clinical shifts. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review.*
- The department uses the computer lab TB 209 for basic skills, orientation to a local hospital group and licensure preparation. *Recommendation in 1998-99 Program Review*

Recommendations:

- Expand the program and increase the number of full-time faculty to accommodate the increase of sections
- Licensed Vocational Nurse job growth is projected to be 20.2% by 2012. The program should look to offer admission to the program every 9 weeks. Ob/Pediatrics, which is currently offered only once per year during the summer session, should be offered during the regular school year as well.
- RN job growth is projected to be 27% by 2012, with such a successful VN Program, the faculty should continue to pursue the development of an RN program on this campus.
- Continue to upgrade equipment, software, DVD's which keep the department on the cutting edge.
- Pursue a remodel to bring classrooms into a more student friendly atmosphere for learning.

Compliance with Regulations, Licenses, Standards

Commendations:

- The Nursing Program is fully accredited and has recently received reaccreditation from the Board of Vocational Nursing until May 2009.
- The Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide courses have just received notification that they are re-approved by the Department of Health Services for 2 years.
- All faculty meet licensure qualifications as Registered Nurses/faculty for the Board of Vocational Nursing.