



Nursing: Vocational Nursing 2013-2014

Year Five Focus Area: PROGRAM SELF EVALUATION and SUMMARY¹

Program review should model a miniature accreditation self-evaluation process within a designated area of the campus. In essence, it provides a model and practice that generates and analyzes evidence about specific programs. Eventually this work should guide the larger work of the accreditation self-evaluation as well as guiding planning and budgeting decisions. The review should be a candid self-evaluation supported by evidence, including both qualitative and quantitative data. It should honestly document the positive aspects of the program and establish a process to review and improve the less effective aspects of a program.

Program Review: Setting A Standard – The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

I. Program Description

Vocational nursing, a career technical education program, provides the educational opportunity for students to develop the social, technical, and professional skills required of a licensed vocational nurse. The program prepares the student for the NCLEX-VN examination for state licensure through the Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT). Upon successful completion of this examination, students are able to enter practice as Licensed Vocational Nurses. Successfully completed vocational nursing coursework may be applied toward an associated degree as electives.

Lecture and laboratory courses are scheduled in the day and evening, on the weekends, and in 8-week, 16-week and distance education scheduling.

The Vocational Nursing (VN) program received an award from the Workforce Investment Bureau in recognition of the 100% placement of the students from the 2009-10 graduating cohort.

The combined advisory committee for all nursing programs meets annually and is comprised of health care professionals including chief executive officers; nursing education consultants; and directors of nursing, education, and staff development

II. Discuss progress toward objectives identified in the Educational and Facilities Master Plan 2011 - 2020.

- The of the goal of integrating VN students more fully into the college campus by using such services as tutoring and having students assist with campus clinics such as flu shot clinics, and health fairs on campus has been accomplished.

¹ Reference to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Standards:

Standard IIA.2 (b) The institution relies on faculty expertise and the assistance of advisory committees when appropriate to identify competency levels and measurable student learning outcomes for courses, certificates, programs including general and vocational education, and degrees. The institution regularly assesses student progress towards achieving these outcomes.

- Students have participated in flu shot clinics with the health center on campus. In addition they have also assisted the hospital/clinics in providing flu shots to the community.
- Faculty's increased utilization of Early Alert (EA) has helped with the integration of VN students with services such as tutoring. One student requested an EA, in order to receive assistance with tutoring and other services provided by the EA program.

III. Are there obstacles or barriers that restrict the rate of student completions or are delaying timely completion?

- Availability of clinical sites.
- VN student success is between 95-100% from semester to semester from 2008 through 2013. Follow-up communication indicates that successful students go on to either seek employment or enroll in ADN or BSN programs.
- Limited offerings on some course sections. Repeating failed classes delays timely completion (i.e., summer intersession).

IV. Identify three to five measurable self-improvement objectives to improve student retention and completion during the next five years.

Based on the data provided, the VN program retention and success rates are above the college-wide rates.

- Integrate and utilize i-clicker technology for courses.
- Evaluate the feasibility of utilizing an entrance examination (i.e. ATI, Kaplan) prior to enrollment in the program. This could aid in increasing retention and success.
- Improve, with needed upgrades, the function and utilization of simulation lab, including training additional faculty to better integrate simulation into the curriculum across programs.

V. Discuss opportunities for change that may exist within the next five years

- Job market analysis indicates that VNs are utilized more in the sub-acute setting than the acute setting. There is a need to evaluate the curriculum to reflect more training that is geared at preparing the student for the current job market without compromising the integrity of the content.
- Articulation into ADN, BSN and MSN programs should be explored to identify how the program might be streamlined to facilitate students advancing their education.
- Obtain funds to support expanding the existing ADN nursing counselor hours to include VN student counseling needs.