

Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses
Site Visit Report

Dalton State College
650 College Dr.
Dalton, GA 30720

Practical Nursing Program

February 16 and 17, 2011

Administrators

Dr John Schwenn, President
Dr Sandra Stone, BP Academic Affairs
Dr Charles Johnson, PhD, Dean of School of Technology
Dana Trowell, RN, BSN, LPN Program Director
Susan West, Chair , Health Occupations

Board Visitor

Connie K. Styons, RN, MN, APRN, NP-BC, ---LPN Nursing Education Consultant

Overview

The previous site visit was completed by an Education Consultant of the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses 11 years ago, June 9,1998.

During the site visit, the visitors used a worksheet based on individual Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses Board Rules (Chapter 400-3). Each was evaluated as met, not met, or not applicable. The site visit report also includes narrative comments as appropriate under each major category. Commendations and suggestions are referenced in regular type and recommendations in bold type. If compliance with a rule is met there may not be narrative reference to it. All commendations have cited rules. The rules may be accessed at the Secretary of State website (www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn), Professional Licensing Boards, Georgia Board of Examiners under law policy and rules, Nursing Education Programs 400-3-.01 to 400-3-.16

Meetings

February 16, 2011, 8:30 am

Dr John Schwenn, President
Dr Sandra Stone, BP Academic Affairs
Dr Charles Johnson, PhD, Dean of School of Technology
Susan West, Chair M.ED., Health Occupations

Dana Trowell, RN, BSN, LPN Program Director

February 16, 2011, 9:30 am

Dana Trowell, RN, BSN, LPN Program Director

February 16, 2011, 10:30 am

Meeting with Students (20)

February 16, 2011, 11:30 am

Meeting with Faculty

Joey Cagle, RN, Assistant Professor
Lisa Hunt, RN, BSBA, MBA Instructor
Kasey Sisston, RN, BSN, Instructor
Sheila Coley, RN Instructor,
Dana Trowell, RN, BSN, LPN Program Director

February 17, 2011, 12:00 pm

Verbal Report & Summation of Practical Nursing Program

Joey Cagle, RN, Assistant Professor
Lisa Hunt, RN, BSBA, MBA Instructor
Kasey Sisston, RN, BSN, Instructor
Sheila Coley, RN Instructor,
Dana Trowell, RN, BSN, LPN Program Director
Susan West, Chair, Health Occupations
Dr Charles Johnson, PhD, Dean of School of Technology

Site Visit Report

Organization and Administration 400-3-.05

Regional Accreditation –

Dalton State College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Practical Nursing program is approved by the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses.

The Practical Nursing program is housed on the Dalton State College in the Technical School section. Dana Trowell, RN, BSN is the director for the program. She has administrative responsibility and authority for the program. Ms Trowell reports directly to the Chair of Health Occupations, Susan West, M.Ed. The organizational chart for the college clearly represents this relationship to the practical nursing program, and to the Administrative structure of the Technical school and College.

The current program is sixteen months in length. The admission process has evolved over the past two years. Due to a high attrition rate, the program implemented the Psychological Services B (PSB) specific

for Practical Nurses. ATI testing has also been implemented since the Fall of 2009. Each cohort has 30 slots. The program admits two classes each year. The program offers a slot to the student who best meets the admission testing criteria and pre-admission testing. Five alternative slots are also identified and arranged in chronological order and by admission testing score. The program does not take applicants in just to fill a slot. Each student has to meet criteria. Some cohorts may have less than the thirty students while other cohorts may have thirty-two. If a potential student is offered a slot and is not able to take it, it is offered to one of the alternates. Attrition rates have dropped from thirty-two percent to twenty-eight percent the first year to currently twenty-six percent.

All students must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA based on all courses taken to be eligible for graduation. All students must have a seventy-five percent or greater cumulative average for unit exams in order to be eligible to take the final exam for any course. A final course grade of less than seventy-five percent is grounds for suspension.

Purpose, Philosophy and objectives 400-3-.06

The purpose of the Practical Nursing program is to provide education opportunities to individuals that will enable them to obtain the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to succeed in the field of practical nursing regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, academic or economic disadvantage.

The philosophy encompasses the purpose and describes the relationship of the student to the college and the practical nursing program. The program's foundation is built on nursing practice as a relational, interactive and caring process.

The objective and goals of the program are published in the nursing catalog and are measurable.

Curriculum 400-3-.07

The curriculum requires 66 credit hours in the practical nursing courses. All practical nursing course components reflect the required elements listed in the Georgia Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses Board Rules and Regulations. The required content exceeds the minimum rule requirement with 931 theory hours and 728 clinical hours. The plan is to have a four semester program that runs sixteen months in length.

Nursing Faculty 400-3-08

The Faculty is engaged in the education process and there is evidence through faculty meeting minutes of problem solving and course experience improvement. Faculty has developed course work for online student use to facilitate learning and has developed a skills lab day to enhance the student's clinical experience.

Degree	Full Time	Part Time
MBA	1	1
BSN	2	1
ASN	2	

Preceptor and Preceptorial Learning Activities 400-3-.09

Preceptors are identified on the Preceptor Summary Sheet and are utilized for clinical experiences. Faculty meets with the preceptors at least once a year to evaluate the experience for the students. Students complete an evaluation for each preceptorial experience.

Educational Facilities and Clinical Affiliates 400-3-11

Five-Year Average Percentage Pass Rate: 92.57%

YEAR	# 1 ST Takers	# PASSED	% RATE	>80%	Notes
CY 2010	45	41	91.11%		
CY 2009	36	32	88.89%		
CY 2008	35	32	91.7%		
CY 2007	21	20	95.2%		
CY 2006	38	37	97.4%		
5 Year AVG	175	162 / 13	92.57 %		

This report will be reviewed by the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses at the regular scheduled meeting on April 13 & 14, 2011. Upon review of this site visit report, adequate responses for correction of cited recommendations, compliance with rules related to site visit reports, annual reports, and a passing percentage of at least 80% of all first-time writers of the NCLEX-PN on an annualized basis, full approval will be maintained.

Suggestions

1. Develop scenario-based, hi-fidelity simulation laboratory experiences for students [400-3-.08].

Recommendations

1. **Increase computer access for student usage in labs and classroom, online courses [400-3-10 (1)(a).**

Commendations

1. Annualized National State Board Council Examination –Practical Nursing Program annualized passing percentage rate is greater than 90 (92.57 five-year average). 2010 State Average is 92.25 [400-3-.03 (1)(e)].

2. Excellent and numerous clinical affiliates [400-3-.08].
3. Provision for administrative assistance is excellent [400-3-.08].