

Homestead Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of Homestead Schools, Inc.



Homestead VN Students Score 100%

The Board of Vocational Nursing released NCLEX-PN pass rates for first time graduates of the vocational nursing programs for the 2nd quarter 2018.

Homestead Schools' VN students had a 100% pass rate for the quarter while for the year the rate was 96.43% which shows consistency over several quarters. These results may very well be the best of any private school in the state. We're pleased to report that the VN students at Homestead are not only graduating at record levels but are also landing high-paying jobs as LVNs in the healthcare field. These young people chose a career in nursing about a year ago and now they're on their way to enjoying a lifetime of financial security and the satisfaction that comes from helping people. Many of these LVNs will gain experience for a few years in the long-term care facilities while working toward their RN and BSN degrees which will establish them firmly in their chosen field.



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To help its students become proficient in nursing, the school continues to implement new didactic and clinical programs. Recently, the school opened a new simulation lab equipped with fidelity mannequins and various assessment and monitoring equipment that gives students verisimilitude experience in maternity and pediatric nursing. In this simulation lab students gain actual hands-on interactive experience in delivery and birthing while following various hypothetical scenarios. This kind of experience is simply not available in a maternity hospital for LVNs. We're proud of our investment in students' learning that allows them to gain valuable experience in the school. (Vijay Fadia)



From the Office of the Director of Nursing Program

A message to the Nursing Students of Homestead Schools, Inc.

Note that your thought in mind plus your action is equal to your destiny. However, getting there is a process that will test the strength of your character attributable to your individual

success. Nursing knowledge and principles as well as skills can easily be learned with the right attitude. For whatever reason, that made you choose this career path, nursing is an opportunity not for everyone reserved to those whose concern for life and human decency is paramount in one's vocation. Nursing is one of the noblest professions if not the noblest with the chance to make a difference in the lives of many.

Life in many ways is about making choices and decisions. In this instance, you have made your choice - a professional career in nursing and decided to enroll in a nursing program currently being offered by Homestead Schools, Inc., which is accredited by the BVNPT headquartered in Sacramento in the State of California.

It may indeed be a journey of a lifetime to many of you in the realization of one of your dreams or in achieving a personal goal in life in what you want to become.



Be mindful that pursuant to any undertaking is just like any game that one is engaged to have fun with the knowledge that there are losers and winners at the end. Similarly, education is an investment of time, effort and financial resources. It is therefore necessary that you plan “Not” to fail but to expect more out of your investment, and that takes hard work, strong commitment to your cause and perhaps many sacrifices needed to get yourself to what you wanted to become. However, getting there is sometimes frustrating and not without disagreement but keeping your eye on the ball (your career goal) and be responsible for your actions and stay focused on what you need to do rather than be occupied with insignificant matters that does not concern you to complete your mission which is to make good at your choice and decision.

Since tomorrow is a promise, fashion your journey instead to make it more beneficial to your cause. After all, it is about you and your time, effort and investment.

Having said that, an open door to access to my office has been a policy and always available appropriately to all students. I could think of nothing that will prevent me to stay on course on collaborative learning.

“Nursing is one of the noblest professions if not the noblest with the chance to make a difference in the lives of many.”

On behalf of your instructors and nursing administration, it is a privilege indeed to be a part of your journey and being there to assist you in the realization of your dreams. Nothing hard is easy but you will get there. Own your future and be what you want to become, a NURSE. Have “FUN” on your journey. (Adel Blanco, MS, RN-BC)

Full Board Approval for Homestead

At the May 18, 2018 meeting, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) approved the program’s request for full Board approval for the period May 18, 2018 through May 22, 2022. Article 4, Sections 2880 to 2881 of the Vocational Nurse Practice Act, defines that a school must be approved to continue to offer vocational nursing education and training. Part of the eligibility requirement of graduates is the completion of education, training and other necessary qualifications from an approved program. Homestead Schools, Inc. gives a course of instruction in vocation nursing for a total of 1,632 hours, 672 hours of theory and 960 hours of clinical.

In the same meeting, the BVNPT has approved Homestead’s request to admit a full-time class to begin in May 28, 2018 and a part-time class to start in May 26, 2018. An individual who is considering enrollment in any vocational nursing program is encouraged to learn as much about the program as possible before making any commitments. The BVNPT advise applicants to make sure that the program they

are considering is approved to provide vocational nursing education and training.

Homestead Schools, Inc. ensures that its vocational nursing program complies with the Vocational Nurse Practice Act regulations. The school ensures the development and application of a vocational nursing curriculum that will prepare its graduates with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful on the licensure examination.

Homestead faculty meets education and experience requirements. The curriculum flows from simple to complex and demonstrates a progressive mastery of competency-based and measurable objectives. The school's affiliated clinical facilities have an adequate patient census and provide a variety of experiences to enable students to meet their learning objectives. The instructor-to-student ratio does not exceed 1:12 in the clinical setting. The ration of theory to clinical hours provides balance to enhance learning. As a result, the licensees are able to provide safe and competent entry level care. (Edwin Caniete)

Featured Article

Social Media Encroaching on Professional Boundaries

In this day and age, it is very easy to lose sight of professional boundaries. In fact, one of the

common complaints to the boards of nursing relate to boundary issues and inappropriate use of social media. When maintaining appropriate boundaries with clients, the nurse must be aware of either being too involved with the client, or being not too involved. Most professional boundary violations occur when the nurse is over engaged and cannot maintain a therapeutic relationship with the client. The nurse should avoid situations where there exists a personal, professional or business relationship with the client whenever possible. While this may not be possible in small communities, the nurse must maintain a professional relationship and must always be cognizant of the possibility of boundary violations. Similarly, the nurse should be careful about personal relationships with clients who might have continued need for nursing services such as those with mental health issues.

“Most professional boundary violations occur when the nurse is over-engaged and cannot maintain a therapeutic relationship with the client.”

According to an article from the 2018 publication NCSBN Welcomes You to the Nursing Profession, the following are some warning signs of possible boundary violations that the nurse should be aware of:

- Engaging in behaviors that could reasonable be interpreted as flirting.
- Keeping secrets with a client for a client.
- Believing that one is the only person who truly understands or the only one who can help the client.
- Spending more time than is necessary with a particular client.
- Showing favoritism for a particular client.
- Meeting a client in settings other than those used to provide direct client care or when not in work.

Campus News

Arming Students with Balanced Information

Back in January, our students visited the Psychiatry: An Industry of Death Museum. The Museum Director, Ruthie Russell, hosted the event. In the tour, the students viewed informative mini-documentaries, presenting the early history of institutional psychiatry, eugenics, and racism, psychotropic drugs, labeling and drugging of kids within the classroom and more. The museum is operated by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) which is a nonprofit mental health watchdog responsible for helping to enact more than 150 laws protecting individuals from abusive or sometimes coercive practices.



Aside from being a consumer advocate, the CCHR also works alongside many medical professionals including doctors, scientists, nurses and those few psychiatrists who have taken a stance against the biological or drug model of “disease” that is continually promoted by the psychiatric and pharmacological industry as a way to sell drugs. The students quickly validate previously learned content in courses such as mental health nursing, pharmacology and nervous system disorders.



While psychiatrists claim that brain scans now show brain changes that “prove” mental disorders, such as schizophrenia and depression, are brain-based, the research funded through the efforts of the CCHR suggest

otherwise. Students learn that while drugs used to treat mental disorders are well-established forms of treatment, they may induce long-lasting biochemical and even structural changes. In the past, these changes were claimed to be the cause of the disorder, but may actually be an effect of the treatment. (Edwin Caniete)

Campus News

Preparing Students for the Real World

Last May 11, 2018, Homestead Schools celebrated Nurses' Week with a VN Skills Workshop. Focusing on this year's national theme: Nurses: Inspire, Innovate, Influence, the VN students participated in activities divided into seven stations. These stations are the Nursing Process, Hand-Off Communication Station, the Patients' Safety, Injury Prevention, Safe Patient Handling to Prevent Patient and Staff Injury Station, Vital Signs Station, Infection Control Station, Nasogastric Tube Placement and Removal Station, Foley Catheter and Condom Catheter Placement and Removal Station, Dosage Calculation and Insulin Administration Station.

In critical thinking and problem solving, the students recalled that the nurse uses the nursing process to identify and make decisions about client needs. The students used this systematic and scientifically based process which in turn requires the use of many cognitive and psychomotor skills. Hand-off communication is a means of delivering

important patient care information that helps promote continuity of care and patient safety.

Students learned that patients should not be harmed by the care that is intended to help them, nor should harm come to those who work in health care. More than 35 years of evidence has demonstrated that manual patient handling and relying on body mechanics alone is unsafe. Research has also shown that using mechanical lifting equipment and transfer devices for patient handling significantly reduces injuries among direct patient caregivers.

In the Foley catheter and nasogastric tube placement and removal stations, students learned the correct procedure, appropriate indications and proper patient care.

Students also reviewed the two-fold medication administration competency, medication safety and medication calculation. Medication errors account for more than 7,000 deaths each year in the United States. The process of safely providing medications to hospitalized patients is highly complex and involves multiple systems and diverse healthcare professionals. The students learned that the nurse plays an important role in maintaining patient safety throughout this complex, multi-phase process. The students reviewed the "eight rights" as the standard of care nurses must utilize each time medications are administered.

During Nurses' Week, students reflect on nurses' commitment to protecting, promoting, and improving health care. Students celebrate the nursing profession and the vital roles that

nurses play in health care. In a few months' time, the students will be joining the ranks of health care professionals and so, Homestead Schools' faculty and administration hope that this day had a lasting impression.

Ignorance of the Law Excuses No One

Many have heard this line before: "Ignorance of the Law Excuses No One". The practice of nursing requires specialized skills, education and some level of independent decision making. The career path of vocational nursing practice takes on a divergent mix of clinical settings that often varies by the types of clients, by the variety of diseases, therapeutic approaches or degrees of rehabilitation. This combination of factors increases the risk of harm in the provision of nursing care.

"The career path of vocational nursing practice takes on a divergent mix of clinical settings."

This leads to heightened regulations to protect the public and consumers of health care. State legislatures delegate many enforcement activities to state administrative agencies. In the vocational nursing profession, this is the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric

Technicians. All throughout their stay in school, vocational nursing students are taught and trained with skills and practices that ensure client safety. The procedures and step-by-step approaches to the care are based on evidences that ensure compliance with the nurse practice act and the state regulations. These pieces of legislation and regulations are not just resources that should be studied in a pre-licensure nursing education program and put aside to be forgotten. The nurse practice act and state regulations are considered dynamic documents that continuously evolve and amended as changes in law or regulations arise.

In an article from the Journal of Nursing Regulation Volume 8 Issue 3, entitled Nurse Practice Acts Guide and Govern: Update 2017, the complaints about nursing care may be grouped into the following categories:

- Practice-related: breakdowns or errors during aspects of the nursing process
- Drug-related: mishandling, misappropriations, or misuse of controlled substances
- Boundary violation: non-therapeutic relationships formed between a nurse and a client in which the nurse derives a benefit at the client's expense
- Sexual misconduct: inappropriate physical or sexual contact with a client
- Abuse: maltreatment of clients that is physically, mentally or emotionally harmful

- Fraud: misrepresentation of the truth for gain or profit (usually related to credentials, time or payment)
- Positive criminal background check: detection of reportable criminal conduct as defined by statute

Federal law requires that state adverse actions taken against a health care professional's license be reported to the federal database. This prevents practitioners moving from state-to-state without disclosure or discovery of previous damaging performance. The scope of vocational nursing care is directed and evaluated by the Vocational Nurse Practice Act.

“The Nurse Practice Act and State Regulations are considered dynamic documents.”

The VN Practice Act's language includes a section that stipulates the use of the title LVN. By specifying that the title LVN is given to an individual licensed to practice vocational nursing, the VN Practice Act protects the title from being used by unauthorized persons and thereby ensuring public safety. (Edwin Caniete)

Campus News

Homestead Opens State-of-the-Art Clinical Skills Lab for VN Students

An important part of the vocational nursing program is helping students acquire clinical skills necessary in the performance of their duties as an LVN. The curriculum mandates that the students spend 960 hours in a clinical setting and 672 in a classroom. Homestead has affiliation agreements with various long-term care facilities as well as acute and subacute clinics and hospitals where the students acquire hands-on experience in assisting and monitoring patients' vital signs, including their blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature. Other tasks that LVNs are responsible for include giving enemas, recording intake and output of foods and fluids, collecting samples for testing, maintaining equipment, dressing wounds, testing bedsores and giving massages. They also assist patients in getting dressed, bathing, eating, walking and standing.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, licensed vocational nurses earned a median of \$43,170 in 2015. In the same year, the highest paid ten percent earned \$59,510 or more, while the lowest-paid ten percent earned \$32,040 or less. In 2014, the BLS predicted 16% growth of employment for licensed vocational nurses through 2024, which is faster than average.

Part of the vocational nursing curriculum requires students to spend 48 hours learning maternity and pediatric nursing clinical skills which generally can only be done in a hospital setting. However, most hospitals do not employ LVNs in their maternity or pediatric units, so any skills training an LVN would acquire only be through observations and discussions.

Homestead has solved this clinical problem by building a clinical simulation laboratory on campus which uses simulation as a teaching strategy to mirror real-life situations and complement clinical education that will allow students to learn by doing and by reflecting on their experience.



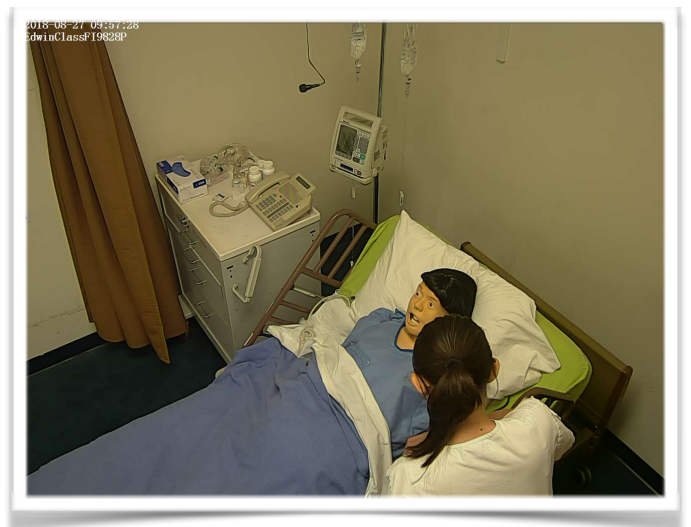
The simulation lab includes an area for birthing and pediatric simulations. The school has purchased a birthing simulator (we call her advanced Lucy) and another nursing kid vital Sim capable. These are high-tech mannequins with strategically embedded cameras and microphones to capture students' interactions with simulated patients.

The equipment provides a comprehensive and realistic birthing experience from prenatal to



postnatal delivery scenarios encompassing normal and abnormal deliveries.

As for pediatrics training, the school has bought a mannequin realistically representing a six-year old child designed for skill- and scenario-based training for the care and management of a variety of in-hospital pediatric patients. Training includes sound auscultation, IV cannulation, urinary catheterization and general patient care. This simulated mannequin is ideal for learning in-hospital pediatric clinical skills including wound assessment and care, first aid and child-abuse training.





Simulations and care scenarios are designed to help students develop problem-solving and decision-making skills. In healthcare education simulation tries to replicate some or nearly all of the essential aspects of a clinical situation so that it is more readily understood and managed when it occurs in an actual patient setting.

Homestead Schools is excited about having made this investment in its students' learning and is confident that it will pay hefty dividends when its graduates enter into their healthcare careers. If you're planning such a career, we invite you to visit the school, meet with one of the student counselors, take a tour of the



campus including this new Simulation lab and decide for yourself if this is something you'd like to pursue. The school is located at 23800 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 200, Torrance, CA and the telephone number is (310) 791-9975. (Vijay Fadia)

Start a Career in Medical Assisting

Medical assisting is a six-month program on a full-time schedule which includes classroom instruction and internship in a medical clinic or physician's office. The program prepares students to work in the front or back office assisting registered nurses or physicians in the office. Becoming a medical assistant will earn you an entry in the enviable and highly respected field of health care.

Duties of medical assistants vary from office to office depending on the location, size, and specialty. In small practices, medical assistants usually are generalists, handling both administrative and clinical duties and reporting directly to an office manager, physician or other

health practitioner. Those in large practices tend to specialize in a particular area, under the supervision of department administrators. Most employers prefer graduates of formal programs in medical assisting. Employment of medical assistants is expected to grow much faster than average.

Employment growth will be driven by the increase in the number of group practices, clinics and other healthcare facilities that need a high proportion of support personnel, particularly the flexible medical assistant who can handle both administrative and clinical duties. In fact, medical assisting is projected to be one of the fastest growing occupations over the 2012-2020 period.

Forecast of the Registered Nurse Workforce in California

This report prepared by Joanne Spetz, PhD of University of California San Francisco presents supply and demand forecasts for the Registered Nurse (RN) workforce in California from 2017 through 2035. These new forecasts are based on data from the 2016 California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Survey of Registered Nurses, the 2015-2016 BRN Annual Schools Report, data extracted from the BRN license records, and other state and national data sources. The 2017 forecasts indicate that supply of and demand for RNs are fairly well-balanced

over the next 10 years if current enrollment and state-to-state migration patterns are stable. The forecasts of RN supply take into account the aging of the RN workforce, new graduates (including those from out-of-state and international nursing programs), interstate flows of RNs, and changes in license status. These new forecasts of supply incorporate new data for these factors. The demand forecasts are based on national numbers of RNs per 100,000 population. An alternate forecast of demand was developed that estimates future hospital utilization in California and current data on RN employment in hospitals. The forecasts are compared with other published forecasts including those from the US Bureau of Health Workforce and California Employment Development Department. Together, the demand estimates provide a range of possible scenarios for the future.

“The only plausible solution to the RN shortage, based on our preliminary analyses, appears to be continued efforts to increase the number of graduates from California nursing programs.”

Overall, California's RN supply is forecasted to reach the national 25th percentile by 2034 if the number of RN graduates remains stable and state-to-state migration patterns do not change substantially. However, if supply variables shift so that the low forecast prevails, California could face a severe shortage of RNs. We should be cautioned that the 2017 BRN forecasts represent an 18-year period and are not intended to reflect rapidly changing economic and labor market conditions. The forecasts also do not measure variations across regions of California; it is possible that some regions of the state will experience shortages even while others have a surplus of RNs. Finally, the factors that affect RN supply and demand are unlikely to remain static.

The most important possible changes include: (1) the number of graduates from RN education programs, (2) interstate migration, (3) employment rates of older RNs. California leaders should observe closely retirement patterns that are opening positions for which clinical experience is desired. It will be important for employers to invest in training newly graduated RNs to fill these positions. Finally, the availability of faculty should be monitored to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of qualified faculty to educate the needed number of graduates from the RN education programs.

The Fall 2016 Survey of Nurse Employers found that many Chief Nursing Officers are experiencing difficulty recruiting RNs for specialized positions and that more than 90 percent of hospitals reported demand for RNs

being greater than the available supply. There also has been growth in the share of newly-graduated RNs reporting they are employed within 12 months of licensure, rising from 59 percent in 2013 to 84 percent in 2016. These data are consistent with the expectation that the economic recovery would lead nurses who had delayed retirement, reentered the labor force, or increase their hours of work due to the economic recession to retire or reduce their employment as the economy recovers. These changes have increased demand for RNs.

As of April 6, 2017, there were 415,798 RNs with current, active licenses in California, of whom 353,051 resided in California. The RN workforce constantly changes with the entrance of newly graduated nurses, migration of nurses from other states and countries, retirements, temporary departures from nursing work, and fluctuations in the number of hours that nurses choose to work.

Nursing shortages generate significant challenges because patient outcomes are impacted by the level of nursing staffing in hospitals and other care facilities. In addition, shortages drive up the cost of health care as wages rise. Thus, it is essential that these forecasts of RN supply and demand guide policies to prevent RN shortages. The 2005 forecasts of RN supply and demand guide policies to prevent RN shortages. The 2005 forecast report advised that "The only plausible solution to the RN shortage, based on our preliminary analyses, appears to be continued efforts to increase the number of graduates from California nursing programs." Significant

increases in state funding for nursing programs, increased funding for equipment, use of updated instructional technologies, and other educational investments had a favorable impact on addressing the RN shortage in California.

If future numbers of student enrollments and graduates decline, a shortage could emerge. Changes in the demand for RNs also could lead to a future shortage or surplus. If emerging care delivery models, such as accountable care organizations and patient-centered medical homes, lead to greater use of RNs in care management roles, demand for RNs could rise above the projections.

Both statewide and regionally, the most important changes that could lead to shortages include (1) the number of graduates from RN education programs, (2) inter-state migration, and (3) employment rates of older RNs. These factors and any other potential influences on California's nursing shortage, such as the limited pool of faculty, limited availability of clinical education placements, and faculty salaries that are not competitive with clinical practice positions, should be monitored continuously. California leaders should track the employment paths of recent nursing graduates as they develop specialized skills to fill the roles of experienced nurses who will retire in the near future. Moreover, they should watch new student enrollments in nursing programs, as well as monitor local labor market conditions, which could warrant local action. California will need to maintain the present number of nursing graduates in order to meet long term healthcare needs. (Raffy Tolentino, PhD)

Nursetoons

About a Nurse



"The doctor doesn't need to examine your hand. The pain is most likely from hitting the call button over 50 times in the last hour."

© 2010 by Randy Glasbergen.



"Nurses work 12 hours a day: 4 hours caring for patients and 8 hours washing our hands."

Nursetoons



"WE'RE OUT OF SLEEPING PILLS. I'M GOING TO READ YOU A BEDTIME STORY."



"Yes, I do want your history, but let's skip everything between The Bronze Age and The Love Generation."

Campus News

Homestead Receives Full CCNE Accreditation

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on October 17-19, 2017, to grant accreditation to the RN-BSN program at Homestead Schools until year 2020. The accreditation action is effective as of February 27, 2017, which is the first day of the program's CCNE on-site evaluation.

"... accreditation focuses on the quality of institutions of higher and professional education and one the quality of educational programs within institutions."

The accreditation of our RN-BSN program, launched in 2016, is a major milestone in the history of the school which attests to the dedication and commitment of the nursing faculty and the entire college community to quality education. Students, employers and the

patients that our nursing graduates serve can be assured of the quality of the nursing education programs sponsored by Homestead.

CCNE is a nationally recognized accrediting agency for baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the US. CCNE states that “accreditation focuses on the quality of institutions of higher and professional education and on the quality of educational programs within institutions.” It adds that “CCNE strives to ensure the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.”

Nursing school programs seek accreditation status as it serves to benefit students in the future. To be a CCNE-accredited institution, is the gold standard for nursing programs.

Choosing a CCNE-accredited school benefits students in multiple ways, both during and after their education journey. Many employers value degrees from CCNE-accredited schools in today’s current competitive healthcare market. If pursuing an advanced degree is a possibility, choosing a CCNE-accredited school now can prevent roadblocks to admission to such programs. Admission requirements of many universities include an undergraduate degree from a nursing program that holds accreditation status.

For the program itself, being accredited by a nationally recognized body demonstrates to everyone that the school meets specific high standards, and adequately prepares for practice at a particular degree level. For nurses who are evaluating prospective programs, the accredited status tells them that the education they receive will provide them with the knowledge to

practice at the best level in their nursing career. (Raffy Tolentino, PhD)

Humor us



“Passing the Board exam.”

Homestead Schools, Inc.

23800 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 200
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 791-9975

Managing Editor
Contributors

Circulation
Social Media/ Web
Adviser

Edwin Caniete
Vijay Fadia
Raffy Tolentino
Adel Blanco
Amber Marin
Jeanette Villaraza
Raffy Tolentino