

Homestead Students Score 78% in the Last Quarter; RN-to-BSN

Homestead Schools located in Torrance, Calif. continued to post consistent results at NCLEX in its vocational nursing program. The results show that 78 percent of its students passed the board exam on the first attempt bringing its annual average to 66 percent. The school is obviously proud of its record but also recognizes that there's ample room for improvement.

Like any corporation in the business world, or a professional sports team in the NFL or NBA, the school has good quarters and bad quarters from time to time, but over the past 8 years the school has maintained a lifetime pass rate of 68 percent for its graduates as first-time NCLEX takers.

In the next couple of months the school plans to open three new vocational nursing classes with morning, evening and weekend schedules to accommodate the needs of full- and part-time students. The school has opened a new state-of-the-art skills lab with mannequins and electronic gear to provide simulated clinical experience to its students.

On another note, the school just opened its first RN-to-BSN completion program with in-class and online training programs. Classes are held on Saturdays at its campus in Torrance whereas online instruction is provided in asynchronous mode. Time to complete the program would vary from student to student depending upon previously obtained credits that can be transferred and general education and elective courses already taken, but on average a student will be able to complete the program in 4-5 semesters (16-20 months).

More and more hospitals are now requiring its RNs to have at least a BSN education. Needless to say, an RN with a BSN will have a much better chance of landing a desirable, higher-paying job than an RN without one. A report by the Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health (2010)*, has recommended that healthcare organizations increase their bachelor's prepared RN staff to 80 percent by 2020.

The RN-to-BSN program at Homestead Schools has one of the lowest cost per unit. Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

Besides vocational nursing and RN-to-BSN programs the school also offers nurse assisting and medical assisting programs. The school is located at 23800 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505. (310) 791-9975.