

BOARD FOR PROPRIETARY EDUCATION

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

DISCUSSION ITEM A:

Nursing Licensure Exam Pass Rate Data

Staff Recommendation

For discussion only.

Background

The discussion of nursing licensure exam pass rate data fits into two broad strands of Commission for Higher Education/Board for Proprietary Education activity and interest: return on investment and consumer protection.

With respect to the former, the Commission has produced many reports that are intended to provide students with information about the outcomes, especially those relating to employment and earnings, a graduate of a particular program might realize, so that the prospective student can make a more informed decision about where to enroll, where to invest the time and money required to complete a degree. Since someone graduating from a nursing program must also become licensed in order to practice their profession, a discussion of how well graduates of programs fair on the nursing licensure examinations can help to inform the prospective student about their potential return on investment.

The Board for Proprietary Education, as well as its predecessor agency, has had a strong emphasis on consumer protection. The recent closing of Indiana Dabney University, which offered a nursing program, and whose students were greatly disadvantaged by its closing, provided the impetus for this broader review of pass rates on the nursing licensure exams.

The pass rate data for this discussion comes from the Indiana State Board of Nursing, which receives data on individuals who took one of two licensure examinations in Indiana: (1) the NCLEX-RN exam, which is one of the requirements to become licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Indiana or (2) the NCLEX-PN exam, a requirement to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN or PN, for short) in Indiana. NCLEX stands for the National Council Licensure Examination, a product of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). Graduates of Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) or Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) accredited programs seeking to become RNs take exactly the same NCLEX-RN examination.

Supporting Documents

- (1) Annual Pass Rate Data for First-Time Takers of the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN Licensure Exams for Indiana Nursing Programs, 2012-2015, in National Context