

HOMESTEAD OPENS VN CLASS – LAST OF 2020

The Board of Vocational Nursing (BVNPT) has granted permission to Homestead Schools to open and admit students to its vocational nursing program in November, 2020. For us, this is going to be the last class of the year. The class has a capacity of 24 students and we already have received applications and supporting documents from a vast majority of prospective students.

Most of the schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Vocational Nursing are still virtually closed unable to admit any students. Homestead has been very fortunate in that it has opened three new classes in the midst of this pandemic and we hope things will return to normalcy next year and we're able to resume our regular pattern of admission to the VN program. But for the time being this class is it.

We're seeing a steady stream of anxious young men and women coming to the school – LVN manqué. Some of them had applied to a previous class and when that class got oversubscribed we offered them the option of joining this class. I wanted to put out this bulletin about the new class to all those who have shown an interest in the program in the recent past before opening it up to the general public.

The BVNPT presumably based its decision to permit Homestead to open this class on the school's performance (consistently in the 90s percentile for graduating its students), its innovative, technologically advanced teaching methods, state-of-the-art clinical skills lab and, most important, its success in persuading several clinical facilities to permit its VN students to go back to the clinics for hands-on, direct-patient care in a live environment.

This last factor is very important as the board has mandated that only 50% of clinical training can be offered through simulation; the other 50% must come in front of patients in a clinical environment. Homestead now has 5 such facilities which means that students will be able to graduate on time with the required training under their belt. Each facility requires strict adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols. Students, instructors and staff members are tested on a weekly basis; the number of students allowed inside a facility at any one time is capped at 8 and everyone is required to wear the PPE at all times.

This is very much in line with the safety plan Homestead has adopted for its campus: follow designated entrances and exits; pass temperature checks for anyone entering the school building; follow floor markings to direct foot-traffic flows to maintain distance; maintain compliance with physical distancing (6 feet); wear face masks/coverings over your nose and mouth at all times; fewer students and staff in a given classroom or space observing six feet from each other; desks must be spaced six feet apart; students must eat lunch in their respective classrooms; do not gather in groups; stay out of crowded areas and avoid mass assembly; academic counseling, remediation, submission of requirements and financial transactions are by appointment only.

With this prevention plan in place, Homestead feels confident in welcoming its students, faculty and staff back to school. One has to remember that nurses and healthcare workers are the

backbone of the society that is fighting this unprecedented crisis. More than ever, we need our healthcare system to function at the highest level.

The VN class that has been approved by the BVNPT is slated to commence on November 9, 2020 and will follow an evening schedule, i.e., 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mon-Fri. Clinical hours may be different than these hours as they would depend upon the facility approval. The tuition for this class is set at \$34,500 and our admissions staff is prepared to assist you with your federal student aid including FAFSA, health and security clearances, and distribution of uniforms and PPE gear. You are required to attend an interview with the director of nursing before admission.

Homestead Schools, Inc. is located at 23800 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505.
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