SLCC’s nursing program approved

Entrance tests begin Monday

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing gave South Louisiana Community College approval to begin enrolling students into the college’s new nursing program this fall.

The nursing board met Wednesday morning, SLCC spokeswoman Christine Payton said.

“We’ve worked hard to bring this program to fruition, and we’re ready to start preparing students to become Registered Nurses,” said Laurie Fontenot, dean of Nursing, Allied Health and Safety, in a statement released Wednesday.

The first class for the program will include 40 students, Payton said.

Last month, a board representative visited SLCC’s lab and classroom and met with administrators and faculty during a required site visit. The representative presented a report to the board Wednesday, Payton said.

The college unveiled plans in August to create the RN program with the support of the Lafayette General Health System, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, Regional Medical Center of Acadiana and Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

Each hospital system contributed $150,000 to the program, which will be housed in a renovated wing of the Ardoin Building that once held the two-year school’s barbering program.

The college intends to expand the program in two years with the construction of the 83,000-square-foot Health and Sciences Building.

Payton said there are several other steps to come for the full approval process after the program is implemented. One of those steps includes Fontenot submitting a progress report to the nursing board three months after the program begins. The final step for full approval is based on results of the first graduating class’ NCLEX-RN licensing exam and a follow-up on-site survey visit, Payton said.

Students interested in registering will need to successfully pass the TEAS V nursing admission exam with a composite score of 60 or greater and a score of 58 or greater on each part of the exam. Testing will begin June 16 and end on June 23.

The online test will be administered in room 411 in the Lafayette campus’ Ardoin Building, 1101 Bertrand Drive. Only test-takers will be allowed in the testing room.

Students must register for the exam and select a testing date by creating an account at atitesting.com. The cost is $60. Step-by-step instructions can be found on SLCC’s website: solacc.edu.

On test day, students must present a valid government-issued photo ID and their ATI username and password. All test-takers should arrive 15 minutes early to room 411 and bring several No. 2 pencils. The test takes four hours to complete. Late arrivals will not be allowed to take the test.

Students must pass the exam before applying to the program. The application, with a complete list of admissions requirements, can be found on the college’s website at solacc.edu.

For questions about the Registered Nursing program, email rn@solacc.edu or visit solacc.edu for more information.