

November 10, 2016

Dear Sunset Advisory Commission,

My name is Becky Bell and I have been an LVN for 35 years. Healthcare is changing and countless jobs are requiring a RN license making jobs progressively more scarce for LVNs. I want to continue working as a nurse as long as I am able, but fear this may not happen unless we are allowed to have the LVN to RN program offered by Excelsior College.

I have a disabled spouse and am only one of thousands of LVNs who have no choice but to work full time. Excelsior is the only online LVN to RN program that provides the flexibility I need to work full time and go to school. I enrolled in Excelsior's Nursing School on 2/10/2014 and am currently take the UEXCEL exams which are all self-taught but with support of the college. I personally know many nurses who have completed the Excelsior online LVN to RN program and are some of the best nurses out there. This is due not only to previous nursing experience as an LVN, but Excelsior's mission to help students be successful by offering numerous ways to learn the information and any resources needed to do so.

I am currently finishing my prerequisites but have looked over the nursing exams and can assure you that as a nurse of 35 years, the courses and testing cover pertinent nursing issues and remind me of taking the state bar exams for nursing.

I chose this program because needing to work full-time, I would not be able to attend the required clinical training of a traditional nursing program which requires many day shifts and evening shifts that start before 5pm.

I have researched Excelsior's clinical testing and the overwhelming majority say it is not an easy clinical performance nurse exam to pass. This is excellent news as I would expect any legitimate nursing program to have a strong clinical practice portion. This assures me that the program does cover relevant material to ensure the graduates are ready to take the national NCLEX exams.

I implore you to continue to allow the Excelsior College graduates who pass the NCLEX RN nursing exams to be licensed as RNs in Texas. This program is so very important to too many people like myself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

*Becky Bell*

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