

**CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2007 NCLEX-RN® EXAMINATION
 PASS RATES, REVIEW OF 2007 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY
 (NEPIS) AND 2007 COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP),
 AND REVIEW OF SELF STUDY
 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY IN STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirements to be met for Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program based on review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2007, review of the 2007 RN-NEPIS Report and RN-CANEP, and review of the self study report received May 13, 2008.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

YEAR	Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2008	Full	tentative 91.67% (9/30/07-6/30/08)	22/24
2007	Full	72.73%	32/44
2006	Full	82.46%	47/57
2005	Full	79.31%	23/29
2004	Full	87.50%	28/32

- The Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program at Tarleton State University School of Nursing in Stephenville, Texas has been in operation since 1995.
- Due to the 72.73% pass rate on the 2007 NCLEX-RN® examination, the program was required to submit a self study report that evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Self Study Report was received in the Board office on May 13, 2008. A request by the Program Director for an extension was granted. The reason for the extension was due to problems of faculty getting together to analyze the results of the statistical analysis due to workload and the hospitalization of a colleague.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Education (CCNE) until June 2014. The program is required to provide reports on both Strategic Plan and Institutional Effectiveness Plan annually in October to the University as well as an Annual Report to CCNE annually.
- The program conducted a comprehensive self study and identified several areas of concern and influences which may have contributed to low pass rate:
 - eight of the eleven graduates who failed NCLEX-RN were from the Fall 2006 graduating class.
 - growing applicant pool and increased enrollment.
 - entry requirements did not provide the ability to screen for the best candidates.

- lack of exposure to computerized testing
- need for revision in the curriculum to improve clinical reasoning and documentation of existing students.
- class dynamics and complaints of a few students created anxiety and tension for students that created a compromised learning environment.
- Corrective measures planned and/or implemented:
 - continue Active Advising Process in Nursing Program- to improve study, test taking, and critical reasoning for the student with a faculty advisor.
 - change Success in Nursing Program to Partnership in Nursing Success Program (PINS) to include active advising, peer mentoring, and use of the ERI total testing program..
 - add PINS Course for At Risk Students and use of ERI for students failing or withdrawing from nursing courses prior allowing for program progression.
 - encourage students to apply for externship programs in area hospital for summer prior to graduation.
 - continue the minimum admission GPA requirement of 2.75.
 - continue to require transfer students who have “failed out” of other nursing programs to enter through the transition program.
 - continue to utilize written Enrollment Management Plan that reflects guidelines and practices which was developed in 2006.
 - continue to utilize policies & procedures to place at risk students in the PINS Program.
 - continue to utilize the progression and readmission policies developed in 2006.
 - revise the admission policies for Transition Program entry students., revise graduation policies and update advising materials and website
 - continue to use the comprehensive Advisor’s Guide with the forms developed to assess program eligibility and fulfillment of graduation requirements at two checkpoints.
 - implement Calendar Year Appointment for interested faculty to improve enrollment and faculty workload issues.
 - utilize department and university funds to increase use of active teaching strategies and enhance knowledge of the educator role.
 - continue to seek training provided by Center for Instructional Technology and Distributed Education for technology utilization in the classroom, videoconferencing, and WebCT course management system.
 - revise the Faculty Orientation Plan to emphasize information on test construction, item analysis, clinical evaluation techniques, and WebCT course management for faculty without teaching experience.
 - continue to formally assign faculty mentors to new faculty
 - explore peer review evaluation of faculty.
 - continue revised curriculum which began 2006
 - continue to utilize data obtained through the Systematic Evaluation Plan process to evaluate the curriculum.
 - ensure test security and reduce incidences of academic dishonesty using various methods.
 - provide students with NCLEX-RN test taking strategies and skills and computerized test taking practice.
 - require score 3 points >national average on standardized exit exam.
 - implement competency testing at the end of each program level.
 - 100% of faculty will use the Par Test / Par Score System for test construction and test item analysis.
 - continue to seek out and nurture relationships with current/potential clinical learning sites.
 - discuss scheduling issues with area nursing programs an agencies.
 - continue to designate one faculty member for each area hospital to act as liaison between the agency and school

- continue the development of simulated student learning experiences in the Learning Resource Center to include hire of clinical teaching assistant, train faculty and staff to use SimMan and use for some clinical experiences. Travel to visit other school's sim labs in summer and fall 2008.
- continue to utilize the Systematic Evaluation Plan revised in 2006
- continue to utilize the Institutional Effectiveness Plan (learner-centered outcomes, measures, and targets-use level and end of program objectives) revised in 2007

Cons-

- None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status for Tarleton State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program, accept the Self Study Report, and issue the requirement to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT LETTER

July 17, 2008

Elaine Evans, PhD, RN, Dean
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
Tarleton State University
Box T 0500
Stephenville, Texas 76402

Dear Dr. Evans:

At the July 17-18, 2008 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of Tarleton State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program based on the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2007, review of the 2007 Nepis Report, and review of the May 2008 Self-Study Report.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue full approval status and issue the following requirement.

REQUIREMENT:

1. Rule 215.6(f) related to Administration and Organization requires in pertinent part that "Each professional nursing education program shall be administered by a qualified individual who is accountable for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the professional nursing education program". A review of the May,2008 Self-Study Report revealed that the report contains ongoing corrective measures. **Therefore**, the program director shall be responsible for the implementation and continuing evaluation of ongoing corrective measures identified in the Self-Study Report and shall submit an evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures to the Board office with CANEP report.

Requirements are mandatory criteria based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-7658 or dorothy.joy@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Dorothy Joy, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Dennis McCabe, President, Tarleton State University