

**Consideration for Change in Approval Status from Conditional to Initial Approval  
 Texas State Technical College West Texas in Brownwood, Texas  
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider staff recommendation for a change in program approval status for Texas State Technical College (TSTC) West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownwood, Texas, from Conditional to Initial Approval based on review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, implementation of corrective measures, and compliance with Rule 215.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2012	Conditional issued at January 2012 meeting	100%	9/9
2011	Initial with Warning	76.92%	20/26
2010	Board placed on Initial with Warning January 2011	75.00%	18/24
2009	Initial	76.47%	13/17

- The TSTC LVN to ADN mobility program leading to an Associate Degree was approved by the Board at the October 2007 meeting.
- TSTC was required to complete a Self-Study report in 2010 because of the 2009 NCLEX-RN examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report (received in Board office on July 13, 2010) evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and included a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- An analysis of the Self-Study report indicated that major problems included curriculum design, difficulty in retention of faculty, and inadequate grading policies.
- Even though the program implemented corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-RN examination, the pass rate has continued to be below 80%.
- Donalyn Alexander, MSN, RN, was appointed Director of the program in June 2011, and she is the third director for the program since it began.
- Ms. Alexander and one key faculty member have been instrumental in revising the curriculum and aligning it with the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs)*.
- TSTC has also been successful in hiring new nursing faculty who are all fully qualified and currently in nursing practice.
- Board Staff conducted a survey visit November 14-15, 2011, to discuss the current situation of the program with administration, the director, and faculty, and to evaluate the status of the program in delivering the curriculum.
- The program was placed on Conditional Approval at the January 2012 Board meeting and the program has not been allowed to enroll new students since that date.
- Only ten (10) students graduated from the program in August, 2012, and nine (9) have tested with a 100% NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate.

**Pros and Cons:**Pros:

- The program has made significant changes to student policies, faculty, and program of study.
- The 100% examination pass rate for 2012 for the nine (9) students who have tested indicate the changes are affecting the outcomes in a positive manner.

Cons:

- The small numbers of students who took the NCLEX-RN® examination do not provide conclusive evidence that the program is ready to be moved to Full Approval.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The program's approval status has never been on Full Approval since they are a new program. Board Staff suggest that the program be allowed to enroll new students since they have implemented corrective measures and their current pass rate is 100%. Board Staff will continue to monitor the program and provide assistance as needed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move the approval status for Texas State Technical College West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownwood, Texas, from Conditional to Initial Approval, continue to monitor the performance of the graduates, and allow the program to enroll new students (See draft letter in the Attachment).

October 22, 2012

Donalyn Alexander, RNC, MSN, BC, CLNC, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Program  
Texas State Technical College West Texas  
305 Booker  
Brownwood, TX 76801

Dear Ms. Alexander:

At the October 18-19, 2012 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Texas State Technical College West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Program in Brownwood, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2012, implementation of corrective measures to promote success of the students, and compliance with Rule 215. Members of the Board wish to thank you and,,, for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Texas State Technical College West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownwood, Texas, from Conditional to Initial Approval. The program may resume enrolling new students into the program. The Board wish to congratulate the program on the implementation of the corrective measures that indicate positive outcomes for the students and commend the program for the 100% pass rate for 2012. Board Staff are available for any assistance or guidance.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN  
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: President of TSTC West Texas  
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
The Texas Workforce Commission