

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Initial to Initial with Warning
Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Kerrville, Texas, from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215 identified in the 2014 Self-Study Report.

Historical Perspective:

- The Schreiner University BSN program has been in operation since 2011.
- Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP developed the proposal to establish the Schreiner University BSN Education Program and has served as Director since the program was approved in October 2011.
- Schreiner University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The BSN program was awarded national nursing accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in October 2013.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past two (2) years are included in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2014	Initial	79.17%	19/24
2013	Initial	60%	12/20
2012	New Program	N/A	N/A

- Due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 60%, the program director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2014 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The program director and faculty members identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed corrective measures to be implemented to address the following areas:
 - Increase the cut score of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS-V) from 70 to 72;
 - Increase exam pass score from 70 to 72;
 - Eliminate participation and attendance grades;
 - Assign Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) questions as homework;

- Limit TEAS-V to three attempts;
 - Add professional accountability course and clinical objectives;
 - Increase ATI Comprehensive Exam probability pass score from 90% to 93%;
 - Limit one readmission per student;
 - Review admission and progression policies;
 - Add ATI exam questions on exam;
 - Add medical terminology; and
 - Decrease test anxiety by inviting counselor to class.
- After review of the SSR, the Education Consultants acknowledged the findings in the SSR and the plan for corrective measures (See Attachment #1).
 - The Education Consultants conducted a conference call with the program director and Dr. Diana Comuzzie, Dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics, on December 1, 2014, to discuss the process for changing the program's approval status from Initial to Initial Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on January 22, 2015. The conference call provided an opportunity for the consultants and program representatives to discuss the process and implications of the warning status.
 - The Schreiner University BSN Program has provided a response letter to be included with the Board report (See Attachment #2).

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive years..."

The Education Guideline for writing a Self-Study Report requires that "The effects of the corrective measures should be evaluated as a part of the Total Program Evaluation Plan".

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kerrville, Texas, from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #3).

Draft Letter

January 26, 2015

Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP
Director
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Schreiner University
2100 Memorial Blvd, CMB 6241
Kerrville, TX 78028

Dear Dr. Rippstein:

At the January 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kerrville, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kerrville, Texas, from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may offer assistance, please contact Board Staff at Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Diana Comuzzie, Dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

COPY



Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701
 Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 www.bon.texas.gov

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

May 19, 2014

Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP
 Department Chair/Director of Nursing
 Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
 Schreiner University
 2100 Memorial Blvd.
 Kerrville, Texas 78028-5611

Dear Dr. Rippstein and Nursing Faculty:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program 2014 Self-Study Report. As the Education Consultant for the program, I wish to express my appreciation to the faculty for their diligence and thoughtfulness evident in this comprehensive report. Further, Board staff values the faculty members' participation in the March 6, 2014 conference call to discuss development of the Self-Study Report. The consultants participated in 30 conference calls with professional nursing education programs and found the time devoted to the calls a beneficial experience that allowed us to connect with the programs at the teaching level.

The Self-Study Report identified many strengths of the program, including:

- Dedicated group of faculty that functions well as a team;
- Small program with small classes;
- Rich variety of clinical learning experiences for undergraduate nursing students;
- Strong science department at the university; and
- Commitment from university administration.

The report also identified the following weaknesses:

- Insufficient advising of pre-nursing students by non-nursing faculty;
- Accepted under-qualified students;
- Didactic and clinical courses not always correlated; and
- Critical care too advanced for first semester students.

Members of the Board

Kathleen Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
 Lubbock, *President*

Nina Almasy, MSN, RN
 Austin

Deborah Bell, CLU, ChFC
 Abilene

Patricia Clapp, BA
 Dallas

Tamara Cowen, MSN, RN
 Harlingen

Sheri Crosby, JD, SPHR
 Dallas

Marilyn Davis, MPA, BSN, RN
 Sugar Land

Shelby Elzey, BBA
 Midlothian

Monica Hamby, LVN
 Amarillo

Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN
 Granbury

Mary M. LeBeck, MSN, RN
 Weatherford

Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN
 El Paso

Beverley Jean Nutall, LVN
 Bryan

The following corrective measures, as well as a timeline for implementation, the responsible individual, and evaluation outcomes, were presented in the report:

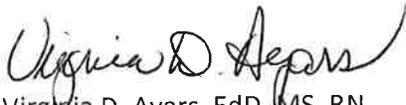
- Increase TEAS-V cut score from 70 to 72;
- Increase exam pass score from 70 to 72;
- Eliminate participation and attendance grades;
- Assign ATI as homework;
- Limit TEAS-V to three attempts;
- Add professional accountability course and clinical objectives;
- Increase ATI Comprehensive Exam probability pass score from 90% to 93%;
- Limit one readmission;
- Review admission and progression policies;
- Add ATI exam questions on exam;
- Add medical terminology; and
- Decrease test anxiety by inviting counselor to class.

The depth of the evaluation of the program and analyses of those areas for improvement is evident in the Self-Study Report. Program faculty and leadership are commended for the thorough review and the measures initiated and in progress to remedy the identified issues.

No additional information is requested at this time. Please send me an electronic version of the report so that it may be maintained the program file.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me via e-mail at Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov or telephone at 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,



Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Tim Summerlin, PhD, President

Schreiner University

LEARNING BY HEARTSM

TRULL SCHOOL OF
SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

CMB 6241
2100 MEMORIAL BLVD.
KERRVILLE, TEXAS 78028-5697
PH 830.792.7438
FAX 830.792.7439

December 19, 2014

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, RAAN
Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe St, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Thomas and Members of the Texas Board of Nursing:

The Schreiner University Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is in receipt of and responding to the Consideration for Change in Approval Status from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning. Unfortunately, the NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2013, our first co-hort, was 60%. At that time, we conducted an in-depth self-study and identified multiple opportunities for improvement in our program. Those areas were included in our self-study, which was submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing in April, 2014.

These factors included:

- Increase the TEAS-V cut score from 70 to 72
- Increase the exam pass score from 70 to 72
- Eliminate participation and attendance grades
- Assign Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) questions as homework
- Limit TEAS-V to three attempts
- Add professional accountability course and clinical objectives
- Increase ATI Comprehensive Exam probability pass score from 90% to 93%
- Limit one readmission
- Review admission and progression policies
- Add ATI exam questions on exams
- Add medical terminology
- Decrease test anxiety by inviting counselor to class

These changes were implemented in Fall, 2014. Additionally, following a survey of other BSN programs across the State of Texas, we increased our exam pass score to 75, versus the 72 that we proposed in our self-study.

In our 2013 cohort, three students tested for the first time after October 1, 2013, and all three were unsuccessful on their first attempt. It is important to note that all three of these students graduated from our program prior to the changes that were implemented as a result of our Self-Study.

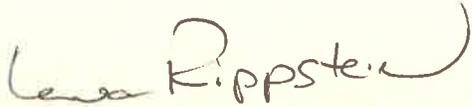
Of the students in our 2014 cohort of graduates, 19 out of the 21 students who tested were successful on their first attempt, resulting in a 90.47% pass rate for that class. Unfortunately, the 3 students from the 2013 cohort who tested late brought the overall pass rate for 2014 down from 90.47% to 79.17%. We feel that these areas of improvement have been successful for our program's graduates and demonstrate that we are on the correct path. However, these changes will demonstrate results over a period of time, versus immediate results.

Additionally, the Dean and the Provost are fully committed to the success of the program. Significant resources have been dedicated to student tutoring and staff development, and these initiatives will continue to be supported in the future.

The Schreiner University Bachelor of Science in Nursing program administration, faculty, and staff remain committed to providing our students with a quality education. We will continue to meet on a regular basis to evaluate the effectiveness of our program and implement necessary changes to improve the quality of education for our students.

Please advise if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lena Rippstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP
Department Chair/Director of Nursing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Comuzzie". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Diana Comuzzie, PhD
Dean of Sciences and Mathematics

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Schreiner University
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Kerrville, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 22, 2015, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kerrville, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Representatives from Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and were offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kerrville, Texas from INITIAL APPROVAL to INITIAL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2015.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2014 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2015, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 22nd day of January, 2015

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing