

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Full to Full with Warning
 Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Del Mar College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, based upon the review of the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, the 2010 Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- Del Mar College has a long history of providing both successful vocational nursing (VN) and associate degree nursing (ADN) education.
- The VN program started in September 1948 and the associate degree program was approved by the Board in September 1967.
- Del Mar no longer offers the traditional VN program. At the July 2006 Board meeting, a multiple entry/exit program (MEEP) was approved to begin offering an option to associate degree nursing students to complete extra course work for eligibility to take the NCLEX-PN® examination.
- The MEEP program was moved to Full Approval Status at the July 2010 Board meeting.
- There are currently three (3) nursing tracks offered at Del Mar: generic associate degree nursing; MEEP; and LVN-RN transition program.
- The nursing program also offers eLine, an online delivery for nursing courses in all levels. Course materials are developed into online modules. Skills evaluation and final examinations must be taken at Del Mar College campus.
- NLNAC conducted a site visit on January 26-27, 2010 and continuing accreditation was granted for eight (8) years
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2010	Full	79.56%	144/181
2009	Full	77.20%	149/193
2008	Full	83.50%	172/206
2007	Full	86.13%	118/137
2006	Full	81.29%	126/155

- Del Mar College was required to complete a Self-Study report because of the 2009 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report (received in board office on April 8, 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 faculty turnover, difficulty in recruitment of qualified faculty, admission policies, and curriculum design.
- Even though the program has been implementing corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-RN® examination, the 2010 NCLEX was 79.56%.
- Due to a loss of faculty, the program chair, Dr. Bertha Almendarez has also functioned in the role of

program director. However, a new director was appointed on August 23, 2010.

- The new program director, Dr Evangeline Deleon, has been in frequent contact with board staff related to the status of changes being made to assist students to succeed on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The self-study report from the program was very comprehensive and is providing direction to improve the program as well as recruit and retain qualified faculty.
- NLNAC granted continuing accreditation to the nursing program in January, 2010.
- The Department Chair, Dr. Bertha Almendarez, is highly experienced and very supportive of the new program director, Dr. Evangeline Deleon.
- With the hiring of a new director for the nursing program, Dr. Amendarez is able to resume chair duties.
- The Nursing program has the resources to offer an excellent program.

Cons:

- The program has experienced a faculty shortage due to the retirement of six (6) faculty.
- Many faculty have voluntarily been teaching overload.
- Recruiting qualified, experienced faculty has been problematic for the nursing department.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and authorize board staff to conduct a survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 31, 2011

Evangeline Deleon, PhD, RN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Del Mar College
101 Baldwin Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Dear Dr. Deleon:

At the January 27-28, 2011 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Del Mar College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2010, review of the 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Rule 215. Members of the Board wish to thank you and Dr. Bertha Almenderaz for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Del Mar College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and authorize a survey visit in 2011. Board staff will contact you to schedule the survey visit.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: THECB
NLNAC