

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON
2006 NCLEX-RN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE AND REVIEW OF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT
ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of St. Philip's College Associate Degree Mobility Program based upon the review of the 2006 Annual Report and 2006 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	BNE Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2006	Pending	71.64%	48/67
2005	Full with Warning	69.57%	48/69
2004	Full	71.79%	28/39
2003	Full	88.24%	15/17

- The St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program (LVN Mobility Track) has been in operation since November 1997.
- St. Philip's College was required to complete a Self-Study report due in February 2005 because of the 2004 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- Even though the program has been implementing ongoing corrective measures since 2005 to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-RN® examination, the 2005 NCLEX was 69.57% and the program was placed on warning at the January 2006 Board meeting.
- A survey visit was conducted on April 1, 2006 and the program was issued six recommendations and five requirements. The program provided an update of their responses to the recommendations and requirements in December 2006. An evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective measures will be ongoing into 2007.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2006 was 71.64%.
- The program admitted a cohort of students in August 2006, scheduled to graduate in August 2007, and another cohort of students was admitted in January 2007, scheduled to graduate in December 2007.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- Administration has made some changes in the organizational structure of the program to facilitate implementation of corrective measures.
- Program has responded to recommendations and requirements issued by the Board in January 2006.
- Program has made a number of positive changes including resequencing of courses, developing test plans and test blueprints, and revising Clinical Evaluation Tools, but sufficient time has not elapsed for complete evaluation of the effectiveness of these changes.

Cons-

- Though the program has been planning to incorporate the use of ParSystem for test preparation, evaluation and test item analysis since 2005, the system will not be operational until Spring 2007.
- Though the program submitted a revised Total Program Evaluation Plan, the evaluation of the corrective measures proposed in the 2005 Self Study Report was not a part of the total plan.
- Even though the program has implemented several positive corrective measures, the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate has continued to fall below 80%.

BACKGROUND FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Rule 215.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the program the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

(A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional status.

(B) The Board may establish specific criteria to be met in order for the program's conditional approval status to be removed.

(C) Depending upon the degree to which the Board's legal and educational requirements are met, the Board may change the approval status to full approval or full approval with warning, or may withdraw approval.

Therefore, the purposes of conditional approval status are to allow faculty additional time to correct deficiencies which include improving the performance of graduates on the licensing examination and to protect additional students from the risk of receiving educational preparation that does not meet Board standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the following as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1):

1. Change the approval status of St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from full with warning to conditional.
2. Specify the time for conditional approval status be set at "until the end of the 2008 examination year, that is September 30, 2008 or until such time that the graduates from the last two cohorts of admitted students who test in 2007 and 2008 and the program demonstrate a pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the NCLEX-RN® examination."
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in Spring 2007 to evaluate the effectiveness of changes and strategies of the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

DRAFT LETTER

Attachment #1
Agenda Item: 3.2.3.b.

January 22, 2007

Clara Wallace, MSN, RN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Program
St. Philip's College
1801 Martin Luther King Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78203-2098

Dear Ms. Wallace:

At the January 18-19, 2007 meeting, members of the Board of Nurse Examiners discussed the approval status of St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2006 and a review of the 2006 Annual Report. The Board wishes to thank you, Dr. Bess Stewart and 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:

1. Change the approval status of St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from full with warning to conditional.
2. Set the time for conditional approval status until the end of the 2008 examination year, that is September 30, 2008 or until such time that the graduates from the last two cohorts of admitted students who test in 2007 and 2008 and the program demonstrate a pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the NCLEX-RN® examination.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in Spring 2007 to evaluate the effectiveness of changes and strategies of the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

Rule 215.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the program the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

(A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional status.

(B) The Board may establish specific criteria to be met in order for the program's conditional approval status to be removed.

(C) Depending upon the degree to which the Board's legal and educational requirements are met, the Board may change the approval status to full approval or full approval with warning, or may withdraw approval.

The purposes of conditional approval status are to allow faculty additional time to correct deficiencies which include improving the performance of graduates on the licensing examination and to protect additional students from the risk of receiving education preparation that does not meet Board standards. **Therefore**, the program must continue to evaluate the changes and strategies which were made in response to recommendations and requirements that were originally issued at the January 2006 and July 2006 Board meetings. **The program shall not admit students until given permission by the Board.**

Once the program has met all requirements issued by the Board, the program may petition for a change of approval status and permission to admit students prior to the next scheduled Board meeting.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit in Spring 2007. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Patricia P. Candia, PhD, Interim President, St. Philip's College
Dr. Bess Stewart, Interim Department Chairperson, Nursing Department, St. Philip's College
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board