

**CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON 2006 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION
 PASS RATE, REVIEW OF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF SELF-STUDY
 SUL ROSS UNIVERSITY, ALPINE, TEXAS
 VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider staff recommendation concerning approval status and requirements to be met for Sul Ross University Vocational Nursing Education Program based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2006, review of the 2006 Annual Report, and review of the self-study report received September 3, 2007.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2006	Full	62.50%	5/8
2005	Full	100.00%	8/8
2004	Full	100.00%	7/7

- Sul Ross University Vocational Nursing Education Program at Alpine, Texas has been in operation since January 1965..
- Due to the 62.50% pass rate on the 2006 NCLEX-PN® 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 September 3, 2007.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- Program conducted a comprehensive self-study and identified factors which may have contributed to the low pass rate:
 - Individual student problems and issues
 - Possible effect of bonus points on passing grades
- Corrective measures implemented:
 - Implementation of remediation program
 - Capstone requirement now in place
 - Student counseling and stress reduction seminars for nursing students
- Program submitted a newly revised and comprehensive total Evaluation Plan.

Cons-

- A Total Program Evaluation Plan was well-developed but did not include dates for the collection of data nor were dates of minutes where decisions were recorded.
- Projected corrective measures are not included in the Evaluation Plan for future evaluation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to continue full approval status for Sul Ross University Vocational Nursing Education Program at Alpine, accept the Self-Study Report, and issue the requirement as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment).

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2007

Donna Kuenstler, MSN, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Education Program
Sul Ross University
Box C-58
Alpine, TX 79832

Dear Ms. Kuenstler:

At the October 18-19, 2007 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the approval status of Sul Ross University Vocational Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2006, review of the 2006 Annual Report, and review of the September 2007 Self-Study Report.

Based upon the review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to continue the Full Approval status of the Sul Ross University Vocational Nursing Program and issue the following requirements to be met:

REQUIREMENT:

Rule 214.6(h) related to Administration and Organization requires that "The director or coordinator shall have the authority to direct the program in all its phases, including approval of teaching staff, selection of appropriate clinical sites, admission, progression, probation, and dismissal of students." Review of the September 2007 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 corrective measures in a revised Total Program Evaluation Plan due September 1, 2008.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that must 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) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: Dr. R. Vic Morgan, President, Sul Ross University