

**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO  
POSITION STATEMENT 15.6, DEVELOPMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the proposed revisions to Position Statement 15.6, Development of Nursing Education Programs suggested by Board staff (See Attachment). Suggested deletions are indicated by ~~strikeout font~~ and suggested additions are indicated by underlined font.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- Board position statements do not have the force of law, but are a means of providing direction on issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public.
- Board position statements are usually reviewed annually for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and the Board rules.
- Recent amendments to the Texas BON rules and regulations relating to education, Chapter 214, Vocational Nursing Education and, Chapter 215, Professional Nursing Education, as well as, revisions to the processes for approving new nursing educational programs, require the revision of Position Statement 15.6.

**PROS AND CONS:**

**Pros-**

- Adoption of the proposed revisions to Position Statement 15.6 will provide an opportunity for updated and improved guidance based on current Texas BON education rules and processes for approving new nursing educational programs and will offer clarification for frequently asked questions.
- This information will be available on the Texas BON web site and can be readily accessed without the delays that could occur were it necessary to speak with Board staff via telephone or e-mail communication requesting this same information.

**Cons-**

None noted.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to approve the proposed revisions to Position Statement 15.6, Development of Nursing Education Programs as suggested by Board staff (See Attachment).

## **15.16 Development of Nursing Educational Programs**

Approval of nursing education programs is one of the primary functions ~~that~~ of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) ~~performs~~ in order to fulfill its mission to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas. The ~~Texas BON Board~~ has the responsibility and legal authority to decide whether a proposed new nursing educational program can meet the Board's established minimum standards for educational programs. These standards require adequate human, fiscal, and physical resources, including qualified nursing faculty and clinical learning facilities, in order to initiate and sustain a program that prepares graduates to practice competently and safely as nurses.

The ~~Texas BON Board~~ recognizes that when health care facilities experience difficulties in recruiting and retaining sufficient nurses, educational institutions and facilities within the affected geographical region frequently respond to this workforce need by proposing to develop new nursing educational programs.

### **Guidelines for Establishing a New Vocational or Professional Nursing Educational Program:**

Entities desiring to start a nursing educational program that are not approved as a school/college, must establish a school/college identity and be approved by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) as a career school or college (proprietary school) prior to seeking approval for the proposed nursing educational program.

All new pre-licensure vocational and professional nursing educational programs in Texas must be approved/licensed by either the TWC or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), as applicable, unless deemed exempt from approval/licensing by the TWC or the THECB; and must also be approved by the Texas BON before enrolling students in the program.

A new school of nursing or educational program that is deemed exempt from approval/licensing by the TWC or THECB, must still be approved by the Texas BON before enrolling students in the program.

All diploma nursing education programs in Texas, including new diploma nursing educational programs, must submit to the Texas BON a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that graduates of the program are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing as required by §215.3(a)(1)(G) and §215.4(a)(6), adopted on February 19, 2008.

### **Process for Proposal Approval/Denial:**

A proposal to establish a new vocational nursing educational program or a new professional nursing educational program must follow Texas BON Rules & Regulations in Chapter 214 for Vocational Nursing Education and/or Chapter 215 for Professional Nursing Education. ~~The institution seeking to establish the new nursing education program must have the appropriate accreditation/approval and the proposal must be prepared by a nurse with educational credentials and experience as outlined in the above mentioned rules. The proposal should include, but not be limited to, extensive rationale which supports establishing the new nursing education program with demographic and community data, employment needs for nurses in the area, evidence of support from stakeholders, and acceptable curricular items as identified in the guidelines.~~ The Texas BON education guidelines for developing a proposal to establish a new vocational or professional nursing educational program are available on the Texas BON web site under the [Nursing Education](#) link. An initial approval fee shall be submitted with the proposal [Rule 223.1(a)(9)].

### **Process for Proposal Approval/Denial:**

The process for proposal approval/denial may take up to one year after the initial contact is made with the Texas BON. The amount of time it takes for Board approval of a proposal for a new program is dependent on many factors. For example, an entity establishing a brand new program may require more time to acquire all of the necessary resources than an established entity that already has other established programs. Additionally, depending on the expertise of the proposal author, a proposal may require several revisions before it is deemed acceptable by Board staff to be presented to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

~~A proposal may require several revisions before it is acceptable to be presented to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. After the proposal is determined to be ready to be presented to the Board, a~~

preliminary survey visit will be conducted by Board staff. A public hearing will be held at the Board meeting prior to the Board's discussion of the proposal and the Board's decision. The Board may approve the proposal and grant initial approval to the new program, may defer action on the proposal, or may deny further consideration of the proposal. ~~An initial approval fee shall be assessed following approval of the proposal [Rule 223.1(a)(9)].~~

#### **~~New Professional Nursing Education Programs:~~**

~~Analysis of data collected between 1988-1999 revealed that the professional nursing educational programs which were opened during that time had been associated with redistribution of students and faculty among nursing education programs and competition for clinical affiliate placements, all of which may have compromised the outcomes of established programs.~~

~~Six years after this analysis, these issues are still pertinent. An adequate number of experienced qualified faculty candidates is limited across the state. Faculty with no teaching experience require extensive mentoring by seasoned faculty members. This consumption of time and energy must be considered in the allocation of workload. Full-time faculty members also need scheduled time for faculty organization meetings, curriculum and program planning, evaluation and revision.~~