

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF APPROVAL STATUS BASED ON
2008 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATE AND REVIEW OF THE
2008 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY (NEPIS) AND THE
2008 COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP)
TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SWEETWATER, TEXAS
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of Texas State Technical College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Sweetwater, Texas, based upon the review of the 2008 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2008 NEPIS and the 2008 CANEP.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2008	Pending	69.18%	110/159
2007	Full	62.80%	103/164
2006	Full	84.13%	106/126

- Texas State Technical College (TSTC) at Sweetwater consists of a day program, an evening program, and an extension site at Breckenridge.
- TSTC at Sweetwater has successfully operated a vocational nursing education program since 1973.
- The Breckenridge extension of TSTC was approved and began operation in 1991.
- An evening program at Sweetwater was approved to enroll students in 1995.
- TSTC consolidated the three programs in 2007 since there was one director and the same curriculum was being used in all three programs.
- TSTC was required to complete a Self-Study report because of the 2007 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report (received in board office on July 16, 2008) 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 2007 to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, the 2008 NCLEX was 69.18%.
- Kathryn Smith, MSN, RN was appointed director of the VN program in October 2008.
- The last survey visit to TSTC was conducted in October 2002.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros-

- The previous program director had identified problems with the curriculum and faculty in 2008 and had begun changes to the program.
- The program continues to implement the corrective measures proposed in the Self-Study Report.

Cons-

- A new program director was appointed in October 2008.
- The effectiveness of corrective measures has not been determined at this point.

BACKGROUND FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(C) related to Approval sets forth the parameters of changing the approval status from full to full with warning as follows:

(C)A warning shall be issued to the program when the pass rate of first-time candidates ... is less than 80% for two consecutive examination years.

When a program is placed on full with warning program approval status, the program is given a list of the deficiencies and a specified time in which to provide the program opportunity to correct deficiencies. Board staff usually conduct a survey visit to a program after the program is placed on full with warning program approval status in order to identify areas of concern and provide assistance to the program suggesting corrective measures for the program to improve the performance of the graduates on the NCLEX examination.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Change the program's approval status of Texas State Technical College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Sweetwater, Texas from full approval to full approval with warning.
2. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in to identify areas of concern and suggest strategies to the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

DRAFT LETTER

July 27, 2009

Kathryn Smith, MSN, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Educational Program
Texas State Technical College
300 Homer K. Taylor Drive
Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Dear Ms. Smith:

At the July, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) discussed the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Sweetwater, Texas, based on the 2008 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and reviews of the 2008 NEPIS and CANEP. The Board wishes to thank you 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 the Texas State Technical College Vocational Nursing Educational Program at Sweetwater, Texas from full approval to full approval with warning.
2. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit to identify areas of concern and recommend strategies for the program to improve the success of students on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(A) sets forth the parameters of the change in approval status as follows:

(C)A warning shall be issued to the program when the pass rate of first-time candidates...is less than 80% for two consecutive examination years.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit during the next academic year. 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: President, TSTC
THECB