

Proposed Change of Program Approval Status Based on Review of NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate, Compliance with Rule 215, and Survey Visit

**Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider staff recommendation to change program approval status for Coastal Bend College (CBC) Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Beeville, Texas, based on review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, survey visit report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Exam Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2009	Initial	85.71%	6/7

Coastal Bend College (CBC) has three (3) campus extensions (Alice, Kingsville, and Pleasanton). The college has operated a successful VN program in Beeville since 1967, a successful VN program in Alice since 1974, a successful VN program in Kingsville since 1975, and a successful VN program in Pleasanton since 2002. Coastal Bend College was granted initial approval to establish a new generic associate degree nursing educational program with an LVN to RN bridge track at the April 2008 Board meeting. Currently, the associate degree program is offered at Beeville and Alice. The hybrid design of the program allows content to be available to both campuses.

Survey Visit Findings:

Coastal Bend College in Beeville has several outstanding features; a beautiful wooded campus, ample parking, an array of student services, and a pleasant learning environment.

Pros:

- The program's 2009 NCLEX-RN® pass rate was 85.67%. For the first cohort of graduates.
- All previous Board issued requirements have been met.
- The program is directed by a knowledgeable leader focused on quality education.
- The program of study incorporates creative methods of using a hybrid design for course delivery, including online format, face-to-face interaction, and utilization of simulation.
- The administration expressed strong support for the nursing programs at Coastal Bend College
- The new ADN program is valued by the community as evidenced by the presence of a member of the advisory committee and clinical site representative during meetings with Board staff.
- Good communications between administration and the nursing director was evident.
- The administration and nursing director have been successful in obtaining grant funding.
- Administration stated that the next building planned will be devoted to allied health programs.
- The faculty group is very energetic and loyal to Coastal Bend; two are pursuing doctorates.
- Faculty have assessed each entering student's level of skill and have tailored the learning opportunities for each student based upon the student assessment.
- The classes are made up of students at the Beeville and Alice campuses. Students at both campuses

- are engaged in active and effective study groups.
- The students who were interviewed were a very engaging group who value the education they are receiving.
- All of the graduates from the first cohort are presently employed in a variety of responsible positions as registered nurses in the community.
- The curriculum is developed according to Board rules and DELC objectives.
- The program provides a variety of clinical learning experiences addressing all required areas of clinical practice, some of which require travel and weekend clinicals.
- A detailed total program evaluation plan is in place and is used regularly in nursing faculty meetings.

Cons:

- None noted.

Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Beeville, Texas, from initial to full approval and issue a commendation in the attached letter (see Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program
April 27-28, 2010**

Nursing Program Director: Betty Sims, MSN, RN

Reason for Survey Visit: Evaluate readiness for change of approval status from initial to full

Survey Visitors: Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN and Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN

Name of Accrediting Agency : SACS

Activities During Survey Visit:

- Meetings with:
 - Director of Program
 - Administration of Coastal Bend College
 - Member of Advisory Committee/ representative from clinical site
 - Nursing faculty (4)
 - Nursing students (2 LVN transition students, 2 generic students, 1 student who graduated in first cohort)
 - Toured campus and nursing unit
 - Review of records and documents
 - Viewed power point presentation of Alice campus

Prior to the survey visit, board staff reviewed the entire curriculum, clinical evaluation tools, and total program evaluation plan.

Survey Visit Findings:

Administration and Organization:

- The administration expressed strong support for the nursing programs at Coastal Bend.
- The new ADN program is valued by the college and has significantly changed the campus.
- Good communications between administration and the nursing director was evident.
- The administration seek opportunities for grant funding and have been successful with Title V funding, as well as state and federal earmarks.
- Administration stated that the next building planned will be devoted to allied health programs.
- The program is directed by a knowledgeable leader focused on quality education.

Faculty:

- The faculty is made up of three (3) full time and one (1) part time members.
- Faculty policies are in place; faculty meet regularly, make decisions in the meetings, and maintain minutes of meetings.
- The faculty group is very energetic and loyal to Coastal Bend; two are pursuing doctorates.
- Faculty have assessed each entering student's level of skill and have tailored the learning opportunities for each student based upon each student assessment.

Students:

- The students who were interviewed were a very engaging group who value the education they are receiving.
- All of the graduates from the first cohort are presently employed in a variety of responsible positions as registered nurses in the community.

- The classes are made up of students at the Beeville and Alice campuses.
- Students at both campuses are engaged in active and effective study groups.
- Faculty are seeking ways to create bonds between students at the two campuses.
- There are seventeen (17) students preparing to graduate in May 2010. Twenty (20) students are currently enrolled in the generic track and will enter semester three (3) in Fall 2010.
- A new class of twenty (20) students will be admitted in Fall 2010.
- Coastal Bend student who attended the April 2010 Board meeting stated that they learned a great deal about the BON at the meeting.
- The only suggestion students made about the program was that they wanted more face-to-face classes as opposed to online sessions.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum is developed according to Board rules and DELC objectives.
- The teaching model is based upon face-to-face classes combined with online learning experiences.
- The faculty receive training and certification as online instructors through Coastal Bend College (Title V grant).
- The goal for the future is to find the best mix of face-to-face classes with web-enhanced content and learning activities in order to serve students in the county and at the other sites.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program provides a variety of clinical learning experiences addressing all required areas of clinical practice, some of which require travel and weekend clinicals.
- The program partners with a San Antonio program to utilize a maternal-child faculty member to provide maternal-child learning experiences in San Antonio.
- Appropriate clinical labs in the building used by the nursing programs provide skills labs and simulation experiences.
- The program has a very good relationship with local clinical facilities.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- Student counseling services has been moved to a convenient location adjacent to the learning center.
- Several areas equipped with computers were visited and the program is seeking ways to provide additional computers for students.
- Students are able to purchase a personal laptop computer in the bookstore at a very reasonable cost.

Total Program Evaluation Plan:

- A detailed total program evaluation plan is in place and is used regularly in nursing faculty meetings.

Proposed Commendation:

The director and faculty are commended for their dedication to the program and the success of the first graduates on the NCLEX-RN® examination..

DRAFT LETTER

July 26, 2010

Betty Sims, MSN, RN
Director, Associate Degree Nursing Program
Coastal Bend College
3800 Charco Road
Beeville, Texas 78102

Dear Ms: Sims

At the July 22-23, 2010 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the report of the survey visit and the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas. The Board wishes to thank you for your attendance at the Board meeting to answer questions.

Based on the discussion and review of the survey visit report, the NCLEX-RN® pass rate, and compliance with Education Rule 215, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status from initial full.

Commendation:

The director and faculty are commended for their dedication to the program and the success of the first graduates on the NCLEX-RN® examination..

If you have any questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact board staff at (512) 463-4631 or robin.caldwell@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: THECB