

**Consideration of Change of Status for Program on Conditional Approval
 St. Philip's College in San Antonio, Texas
 Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the change of status for St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program which has been on conditional approval status since 2006 and staff recommendation based upon the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate.

Historical Perspective:

Historical:

- The Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program at St. Philip's College is an LVN to RN Mobility Track and began in 1997
- The following table presents a chronological overview of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate:

Year	Approval	Pass Rate	Passed/Total
2010	Conditional	October 1, 2010 data: 76.32%	29/38
2009	Conditional	50.00%	2/4 no new students
2008	Conditional	72.55%	37/51
2007	Conditional	77.97%	46/59
2006	Conditional	71.64%	48/67
2005	Full with Warning	69.57%	48/69
2004	Full	71.79%	28/39
2003	Full	88.24%	15/17
2002	Full	93.33%	14/15
2001	Full	90.00%	no data
2000	Full	87.50%	no data
1999	Initial	86.70%	no data

- The program's approval status was changed from Full with Warning to Conditional at the January 2007 Board meeting based upon the 2006 pass rate. With the change to conditional status, the Board restricted the program from admitting new students without Board approval.
- A cohort of enrolled students graduated in December 2007 and achieved a pass rate of 85.71% with 30 of 35 graduates passing the NCLEX-RN® examination. This cohort graduated under a new curriculum. (Because students from previous cohorts tested during this examination year, the pass rate for the year was still below 80%.)
- Based upon the success of this cohort, at the July 2008 meeting, the Board approved the program to begin admitting new students.
- In December 2009, 38 students in the first newly admitted class graduated. However from this cohort, only 27 of 35 students who have tested have passed the NCLEX-RN® examination, yielding a 77.14% pass rate. Even if all remaining graduates take the NCLEX and pass, the program will not achieve an 80% pass rate.
- On October 1, 2010, the pass rate for 2010 was reported to be 76.32% with 29 of 38 first time test-takers passing the exam during the examination year. This includes:
35 Graduates from December 2009 cohort + 1 who failed from 2007 class, 1 who passed from December 2006 class, and 1 who passed from the May 2010 cohort.
- The report also indicated 24 repeat test-takers; 10 passed and 14 failed.

Students reportedly enrolled on August 6, 2010:

- 45 admitted in August 2009; 33 will graduate in December 2010
- A class was admitted in January 2010; 35 will graduate in May 2011
- Total currently enrolled: 68
- An August 2010 admission is planned.
- The program is advertising for 2011 admissions.

The program is currently on conditional approval with permission to admit students based upon pass rate for December 2007 graduates.

Board staff have conducted survey visits to St. Philip's College in 2006, 2007, and 2009.

On August 6, 2010 Board staff met with administration of St. Philip's College to review and discuss the issues related to the approval status. Representatives of St. Philip's who attended the meeting:

- Dr. Adena Loston, President of St. Philip's College
- Dr. Christopher Pate, Dean, Division of Health Sciences, St. Philip's College
- Lula Pelayo, PhD, RN, District Director of Nursing, Alamo Colleges
- Ruth Dalrymple, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Alamo Colleges
- Leonard Leos, MSN, RN, Director of the ADN Program, St. Philip's College
- Cecilia S. Trinidad, MSN, RN, Coordinator, ADN Program, St. Philip's College

The program continues to identify areas for correction and to implement measures to improve the success of the students. However, their NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate has remained below 80%.

Rule 215.4(a)(5) states that "The Board may withdraw approval from a program which fails to meet legal and educational requirements within the specified time. The program shall be removed from the list of Board-approved professional nursing educational programs."

Withdrawal of approval from a program would require that the program design a plan to teach-out the currently enrolled students or find placement for them in other nursing programs.

St. Philip's College has provided a response to the proposed recommendation to withdraw approval from their ADN program (Attachment #1 received in Board office on September 23, 2010).

Pros of Withdrawal of Approval:

- The mission of the BON is to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a nurse in this state is competent to practice safely.
- The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of nursing and the approval of nursing educational programs.
- Students and potential students of the program may be at risk for receiving an adequate educational preparation to practice safely.

Cons of Withdrawal of Approval:

- Measures currently being implemented may be the key to improving the performance of students in their educational program.
- The performance of the current class on the NCLEX-RN® examination is unknown at this point.

Staff Recommendation:

Board staff have proposed the following recommendation but seek Board counsel and discussion about the recommendation.

Based upon the history of the program of being on conditional approval since the 2006 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and consistent with Rule 215.4(a)(5), move to withdraw approval from St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program in San Antonio, Texas, and to remove the name of the program from the list of Board-approved professional nursing educational programs as stated in the attached letter (See Attachment #2).

**St. Philip's College LVN to RN Mobility Program
Report to Texas Board of Nursing
22 September 2010**

St. Philip's college respectfully requests that the Texas Board of Nursing:

1. Grant permission to continue admitting students into the LVN to ADN Program
2. Utilize performance data from the currently-enrolled cohort (graduating December 2010) to evaluate the effectiveness of the RN Program in producing qualified, competent nurses.

Background

- New block curriculum implemented in August 2008
- Thirty eight (38) students in first cohort; graduated in December 2009
- 77.7% pass rate for this cohort utilizing new curriculum
- Program did not have full complement of faculty until start of August 2009
- Three (3) students who did not take NCLEX-RN at time of graduation due to not having all courses completed for graduation have used Assessment Technologies Institutes®, LLC (ATI), VATI On-line review; two students after remediation using this system have passed their NCLEX Exam at 2 for 2 or 100% (1 in August and 1 in September).

Current Student Cohorts; Assessment/Performance, Resources/Faculty

- Student cohorts
 - Cohort graduating December 2010; 33 students (2nd cohort under new curriculum)
 - Cohort graduating May 2011; 36 students (3rd cohort)
 - Cohort graduating December 2011; 40 students (4th cohort)
- Program selected and currently using Assessment Technologies Institutes®, LLC (ATI); implemented in Spring 2010 due to unsatisfactory performance results obtained through use of competing provider, which may have adversely influenced performance of initial cohort.
- The ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam was administered to the 2nd cohort on 1 September 2010. Results are as follows:
 - The group mean score for our Program exceeded the national group mean (benchmark); 71.2 SPC, 71.0 national
 - Ninety percent (30/33) have demonstrated a greater than 80% likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN on the first attempt
- The December 2010 cohort has weekly, on-campus retention sessions that focus on improving weaknesses identified through the ATI RN Predictor Exam; students work with both the retention/remediation specialist and program faculty to ensure that reviews are accomplished.
- ATI will conduct a live review with the cohort graduating in December 2010 using the 2010 NCLEX format.
- Following completion of live review, another predictor test will be given to determine student performance; target is 95% (i.e., 95% of 33 students passing NCLEX on first attempt).
 - ATI Focused Reviews are done with students who are having difficulty pass assessment exams with greater than a Level II Proficiency or greater than 85% benchmark score on exams.
- Opened Center for Health Professions in Summer 2009, a 125,000 square foot, state-of-the art facility with first-class faculty and student resources, including an 8-bed inpatient unit, a 12-bed skills lab, and a 4 room specialty are suite, which utilize the spectrum of low to high-fidelity simulation equipment.
 - Simulation is utilized throughout course curriculum to enhance student learning outcomes.
 - Skills labs are available for students to practice skills during and immediately after the LVN to RN Transitions Course, Simulation, Advanced Concepts of Care, OB and Management.
- Additional resources available to students include: ATI, NCLEX 4000, library, skills lab center, remediation specialist, RN tutors (content experts).

- Program staffed with 10 full time faculty members
 - One faculty member completing PhD in Educational Leadership
 - One faculty member is an Advanced Practice RN - Nurse Practitioner in Family Practice
 - One faculty member has Post Master's certification in Gerontological Nursing
 - Average years of nursing experience exceeds 21 years
 - All faculty members have completed NCSBN continuing education programs in:
 - Test Development and Item Writing
 - Assessment of Critical Thinking
 - Former Program Coordinator selected to fill Director position pending Board approval
 - Program awarded \$438K under the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Act
 - Funds used to enhance program quality through marketing and acquisition of key personnel to improve student performance and outcomes
 - Hired remediation specialist (1) in September 2010
 - Pending hire of BSN-qualified tutors; serve as content experts to provide direct assistance to students
 - Active partnership/collaboration with San Antonio College and funding through Methodist Healthcare Ministries
 - Funding for BSN-qualified for technical trainers (2) to facilitate learning in simulation environment; pending hire
 - Active funding for BSN-qualified faculty to obtain MSN under grant; 1 currently funded, 2 previously-funded faculty earned MSN and now on staff
 - Faculty actively participate and collaborate on program outcomes through participation in a number of operational and strategically-focused committees
 - Admissions
 - Faculty development
 - Quality enhancement
 - Program planning
 - Simulation
 - Nursing informatics
 - Curriculum
 - RN faculty actively collaborate with the SPC Vocational Nursing Program in terms of program linkages and with the Alamo Colleges in the context of curriculum development
 - Curriculum Committee is reviewing all program syllabi to ensure coverage of the four (4) major client categories to be tested in NCLEX utilizing the National Council on state Boards of Nursing (2010) NCLEX-RN
 - Curriculum Committee is also reviewing the NCSBN report covering the period Oct 2009 - Mar 2010 to identify strengths and weaknesses from the existing curriculum in order to understand the relationship between the curriculum and student performance

DRAFT LETTER

October 25, 2010

Dr. Adena Loston, President
St. Philip's College
1801 Martin Luther King Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78203

Dear Dr. Loston:

At the October 21-22, 2010 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing discussed a change of approval status for St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program related to the persistent low NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since 2004 and St. Philip's efforts to correct graduates' success. The Board wishes to thank you and for being present to answer questions.

Rule 215.4(a)(5) states that "The Board may withdraw approval from a program which fails to meet legal and educational requirements within the specified time. The program shall be removed from the list of Board-approved professional nursing educational programs."

After much deliberation, the Board has decided to withdraw approval from St. Philip's College Associate Degree Nursing Program and to remove the program from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs effective immediately. Since this will constitute a closure of the St. Philip's Associate Degree Program, St. Philip's College is issued the following requirements:

Requirement No. 1: St. Philip's College shall make academic provisions for students to complete the nursing education program and teach-out arrangements have been approved by the appropriate agencies (i.e., Texas Workforce Commission, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Board of Nursing).

Requirement No. 2: St. Philip's College shall make provisions for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates.

Requirement No. 3: St. Philip's College shall ensure methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes.

Rule 215.3(d)(2) states that "The program shall continue within standards until all students enrolled in the nursing educational program at the time of the decision to close, have graduated. In the event this is not possible, a plan shall be developed whereby students may transfer to other approved programs."

Please provide the plan for teach-out and closure to board staff by December 1, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact board staff at janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
Board President

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

copy: Christopher I. Pate, MPH, PhD, Dean, Division of Health Sciences