

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Initial to Initial with Warning
Texas State Technical College West Texas in Brownwood, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Texas State Technical College West Texas (TSTC) Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownwood, Texas, based upon the review of the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2010 NEPIS, and Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- The TSTC LVN to ADN mobility program leading to an Associate Degree was approved by the Board at the October 2007 meeting.
- The program has remained on initial approval since it began in 2008.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past two years:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2010	Initial	75.00%	18/24
2009	Initial	76.47%	13/17

- TSTC was required to complete a Self-Study report because of the 2009 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate falling below the required 80%. The Self-Study report (received in board office on July 13, 2010) evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and included a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- An analysis of the self-study report indicated that major problems included curriculum design, difficulty in retention of faculty, and inadequate grading policies.
- Even though the program has been implementing corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-RN® examination, the 2010 NCLEX was 75.00%.
- The current program director was appointed on April 6, 2010. She has been in frequent contact with board staff related to the status of changes being made to assist students to succeed on the NCLEX-RN® examination.
- The last survey visit to TSTC was conducted prior to program approval in 2007.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The self-study report from the program was very comprehensive and is providing direction for a major curriculum change and other efforts to improve the program.

Cons:

- The program has had three directors since it began in 2008.
- Kathryn Smith, MSN, RN serves as program director for **both** the vocational and professional nursing education programs at TSTC which serve students in Sweetwater and Brownwood.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of Texas State Technical College West Texas in Brownwood, Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from initial to initial with warning and authorize board staff to conduct a survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 31, 2011

Kathryn Smith, MSN, RN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas State Technical College - West Texas
305 Booker
Brownwood, Texas 76801

Dear Ms. Smith:

At the January 27-28, 2011 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Texas State Technical College West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2010, review of the 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Rule 215. Members of the Board wish 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 change the approval status of the Texas State Technical College West Texas Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from initial to initial with warning and authorize a survey visit in 2011. Board staff will contact you to schedule the survey visit.

If you have any questions or if we may be of 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