

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval**

**Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider proposed change of the approval status from Initial to Full for Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program based on compliance with Rule 215, the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the first graduating class, and Survey Visit.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates Who Tested (Passed/Total)</b>
Brazosport College	2010	Initial	93.33%	14/15

- In July 2008, the Board granted Initial approval to Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing Program in Lake Jackson, Texas. Classes began in Fall 2008.
- The program's first cohort of fifteen (15) students graduated in May 2010; all 15 students tested during with a 93.3% first-time test-takers pass rate.
- Board staff conducted a Survey Visit on December 9-10, 2010 (see report in Attachment #1).
- The program is requesting a move to Full approval.

**PROS AND CONS:**

Pros:

- The program's 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate is 93.3% based on the first class of graduates.
- The Survey Visit conducted by Board staff on December 9-10, 2010 revealed no negative observations and consistently positive observations.

Cons:

- None noted.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to change the program approval status of Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing education program from Initial Approval to Full Approval based on compliance with Rule 215, review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the first class of graduates, and Survey Visit conducted by Board staff on December 9-10, 2010, as noted in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**Survey Visit Report  
Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Program**

**Overview:**

A survey visit to Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, Associate Degree Nursing education program was conducted December 9-10, 2010, by Paul Waller, Nursing Consultant for Education.

During the visit, Board staff:

- met with upper administration (Dr. Millicent Valek, President and Dr. Ken Tasa, Dean, Educational Programs and Services) and Susan McCormick, PhD, RN, Director of ADN Program for an opening conference,
- met separately with Director McCormick,
- met with students,
- met with faculty,
- toured the library,
- reviewed documents and files,
- toured the new building being constructed for the ADN program, health professions, and sciences (Sadler Health Professions / Science Complex), and
- met again with upper administration, faculty, and Director McCormick for a closing conference.

A summary of the focal areas of the visit and observations follows:

Rule 215.1: General Requirements:

Faculty and administration demonstrated accountability for complying with the Board's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act. Program administration indicated awareness of resources on Board's website.

Rule 215.5: Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes:

Administration and faculty are implementing program as proposed to the Board in July 2008. Faculty speak frequently of the DELCs and indicated willingness to review curriculum and all materials in light of newly-approved DEC's.

Rule 215.6: Administration and Organization:

Upper administration demonstrates support of the program. There is clearly a good working relationship among upper administration, program administration, and faculty, with camaraderie evident. Faculty are clearly comfortable in interactions with higher administration. Program Director McCormick has clear role definition and support of upper administration and a collegial relationship with faculty.

Rule 215.7: Faculty:

Four (4) full-time faculty deliver the curriculum with ownership of their individual courses. Faculty freely verbalize use of the DELCs and QSEN (quality and safety standards in nursing education) content. They indicate a willingness and plan to review the curriculum based on the new DEC's approved by Board at the October 2010 meeting.

Faculty teach both didactic and clinical practice and provide individualized instruction to students. They provide immediate feedback to the students on their clinical performance. The faculty are organized and meet periodically; faculty meetings are documented in minutes demonstrating review of information, discussion of issues, and decision-making.

Rule 215.8: Students:

In meeting with approximately 40 first- and second-year students, it was apparent that the student body is a cohesive community. First-year students have developed a Facebook page for communication and sharing of information.

Students spoke very positively about the program and verbalized no substantive complaints, even when probed for existence of same.

Students and faculty both spoke of involvement in the National Nursing Student Association, and information is included in student handbook materials. It was noted that the national convention will be in Galveston in Spring 2011, with implication that students would be in attendance, taking advantage of that close proximity.

Students verbalized plans for continuing their formal education beyond the associate degree, with most indicating desire for a baccalaureate degree, many indicating desire for a masters degree, and a handful indicating desire for a doctorate.

Rule 215.9: Program of Study:

The curriculum is being implemented as originally proposed to the Board at the time of initial approval. Maternity nursing content was delivered by traditional classroom instruction for the first class/ cohort; the second class/ cohort received this content via online technology and no significant issues were indicated with that experience.

Rule 215.10: Clinical Learning Experiences:

The Director, faculty, and students all indicated the current clinical learning facilities meet the needs of the curriculum and students. Most clinicals are done at the local hospital; a second hospital, located approximately 10 miles away in Angleton, is used less but provides additional experiences. Preceptorships are used as capstone experiences in the final semester of the program. Faculty indicated a desire to explore use of additional resource availability in the Houston/ Galveston area.

Rule 215.11: Facilities, Resources and Services:

Given an extensive building and remodeling program currently underway on campus, the ADN program is currently sharing previously-underutilized space offered by another department. There is clear cooperation between departments in the college.

A large new building to house an extensive simulation center along with the entire ADN program (and additional science programs) is being constructed. The building will be entered through an "ambulance entrance" and then space is being outfitted to clearly simulate a clinical setting with spacious "clinical" facilities and labs. Faculty and administration will be housed in new office space within the same building and in close proximity to classroom and lab facilities.

Rule 215.12: Records:

The required records are maintained, and a brief review revealed no insufficiencies. All expected elements of faculty, student, and program records were clearly evident

Rule 215.13: Total Program Evaluation:

The program's Total Program Evaluation plan is comprehensive and well documented.

Conclusion:

The Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing Program is being successfully implemented as proposed to the Board. They have demonstrated initial success on the NCLEX-RN® and should be expected to continue to perform well. The Education Consultant had no substantive negative observations and encouraged the program faculty and administration along with upper administration to consider thoughtful expansion of the program as available faculty and resources are available.

<<DRAFT LETTER>>

January 31, 2011

Susan McCormick, PhD, RN  
Director, Associate Degree Nursing  
Brazosport College  
PO Box 68  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Dear Dr. McCormick:

At their January 27-28, 2011 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status of the Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing Program. The Board wishes to thank you <<insert other(s) as needed>> for being present to answer questions.

Based upon review of the 2010 NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate, compliance with Rule 215, and the staff report of Survey Visit conducted on December 9-10, 2010, it was the decision of the Texas BON to move the Brazosport College Associate Degree Nursing program approval status from Initial to Full Approval. The Board wishes to congratulate you along with the faculty and administration of Brazosport College on the initial success of the program.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board staff at [paul.waller@bon.state.tx.us](mailto:paul.waller@bon.state.tx.us) or by phone at 512.305.7658.

Sincerely,

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

Paul R. Waller, PhD, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education