

Summary of Substantive Changes

One position statement has substantive changes. Position Statement 15.16, Development of Nursing Educational Programs, has been revised to provide a more accurate portrayal of the current process for reviewing proposals. In light of the increased number of new proposals being received by board staff, the revisions to the position statement will provide more direction to individuals regarding the essential elements of proposal development, as well as the approval process.

Current Position Statement with Substantive Changes

15.16 Development of Nursing Educational Programs

Pros and Cons

Pros:

Adoption of the proposed substantive changes to Position Statement 15.16 will provide an opportunity for updated and improved guidance for individuals interested in developing nursing education programs.

Cons:

None noted.

Recommendations:

I move to adopt the substantive changes to Position Statement 15.16, Development of Nursing Education Programs, with allowance for non-substantive word editing for purposes of clarity as may be deemed necessary by Board staff.

15.16 Development of Nursing Educational Programs

Approval of nursing education programs is one of the primary functions of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) in order to fulfill its mission to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas. The Texas BON has the responsibility and legal authority to decide whether a proposed new nursing education program ~~can~~ meets the Board's established minimum standards for education programs. These standards require ~~that the program has~~ adequate human, fiscal, and physical resources, including qualified nursing faculty and clinical learning facilities, ~~in order~~ to initiate and sustain a program that prepares graduates to practice competently and safely as nurses.

The Texas BON recognizes that when health care facilities experience difficulties in recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of nurses, education institutions and facilities within the affected geographical region frequently respond to this workforce need by proposing to ~~develop~~ establish new nursing education programs.

Guidelines for Establishing a New Vocational or Professional Nursing Educational Program

Entities desiring to start a nursing education program that are not approved as a school/college, must establish a school/college identity and be approved by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) as a career school or college (proprietary school) prior to seeking approval for the proposed nursing education program.

All new prelicensure vocational and professional nursing education programs in Texas must be approved/licensed by either the TWC or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), as applicable, unless deemed exempt from approval/licensing by the TWC or the THECB; and must also be approved by the Texas BON before enrolling students in the program. A new ~~school of~~ nursing ~~or~~ education program that is deemed exempt from approval/licensing by the TWC or THECB, must still be approved by the Texas BON before enrolling students in the program.

All ~~Proposed~~ diploma ~~nursing education~~ programs ~~in Texas, including new diploma nursing educational programs,~~ must submit to the Texas BON a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that graduates of the program are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing as required by §215.3(a)(2)(G) and §215.4(a)(6), adopted on February 19, 2008.

Process for Proposal Approval/Denial

A proposal to establish a new vocational nursing education program or a new professional nursing education program must follow Texas BON Rules & Regulations in Chapter 214 for Vocational Nursing Education or Chapter 215 for Professional Nursing Education. The ~~institution~~ entity seeking to establish the new ~~nursing education~~ program must have the appropriate accreditation/approval and the proposal must be prepared by a registered nurse with educational credentials and experience as outlined in the above mentioned rules. The proposal should include, but not be limited to, extensive rationale which supports establishing the new ~~nursing education~~ program with demographic and community data, employment needs for nurses in the area, evidence of support from stakeholders, established agreements with clinical affiliating agencies, adequate qualified nursing administrator

and faculty to begin the program, and an acceptable curricular items curriculum as identified in the guidelines. The Texas BON ~~e~~Education ~~g~~Guidelines for developing a proposal to establish a new ~~vocational or professional nursing educational~~ program are available on the Texas BON web site under the <Nursing Education> link. An initial approval fee shall be submitted with the proposal [Rule 223.1(a)(9)].

The process for proposal approval/denial begins when the board staff receives a letter of intent or an initial proposal from the entity ~~may take up to one year after the initial contact is made with the Texas BON~~. The total process from this point may take up to one year or more before the proposal is ready to be presented to the Board. The ~~amount~~ length of time ~~it takes for~~ until Board approval depends upon the completeness of a the proposal and compliance with Board standards. ~~for a new program is dependent on many factors~~. The usual process entails a number of revisions of the proposal. ~~For example, an entity establishing a brand new program may require more time to acquire all of the necessary resources than an established entity that already has other established programs. Additionally, depending on the~~ The expertise of the proposal's author, ~~a proposal may require several revisions before it is deemed acceptable by Board staff to be presented to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting~~. and the involvement of the proposed program director impact the success of the proposal. A New Proposal Resource Packet to assist in the proposal development is available on the Board's web site under the Nursing Education link. The packet lists the documents on the web site necessary for the proposal development. The author of the proposal and proposed director should attend at least one Informal Information Session for Proposal Development. The Informal Information Session is provided by board staff several times each year. Representatives from the institution should also attend at least one regularly scheduled Board meeting in order to gain familiarity with Board proceedings.

After the proposal is determined to be ready to be presented to the Board, a preliminary survey visit will be conducted by ~~B~~board staff. The equipment and educational spaces in the physical facility should be ready for the program to begin at this time.

A public hearing will be held at the Board meeting prior to the Board's discussion of the proposal and the Board's decision. The Board may approve the proposal and grant initial approval to the new program, may defer action on the proposal, or may deny further consideration of the proposal.

(Board Action 07/2000; revised 01/2004; ~~revised~~ 01/2005; 01/2006; ~~revised~~ 01/2008; 10/2008; 01/2011)

(Reviewed - 01/2007; 01/2009; 01/2010)