

**Consideration of Change of Approval Status from Full to Full with Warning
 San Jacinto College South in Houston, Texas
 LVN/Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of San Jacinto College South LVN/Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Houston, Texas, based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, the 2010 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and Board Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- San Jacinto College South offers an LVN/Paramedic to ADN Mobility Program, established in 1995.
- The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The San Jacinto College South nursing education program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission through 2016.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past six years:

Exam Year	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2011	69.81%	74/106	Full
2010	70.15%	47/67	Full
2009	90.74%	49/54	Full
2008	91.43%	32/35	Full
2007	84.62%	55/65	Full
2006	80.95%	51/63	Full

- Karen Alexander, PhD, RN, CNOR, was approved by the Board in July 2011 to assume the position of program director.
- In 2011, the program was required to complete a Self-Study Report subsequent to the 2010 NCLEX-RN® pass rate of 70.15%, with 47 of the 67 first-time test-takers successfully completing the licensure examination. The document was received in the Board office on April 1, 2011.
- The Self-Study Report evaluated factors that could have contributed to the graduates' performance and included a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The report presented a comprehensive analysis of the following topics:
 - (1) students;
 - (2) faculty;
 - (3) policies;
 - (4) curriculum;
 - (5) testing and evaluation;
 - (6) evaluation methods for didactic and clinical learning experiences; and
 - (7) total program evaluation.
- A review of the Self-Study Report revealed that a variety of issues may have had an impact on graduates' performance, including:
 - (1) Twenty students from the December 2009 and May 2010 graduating cohorts re-entered the program after failing nursing courses or electing to withdraw from the program. Nine of these 20 students were unsuccessful on the NCLEX-RN®.

- (2) The remediation tool that was in place for students who were identified as at-risk was not robust enough to achieve the desired results.
 - (3) Most students who were unsuccessful on the licensure examination had "C" averages in the didactic courses.
 - (4) Faculty failed to adhere to grade policies as articulated in the faculty handbook.
 - (5) Students who marginally passed courses in 2008, 2009, and 2010 had examination grade averages rounded from 74.5% to 75%, thus creating grade inflation.
 - (6) During the academic year of 2009 - 2010, faculty members did not provide blueprints based upon the NCLEX-RN® test plan.
 - (7) The clinical evaluation tool needed to be reviewed for clarity and continuity in alignment with didactic content.
- The Self-Study Report identified corrective measures to be implemented, including:
 - (1) instructors would identify at-risk students immediately following the first examination;
 - (2) new faculty members would complete the faculty orientation within the first year and be timely assigned to work with an experienced faculty mentor;
 - (3) clinical evaluation tools would be revised to incorporate the Differentiated Essential Competencies, as well as additional objective standards;
 - (4) the Test-Writing Committee would meet weekly to review and evaluate test bank items to ensure the inclusion of appropriate cognitive level questions;
 - (5) the Curriculum Committee would develop a crosswalk to correlate test blueprints to the new NCLEX-RN® test plan;
 - (6) an NCLEX-RN® review course would be provided by the college for students graduating May 2011; and
 - (7) students would be required to achieve a predetermined score on the comprehensive exit examination in order to be eligible for graduation.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The program submitted a comprehensive evaluation of factors that may have contributed to the lowered NCLEX-RN® pass rates.
- Corrective measures were timely instituted and evaluated.

Cons:

- It is not possible to determine if the corrective measures that were implemented to improve student performance are fully effective due to the limited time period from the dates of implementation of the corrective measures to the end of the 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate year.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of San Jacinto College South LVN/Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas from Full to Full with Warning and authorize Board staff to conduct a survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 23, 2012

Karen Alexander, PhD, RN, CNOR, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
San Jacinto College South
13735 Beamer Road
Houston, Texas 77089

Dear Dr. Alexander:

At the January 19-20, 2012 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the San Jacinto College South LVN/Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2011, review of the 2010 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and compliance with Board Rule 215. Members of the Board wish to thank you and <<INSERT AS NEEDED>> 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 San Jacinto College South LVN/Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from Full to Full with Warning and authorize a survey visit in 2012. 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)305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board