

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
Quest College in San Antonio, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Quest College Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, review of the 2014 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, and areas of noncompliance with Board Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The Quest College (formerly Career Quest) VN Education Program was established in 2010 and graduated the first cohort of eight (8) students in April 2011.
- Quest College is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past four (4) years are provided in the following table:

| NCLEX Examination Year | BON Approval Status | NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate | Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total) |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2014 | Full with Warning (April 2014 Board Meeting) | 43.37% | 36/83 |
| 2013 | Full | 44.59% (Self-Study Report) | 33/74 |
| 2012 | Full | 37.50% | 15/40 |
| 2011 | Initial | 87.50% | 7/8 |

- The program submitted a Self-Study Report in 2013 due to the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 37.50%. Although the program implemented measures to improve the performance of students on the national licensing examination, the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate has continued to be below 80%. Self-Study Reports are required when a program experiences a one-time pass rate below 80%. The annual NCLEX examination pass rates report for VN programs is presented to the Board at the annual April meeting. Letters requiring Self-Study Reports are sent to programs following the April meeting with a due date that allows the program about two (2) months for development.
- The Quest College VN Self-Study Report was received in the Board office in July 2013. The report identified the following factors that may have led to the below 80% NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate: (1) an increase in enrollment numbers; (2) a turnover in faculty members; and (3) the need for more standardization throughout the curriculum.

Corrective measures were implemented, including: (1) institution of standardized test banks; (2) establishment of clinical grading rubrics; (3) removal of extra credit; (4) establishment of a student re-entry policy; (5) standardization of the faculty orientation process; (6) evaluation of faculty retention/assignments; and (7) review of curriculum.

- Eight (8) individuals have served as the VN education program director since the program began in April 2010.
- Board Staff conducted a survey visit on August 26, 2014 as directed by the April 2014 Board Order. A report of the visit was considered and accepted at the October 2014 Board meeting.
- Rebecca Zielinski, RN was appointed to the program director position in November 2014 and meets the requirements of Board Rule 214 to serve in the nursing leadership position.
- Currently, 104 students are enrolled in the program; 63 students are enrolled in the Day Option and 41 students are enrolled in the Evening Option, as follows:

| <u>Day Cohort Graduation Date</u> | <u>Number Enrolled</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 06/11/2015 | 6 |
| 09/03/2015 | 7 |
| 03/31/2016 | 25 |
| 07/28/2016 | 25 |
| <u>Evening Cohort Graduation Date</u> | <u>Number Enrolled</u> |
| 05/05/2015 | 12 |
| 08/12/2016 | 30 |

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(B)(i) states: "A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates ... is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years."

Staff Recommendations:

Move to change the approval status for the Quest College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, review of the 2014 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214, and issue the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 20, 2015

Rebecca Zielinski, RN, ADN, BBA, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Quest College
5368 Fredericksburg Rd., Suite 400
San Antonio, TX 78229

Dear Ms. Zielinski:

At the April 16-17, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Quest College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Board wish to thank you and XXXXXXX for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Quest College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, review of the 2014 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214, as indicated in the attached Board Order.

If you have questions or if we may offer assistance, please contact Board Staff at virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

copy: Jeanne Martin, Quest College President
Texas Workforce Commission
Council on Occupational Education

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of:

Quest College
Vocational Nursing Education Program
San Antonio, Texas

ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 16, 2015, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Quest College Vocational Nursing Education in San Antonio, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2014, review of the 2014 Nursing Education Program Information Survey, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214 pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Quest College in San Antonio, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Quest College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING to CONDITIONAL APPROVAL and hereby imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. The program shall not enroll students while on conditional approval status.
2. The program will remain on conditional approval status until the program demonstrates a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination. The NCLEX-PN® examination year is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 214 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.

Entered this 16th day of April, 2015

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing