

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Full to Full with Warning  
Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215 identified in the 2014 Self-Study Report.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The Texas Southmost College ADN program has operated in a partnership agreement with the University of Texas at Brownsville since 1975. In March 2011, the Texas Southmost College District Board of Trustees officially withdrew the college from the 20-year partnership agreement.
- Martha McGuffin, MSN, RN was appointed Director of the ADN program in January 2014. Ms. McGuffin has served as a nurse educator since 2009.
- Texas Southmost College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The ADN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing through 2019.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are included in the table below:

<b>NCLEX Examination Year</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>
2014	Full	46.36%	51/110
2013	Full	71.30%	77/108
2012	Full	81.02%	111/137
2011	Full	79.41%	81/102
2010	Full	88.07%	96/109

- Due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 71.30%, the program director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2014 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The program director and faculty members identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed the following corrective measures:

- All faculty will work together to analyze candidate files for admission to the program;
  - Implementation of the Kaplan Review Package, including the three-day live review;
  - Change in focus from testing and retesting to remediation and mastery of content;
  - Change in scheduling clinical learning experiences to mornings to offer richer learning opportunities;
  - Increased professional development for faculty; and
  - Formalized mentoring plans for new faculty members.
- After review of the SSR, the Education Consultants acknowledged the findings in the SSR and the plan for corrective measures (See Attachment #1).
  - The Education Consultants conducted a conference call with the program director, four nursing faculty members, and Jeffrey Gregor, Dean of Health Care, Career and Technical Education, on December 4, 2014, to discuss the process for changing the program's approval status from Full to Full Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on January 22, 2015. The conference call provided an opportunity for Board Staff and program representatives to discuss the process and implications of the warning status.

**Rationale for Recommendations:**

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive years..."

The Education Guideline for writing a Self-Study Report requires that "The effects of the corrective measures should be evaluated as a part of the Total Program Evaluation Plan".

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

Draft Letter

January 26, 2015

Martha McGuffin, MSN, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Texas Southmost College  
80 Fort Brown  
Brownsville, TX 78520

Dear Ms. McGuffin:

At the January 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may offer assistance, please contact Board Staff at [Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov) or 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Jeffrey Gregor, Dean of Health Care, Career and Technical Education  
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing



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## Texas Board of Nursing

May 20, 2014

333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701  
 Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 www.bon.texas.gov

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

Martha McGuffin, MSN, RN, Director  
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
 Texas Southmost College  
 80 Fort Brown  
 Brownsville, TX 78520

Dear Ms. McGuffin and Nursing Faculty:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program 2014 Self-Study Report. As the Education Consultant for the program, I wish to express my appreciation to the faculty for their diligence and thoughtfulness evident in this comprehensive report. Further, Board staff values the faculty members' participation in the March 7, 2014 conference call to discuss development of the Self-Study Report. The Education Consultants participated in 30 conference calls with professional nursing education programs and found the time devoted to the calls a beneficial experience that allowed us to connect with the programs at the teaching level.

The report discussed the separation of the long-term partnership between Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas at Brownsville as an overriding factor that may have contributed to program outcomes. With the dissolution of the partnership, changes were made to the college learning system as well as changes to faculty composition. Also, during the transitional time, a change in program directors affected continuity of operation and the transfer of program data.

The Self-Study Report identified the following as critical factors that may have affected the 2013 NCLEX-RN pass rate:

- Adherence to student admission criteria;
- Suspect HESI results;
- Increased number of HESI attempts by students;
- Continuity with faculty employment;
- Orientation of new faculty and adjunct faculty;
- Length of time from graduation to NCLEX testing; and
- Increased passing standard for the NCLEX-RN, effective April 2013.

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### Members of the Board

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 Granbury

Mary M. LeBeck, MSN, RN  
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 El Paso

Beverley Jean Nutall, LVN  
 Bryan

The Self-Study Report offered the following corrective measures:

- All faculty will work together to analyze candidate files for admission to the program;
- Implementation of the Kaplan Review Package, including the three-day live review;
- Change in focus from testing and retesting to remediation and mastery of content;
- Change in scheduling clinical learning experiences to mornings to offer richer learning opportunities;
- Increased professional development for faculty; and
- Formalized mentoring plans for new faculty members.

Although data were limited, the depth of the evaluation of the program and analyses of those areas for improvement is evident in the Self-Study Report. Program faculty and leadership are commended for the thorough review and the measures initiated and in progress to remedy the identified issues.

No additional information is requested at this time. Please send me an electronic version of the report so that it may be maintained the program file.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me via e-mail at [Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov) or telephone at 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,



Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN

Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Lily F. Tercero, PhD, President

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Texas Southmost College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Brownsville, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 22, 2015, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Representatives from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and were offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2015.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2014 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2015, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2015

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