

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing in San Antonio, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- The Hallmark University, formerly Hallmark College, Martha Fessler School of Nursing ADN Education Program was established in 2011 and graduated the first cohort of thirty-eight (38) students in 2013.
- Hallmark University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The most recent program evaluation occurred in 2011 and the next ACCSC evaluation is scheduled for 2016.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past three (3) years are included in the provided table:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2015	Initial with Warning	69.84%	44/63
2014	Initial	61.90%	39/63
2013	Initial	67.65%	23/34
2012	Initial	New Program	

- The program submitted a Self-Study Report in 2014 due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 67.65%. Although the program implemented measures to improve the performance of students on the national licensing examination, the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate has continued to be below 80%.
- The Hallmark University Self-Study Report was received in the Board office on May 30, 2014 and provided a comprehensive analysis and evaluation.

- The Self-Study Report identified the following contributing factors that may have led to the below 80% 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate: issues with sequencing of courses in the curriculum and lack of student exposure to NCLEX-RN® style questions.
- Corrective measures to re-organize the curriculum were timely implemented, including: (1) revised placement of cardiac, pulmonary, and neurologic content into RNSG 1441 (basic problems) and RNSG 2443 (complex problems); (2) revised organization of courses for semester three, including RNSG 2313 (Mental Health) and RNSG 2512 (OB/Peds); and (3) revised overall curriculum plan and intent to consider a concept based curriculum. Additionally, the following changes specific to examinations were initiated: (1) incorporated exams with NCLEX-RN® style questions to comprise at least 75% of the final grade in all courses except RNSG 1146 (Legal/Ethical), RNSG 1115 (Health Assessment), and RNSG 2207 (Transitions); (2) removed drug dosage/medication administration calculation exams from lecture courses and linked them to clinical courses; (3) developed multiple versions of unit exams for all nursing courses; (4) added Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Live NCLEX-RN® Review to student ATI package; and (5) revised utilization of ATI remediation and predictor.
- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 61.90%, the approval status of the program was changed from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning at the January 2015 Board meeting.
- Bethany Shields, MSN, RN was appointed Interim Director of the ADN Program in April 2015. Ms. Shields meets all requirements of Board Rule 215.6(f) to serve in the nursing leadership position.
- Board education consultants Virginia Ayars and Sandi Emerson conducted a site visit on July 29, 2015, as mandated in the January 2015 Board Order.
- Students are admitted three (3) times during the year in May, September, and January.
- Currently, 117 students are enrolled in the program, as follows:

<u>Cohort Graduation Date</u>	<u>Number Enrolled</u>
December 2015	28
May 2016	31
August 2016	28
December 2016	30

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(B) states: “A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years”

Staff Recommendations:

Move to change the approval status for the Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215 (See Attachment #1)

DRAFT LETTER

January 25, 2016

Bethany Shields, MSN, RN, Interim Director
Martha Fessler School of Nursing
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Hallmark University
10401 IH-10 West
San Antonio, TX 78230

Dear Ms. Shields:

At the January 21-22, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Board wish to thank you and XXXXXXXX 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 Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

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: Brent Fessler, Hallmark University President
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Hallmark University
Martha Fessler School of Nursing
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
San Antonio, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 21, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Hallmark University in San Antonio, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Hallmark University Martha Fessler School of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from INITIAL 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 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination. The NCLEX-RN® examination year is October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 215 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.

Entered this 21st day of January, 2016

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