

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
 From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
 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 (TSC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Full 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:

- Beginning in 1975, the TSC ADN program operated in a partnership agreement with the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB). However, in March 2011, the TSC District Board of Trustees officially withdrew the college from the 20-year partnership agreement.
- The dissolution of the partnership resulted in many changes to the TSC ADN program. One major consequence was a loss of veteran nursing faculty.
- In the Fall of 2013, TSC, as a separate entity, enrolled the first class of ADN students.
- Celia De La Garza, MSN, RN was appointed Interim Director of the ADN program in December 2014 and permanent Program Director in February 2015. Ms. De La Garza has served as an ADN faculty member at TSC since 2009.
- TSC is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges through 2018. The ADN program is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing through 2019.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the following table. Many of the 2014 NCLEX-RN® candidates are graduates of the former TSC and UTB partnership program.

Examination Year	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2015	57.14%	40/70	Full with Warning
2014	46.36%	51/110	Full
2013	71.30%	77/108	Full
2012	81.02%	111/137	Full
2011	79.41%	81/102	Full

- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 46.36%, approval status of the program was changed from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning at the January 2015 Board meeting.
- Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Board Contracted Program Evaluator, conducted a site visit on March 4, 2015, as mandated in the January 2015 Board Order.
- All requirements issued in the January 2015 Board Order have been fully addressed.
- Currently, fifty-two (52) students are enrolled in the program, as follows:

<u>Cohort Graduation Date</u>	<u>Number Enrolled</u>
December 2015	13
May 2016	30
May 2017	9

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 Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas from Full 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, and issue the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 25, 2016

Celia De La Garza, MSN, RN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas Southmost College
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, TX 78520

Dear Ms. De La Garza:

At the January 21-22, 2016 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. Members of the Board wish to thank you and XXXXX 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 Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Full 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, 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: Jeffrey Gregor, Dean of Health Care, Career and Technical Education
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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 21, 2016, 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 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 Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, 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 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