

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
 From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning  
 Dallas Nursing Institute in Dallas, Texas  
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in the program approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- DNI received initial approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) to establish an ADN Education Program at the April 2009 Board meeting and began operation in Summer 2009.
- DNI changed ownership in December 2013 when it partnered with TCS Education System (TCS), an entrepreneurial, nonprofit higher education system.
- DNI is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) through December 2016.
- Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, has served as the ADN Program Director since December 2010 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 215.6 *Administration and Organization*.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past six (6) years are provided 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>
2016	Full	78.95%	15/19
2015	Full – Self-Study Report Required	46.15%	12/26
2014	Full	86.96%	20/23
2013	Initial with Warning remained since there were no test-takers	No first time candidates	
2012	Initial Approval with Warning	65.22%	15/23
2011	Initial – Self-Study Report Required	62.75%	32/51

- Due to the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 46.15%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2016 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:
  - Early identification and interventions for at-risk students;
  - Increase communication between clinical and didactic faculty;
  - Increase the application of critical thinking in courses; and
  - Increase student exposure to NCLEX questions through Kaplan reviews.
- On December 9, 2016, the Education Consultants conducted a telephone conference with the Program Director concerning changing the program's approval status from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on January 19, 2017. The conference call provided an opportunity for Board Staff to discuss the process and implications of the warning status.
- The DNI ADN Program has provided a response letter to be included with the Board report (See Attachment #1).

**Staff Rationale for Recommendation:**

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 examination 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 Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).

Gayle Varnell, Ph.D, RN, CPNP-PC  
Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460  
Austin, TX 78701-3942

Dear Dr. Varnell,

We received the decision of the Board to change the approval status for our Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon our NCLEX-RN ® examination pass rate for 2016. We appreciate you for sharing this information.

Faculty would like to share these things about our program. We are aware that we did not meet the 80% required threshold. However, we made vast improvement from the 2015 47% pass rate to our current 78.95% pass rate. In addition to testing strategies, we adopted Adaptive Quizzing for our October 2016 graduating seniors in an attempt to strengthen their critical-thinking. Since then, we have had 10 first-time testers sit for NCLEX-RN ®, all ten passed, resulting in a current pass rate of 100%. We expect to reach 80% or greater this year.

In addition to intervention strategies that we identified in our Self-Study Report, we extended Adaptive Quizzing to both our junior and senior students. In addition, we implemented concept mapping in the clinical setting. As noted by Moattari et al. (2014) use of concept mapping in the clinical setting improves critical-thinking and patient evaluation, thereby enabling students to assess what they have learned and what they need to learn.

We are increasing the development of faculty. This year several of our faculty attended TAVNE and OADN, and brought by a wealth of information to share with each and our students. The collaboration of didactic and clinical faculty is contributing to our students' success.

As a collective group, we will continue to routinely assess and reevaluate our program to identify strategies to align with Rule 215. We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share what we are doing to improve our student outcomes and remain compliant.

Respectfully,

Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN

Dean of Nursing

DRAFT LETTER

January 20, 2017

Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
1210 North Abrams Road, Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 7543

Dear Ms. Gaston:

At the January 19-20, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas based upon the NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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 be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

copy: President, Dallas Nursing Institute  
Accrediting Bureau for Health Education Schools  
Texas Workforce Commission

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 19, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Representatives from the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and was 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 the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2017.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2016 Self-Study Report is to be submitted to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2017, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017

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