

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

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Richardson, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Full Approval based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- DNI received initial approval from the Board to establish an ADN Education Program at the April 2009 Board meeting, beginning operation in Summer 2009. The program is currently on Full Approval with Warning.
- Two tracks are offered in the ADN Education Program: a generic ADN track and a track for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) to earn an ADN (LVN to ADN track). In addition, DNI offers an online Registered Nurse to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program.
- DNI changed ownership in December 2013 when it partnered with TCS Education System, an entrepreneurial, nonprofit higher education system.
- DNI is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.
- DNI moved to their present location in Richardson, Texas in August 2017. This site is formerly the location of ITT Breckinridge School of Nursing in Richardson, Texas that closed in 2016.
- Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN has served as the ADN Education 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 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>
2017	Full with Warning	91.98%	31/34
2016	Full	78.95%	15/19
2015	Full	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

- 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 evaluated the effects of corrective measures in 2017 with the following findings:
  - At-risk students are identified early and receive focused tutoring, practice exams, and advising after every failed exam.
  - Communication between clinical and didactic faculty has improved. Didactic faculty attend one clinical day with students every two months.
  - Critical thinking exercises are threaded throughout the curriculum.
  - Kaplan reviews are now being offered at the end of the senior course.
- In January 2017, the Board changed the approval status of the ADN program from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning, and issued a requirement for a survey visit.
- A survey visit was conducted on September 15, 2017, by Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC that focused on the program's identified areas for improvement.
- The Board accepted the report of the survey visit at the October 2017 Board Meeting and issued the following three requirements and one recommendation:
 

Requirements:

  1. The program shall submit to Board Staff the ADN Education Program progression policies with a plan for enforcement of such policies no later than December 1, 2017.
  2. The program shall submit to Board Staff a complete list of all clinical learning objectives for each clinical course, the clinical rotation schedules including names of clinical affiliates for each clinical course, and a description of how planned clinical learning experiences will meet the identified clinical learning objectives no later than December 1, 2017.
  3. The Program Director and faculty shall review all course objectives and develop test blueprints to ensure that examinations evaluate student performance based on course objectives. The program shall submit all course objectives for each course and test blueprints and test items for two courses to Board Staff no later than December 1, 2017.

Recommendation:

  1. The Program Director shall submit to Board Staff a plan describing the optimal use of the nursing skills labs and all lab resources to better provide students learning opportunities designed to meet identified course objectives by December 1, 2017.
- The Requirements and Recommendation have been fulfilled by the December 1, 2017 deadline.

**Rationale for Recommendations:**

The program has demonstrated a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination and is currently in full compliance with Rule 215.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Science Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Full Approval based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215 (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 18, 2018

Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
2101 Waterview Parkway  
Richardson, TX 75080

Dear Ms. Gaston:

At the January 18-19, 2018 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate 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 Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Full Approval.

If you have any questions or if we may offer 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: Dr. Charlita Shelton, President, Dallas Nursing Institute

**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 Richardson, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, herein after referred to as the Board, was held on January 18, 2018, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Dallas Nursing Institute in Richardson Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas from FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018

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