

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Conditional Approval to Full Approval  
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies in Weslaco, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Weslaco, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 214.

**Historical Perspective:**

- Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies (VGI) has been in operation in Weslaco, Texas, since September 1992.
- VGI is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and approved by the Texas Workforce Commission.
- Leonardo Galvan, RN, is the Interim Program Director, has experience as a VN director and was approved by the Board in March 2018.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five 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>
2018	Conditional	92.31%	48/52
2017	Full with Warning	76.12%	51/67
2016	Full	75.36%	52/69
2015	Full	78.18%	43/55
2014	Full	84.91%	45/53

- Due to the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 78.18%, 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 licensure examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- A comprehensive, in-depth SSR was received in the Board office in August 2016.
- Major areas needing corrective actions with accompanying time frames for implementation were identified in the SSR. The corrective measures included: (1) strengthening admission, readmission and progression criteria; (2) mandating tutoring for at-risk students; (3) revising faculty orientation and mentoring; (4) developing consistency in clinical instruction; (5) providing feedback to faculty with data from faculty evaluations; (6) ensuring consistent use of policies; and (7) reviewing and revising entire curriculum and total program evaluation.

- Although the program implemented corrective measures to improve the performance of graduates on the national licensing examination, the 2017 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate was 76.12% with 51 out of 67 candidates passing the licensing examination.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The program has demonstrated a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination and is currently in full compliance with Rule 214.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

**Draft Letter**

January 28, 2019

Leonardo Galvan, RN, Interim Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies  
345 S. Texas Blvd.  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Galvan:

At the January 24-25, 2019 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, based upon the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and alignment with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval as indicated in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [Beverly.skloss@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Beverly.skloss@bon.texas.gov) or (512) 318-3219.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Mari Aviles, School Director  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
In Weslaco, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 24-25, 2019, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2018 and alignment with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas from CONDITIONAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019

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