

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Initial Approval to Full Approval  
Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon the 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- A&M-Texarkana is one of 11 higher education institutions and seven agencies governed by the Texas A&M University System
- A&M-Texarkana originated in 1971 as a campus of East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Both institutions joined the A&M System as stand-alone institutions in 1996. For 39 years, the institution offered only upper division courses for undergraduate programs and graduate degree programs and shared a campus with Texarkana College, its primary transfer institution.
- In 2005, A&M-Texarkana received approval from the Texas Legislature for downward expansion. In Fall 2010, the institution began accepting freshman and sophomore students and relocated to a new campus on a 375-acre tract of land near Bringle Lake, north of Texarkana.
- The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate and master's degrees. Discipline specific accreditations include the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Practices and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Carnegie Classification of the University is Master's Colleges and Universities Level I.
- The University is organized into three colleges: the College of Business; the College of Education and Liberal Arts; and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. Baccalaureate and master's degrees are offered in 17 majors. The top five undergraduate majors are psychology, nursing, interdisciplinary studies (teacher education), business, and applied arts and sciences. A&M-Texarkana offers online undergraduate programs in Nursing, Applied Arts and Sciences, and Mathematics, and online graduate programs in Nursing, Instructional Technology, and Business Administration.
- A&M-Texarkana launched a Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN completion program in 2002. The post-licensure program was initially accredited in 2004 by CCNE and reaccredited with no recommendations in 2009. In 2012, the Department of Nursing became a part of

the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. TAMU-Texarkana established a graduate program in nursing in 2008.

- Heather McKnight, DNP, RN, MSN, NE-BC has been the Department Chair/Director since October 2018 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 215.6 *Administration and Organization*.
- A&M-Texarkana graduated the first class of BSN students in 2019.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendations:**

- The program has had a graduating cohort with a 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 100% (7/7) and is eligible for full approval.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) ) Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon the 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter Board Order (Attachment #1).

Agenda Item: 3.2.5.  
Attachment #1  
Board Meeting: January 2020

January 23, 2020

Heather McKnight, DNP, RN, MSN, NE-BC, Director  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Texas A&M University-Texarkana  
7101 University Avenue  
Texarkana, TX 75503

Dear Dr. McKnight:

At the January 23-24 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, based review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2019 and program compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval as indicated in the attached Board Order. Congratulations on this achievement.

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Emily Cutrer, President, Texas A&M University-Texarkana  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Texas A&M University-Texarkana  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Texarkana, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 23, 2020, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215. based upon review of the preliminary 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and program compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas from INITIAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2020

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