

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2019 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement for alignment with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- WCJC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The WCJC VN Education Program has been in operation since 1952 and is only offered on the main campus located in Wharton, Texas.
- Elizabeth Rohan, RN, is the Program Director and has served in this position since 2008.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are included in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2019	Full	75.00%	21/28
2018	Full	67.86%	19/28
2017	Full	86.96%	20/23
2016	Full	94.12%	16/17
2015	Full	83.33%	20/24

- Due to the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 67.86%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2019 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- A comprehensive, in-depth SSR was received in the Board office on July 9, 2019.

- The Program Director and faculty members identified multiple factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the NCLEX-PN® pass rate falling below 80% as well as corrective measures to improve success, including the following activities:
 - include learning skills in the Foundations of Nursing course;
 - update admission policy to change from using composite and reading scores to math and reading scores on pre-entrance exam;
 - develop policy to prevent addition of graded coursework to inflate grades;
 - develop policy to utilize clinical proficiencies in clinical performance grading;
 - formulate solution for interrupted course delivery to enable a smooth transition to new instructor for courses;
 - develop policies related to student behaviors and enforcement of these;
 - deliver the courses in 16 weeks;
 - deliver online courses as web-enhanced with face-to-face class time;
 - re-write test items as multiple answers or one answer;
 - develop policy requiring test blueprints, central storage of all blueprints, and revise test blueprints and test to reflect the NCLEX-PN test plan;
 - test using Blackboard to enable item analysis capability; and
 - develop policy requiring item analysis information to be used for improving test items.
- Despite efforts to correct areas for improvement, the pass rate for 2019 was 75%.
- Ms. Rohan, Program Director, has submitted evaluation reports on the effectiveness of the corrective measures implemented and updates on those to be implemented.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(A) states: “A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive 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 Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2019 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement for alignment with Rule 214, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

July 23, 2020

Elizabeth Rohan, RN, Program Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488

Dear Ms. Rohan:

At the July 23-24, 2020 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the approval status for the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2019, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement for 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 Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may offer assistance, please contact Board Staff at Beverly.Skloss@bon.texas.gov or 512-318-3219.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Betty A. McCrohan, President, WCJC

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Wharton County Junior College
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Wharton, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on July 23, 2020, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status for the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, 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 2019, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement for alignment with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 214.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2020.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2019 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than September 1, 2020, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 23rd day of July, 2020

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