

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
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 Education (VN) Program in Wharton, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based up on the 2020 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, 2020 survey visit findings, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report (SSR), and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- WCJC is a public community college established in 1946. The VN program began offering classes in 1952.
- The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- The VN program is part of the Allied Health Division that includes Associate Degree Nursing Education (ADN), Physical Therapy Assistant, Health Information Technology, Radiology Technician, Human Services, and Emergency Medical Technician.
- Elizabeth Rohan, RN, is the Director for the VN program and was approved by the Board in 2008. Ms. Rohan served as faculty for the VN program over four years prior to her appointment as director.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	Pass Rates	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2020	Pending	68.42%	13/19
2019	Full with Warning	75.00%	21/28
2018	Full	67.89%	19/28
2017	Full	86.96%	20/23
2016	Full	94.12%	16/17

- Due to the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 67.89%, the Program Director and faculty members were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2019 to evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The program has provided several updates to Board staff regarding their corrective measures. Despite these efforts for improvement, the pass rate for 2019 was 75.00%.

- In July 2020 (no April meeting in 2020), the Board changed the approval status of the VN program from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and issued a requirement for a survey visit.
- Board staff alerted administration and the program director during the October 2020 Board ordered virtual survey visit that the program would be placed on Conditional Approval if the 2020 NCLEX-PN pass rate is below 80%.
- At the January 21, 2021 Board meeting, Board members approved the virtual survey visit report and issued a Board order with one requirement and two recommendations. Based on documents received by Board staff via email on February 26, 2021, the program is in full compliance with the requirement and recommendations.
- In preparation for the April Board meeting, Board staff confirmed to Ms. Rohan via email on March 17, 2021, that the program's approval status would change from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional and explained the implications of this change.
- On March 17, 2021, Ms. Rohan was notified that program representative(s) from WCJC VN program will be allotted time to speak at the April Board meeting about actions they are taking to improve student performance and to answer questions from Board members.
- The current cohort of 24 students is expected to graduate in August, 2021 and a cohort of 30 began the program on April 12, 2021.

Staff Rationale for Recommendation:

Rule 214.4(c)(3) states: ..."A change in approval status is based upon each program's performance and demonstrated compliance to the Board's requirements and responses to the Board's recommendations. A change from one approval status to another may be determined by program outcomes, including the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, compliance audits, survey visits and other factors ..." Further, Rule 214.4(c)(3)(B) states: "A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates... is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years."

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 22, 2021

Elizabeth Rohan, RN, Director
Wharton County Junior College
Vocational Nursing
911 Boling Hwy
Wharton, Texas 77488

Dear Ms. Rohan:

At the April 22, 2021 meeting, the 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. Members of the Board wish to thank you, ----- for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for the three previous years, findings from the 2020 Virtual Survey visit, and failure to comply with Rule 214, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING TO CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, and to issue 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 beverly.skloss@bon.texas.gov or 512-318-3219.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Betty McCrohan, BS, M.Ed., President
Carol Derkowski, RDH, MAIE, Division Chair of Allied Health

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD

ORDER OF THE BOARD

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

A virtual meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 22, 2021, to consider the approval status of 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 three previous years NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, findings during the 2020 Virtual Survey Visit, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING to CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall not enroll students while on conditional status.
2. The program will remain on conditional approval status until the Board changes the program approval status, based on the program achieving at least an 80% pass rate for first-time candidates for the 2021 NCLEX-PN® examination year. The NCLEX-PN® examination year is January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 214 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.
4. Failure to comply with Requirements 1, 2, and 3 may result in withdrawal of program approval.

Entered this 22nd day of April, 2021

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