

**Consideration for Change in Approval Status  
From Initial Approval to Full Approval  
Rio Grande Valley College in Pharr, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status for the Rio Grande Valley College (RGVC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Pharr, Texas, based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020 and compliance with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- RGVC, a privately owned educational institution, was founded in June 2008 for the purpose of becoming the premier healthcare training institute in the Rio Grande Valley.
- RGVC established a Vocational Nursing Education Program in 2009 and currently has Full Approval by the Texas Board of Nursing (Board).
- The RGVC ADN Program in Pharr was approved at the October 2018 Board meeting and enrolled the first cohort of students in January 2019.
- RGVC is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) to award associate degrees and certificates. Accreditation was originally granted in 2010.
- RGVC is approved and regulated by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Career Schools and Colleges.
- Julieta Piando, MSN, RN has three years of supervisory experience and over seven years of experience as a nurse educator. She has served as the RGVC ADN Program Director since February 2020.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The program has had a graduating cohort with a 2020 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 95.83% (23/24) and is eligible for full approval.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020 and compliance with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

**DRAFT LETTER**

January 22, 2021

Julieta Piando, MSN, RN  
ADN Program Director  
Rio Grande Valley College  
5419 North Cage Blvd.  
Pharr, TX 78577

Dear Ms. Piando:

At the January 21, 2021, meeting the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020 and 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 Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval as indicated in the attached Board Order. Congratulations upon this achievement. The program will be issued a certificate of approval following the April 2021 Board meeting.

If you have any questions or if we may be of 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: Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez, President  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Rio Grande Valley College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Pharr, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held virtually on January 21, 2021, to consider the approval status for the Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020 and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Rio Grande Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pharr, Texas, from INITIAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2021

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