

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full with Warning
Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2020 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2020 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- TSTC Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN program in Sweetwater received initial approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) in 2007 and is an online program with clinical experiences and skills/simulation laboratories having direct faculty supervision.
- TSTC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Lisa Van Cleave, EdD, MSN, RN, CCRN-E, Program Chair for the LVN-to-ADN (ADN) program, was approved by the Board in August, 2018, has a doctorate in educational leadership, and has over 15 years of nursing education experience. Dr. Van Cleave served as program faculty prior to her appointment.
- 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)
2020	Full w/Warning	73.26%	63/86
2019	Full	76.62%	59/77
2018	Full	80.82%	59/73
2017	Full	93.06%	67/72
2016	Full	76.00%	57/75

- Due to the 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 76.62%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2020 that would evaluate

factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.

- A comprehensive, in-depth SSR was received in the Board office on June 16, 2020.
- The Program Director and faculty members identified multiple factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the NCLEX-RN® pass rate falling below 80% and designed the following corrective measures:
 - Appointment of a well-qualified Program Director with a doctorate in educational leadership;
 - Communicate and solicit buy-in for a healthy work environment in online education and working from home;
 - Present data from director and faculty to administration regarding rationales to not increase enrollment until the pass rate improves;
 - Update and adhere to admission standards;
 - Meet with administration regarding the need for more faculty. Hire faculty that will commit to stay and provide candidates with information regarding the job demands;
 - Develop remediation avenues for at risk students; and
 - Hire a nursing education consultant to conduct an objective and in-depth curriculum review.
- Board staff notified the Program Director on November 10, 2020, via email regarding the program's approval status changing from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning at the January 21, 2021 Board meeting and the implications of the warning status.
- On December 3, 2020, Board staff sent a notification letter via email that included the status change and offered program representative(s) the opportunity to provide a written response or appear during open forum.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive examination years..." The program identified areas in the program that may have contributed to the pass rate and designed the corrective measures identified above.

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 Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2020 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2020 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 21, 2021

Lisa Van Cleave, EdD, RN, Program Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas State Technical College
300 Homer K Taylor Dr.
Sweetwater, TX 79556

Dear Dr. Van Cleave:

At the January 21, 2020 virtual meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the approval status for the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020, findings in the 2020 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions and 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: Lance Eastman, Provost
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Texas State Technical College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Sweetwater, 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 Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, 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, findings in the Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Representatives from Texas State Technical College, in Sweetwater, Texas were notified of the change in approval status by Board Staff via email and were sent a notification letter that offered the opportunity to provide a written response. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2021.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2020 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2021, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 21st day of January, 2021

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