

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval  
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 Education (ADN) Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based up on the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, 2021 survey visit findings, findings in the 2020 Self-Study Report (SSR), 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 Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and holds a Certificate of Authorization from The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to grant degrees.
- 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 16 years of nursing education experience. Dr. Van Cleave served as program faculty prior to her appointment.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five years are included in the table below:

<b>NCLEX Examination Year</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>Pass Rates</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>
2021	Conditional (pending)	78.00%	75/97
2020	Full with Warning	73.26%	63/86
2019	Full	76.62%	59/77
2018	Full	80.82%	59/73
2017	Full	93.06%	67/72

- Due to the 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 76.62%, the Program Director and faculty members were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2020 to evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of 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.
- The program has provided several updates to Board Staff regarding their corrective measures. Despite these efforts for improvement, the pass rate for 2020 was 73.26%.
  - In January 2021, the Board changed the approval status of the ADN 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 May 2021 Board ordered virtual survey visit that the program would be placed on Conditional Approval if the 2021 NCLEX-RN pass rate is below 80%. Additionally, this was discussed with Dr. Van Cleave on October 5, 2021.
  - At the July, 2021 Board meeting, Board members approved the virtual survey visit report and issued a Board order with two recommendations. Based on documents received by Board staff via email in August, 2021, the program has fulfilled the recommendations.
  - On January 13, 2022, Board staff, Dr. Van Cleave and TSTC Sweetwater administration discussed the program status and the potential for the program's approval status be changed to Conditional Approval in April 2022.
  - Board staff held a telephone call with Dr. Van Cleave on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, to obtain an update on the program's progress.
  - In preparation for the April 2022 Board meeting, Board staff confirmed to Dr. Van Cleave via email on March 15, 2022, that the program's approval status would change from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional and explained the implications of this change.
  - On March 15, 2022, Dr. Van Cleave was notified that program representative(s) from TSTC ADN program will be allotted time to speak at the April 2022 Board meeting about actions they are taking to improve student performance and to answer questions from Board members.
  - Currently, the total number of students enrolled in the program is 46: nine students in Level 3 expected to graduate in May 2022, 13 students in Level 2 expected to graduate in August, 2022, and 24 students in Level 1 expected to graduate in December 2022.
  - There are open positions for one full-time faculty and two part-time faculty with one faculty on leave.

**Staff Rationale for Recommendation:**

Rule 215.4(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-RN® examination pass rates, compliance audits, survey visits and other factors ..." Further, Rule 215.4(c)(3)(B) states: "A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates... is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years." Though many corrective measures have been planned, the effect of their implementation has not been realized.

**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 with Warning to Conditional Approval and issue the conditions/requirements indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2022

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

Dear Dr. Van Cleave:

At the April 21, 2022 hybrid meeting, the 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. Members of the Board wish to thank you, -----  
----- for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the three previous years, findings from the 2021 Virtual Survey visit, and failure to comply with Rule 215, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING TO CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, and to issue the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order. A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon program assessment that is directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any 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: Hector Yanez, Statewide Sr. VP of Student Learning for Academics/Allied Health  
Justin Price, Associate Provost

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Texas State Technical College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Sweetwater, Texas

A public meeting in a hybrid format of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 21, 2022 at 333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Room 100, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of 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 214, based upon the three previous years NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, findings during the 2021 Virtual Survey Visit, and areas of noncompliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, 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 2022 NCLEX-RN® examination year. The NCLEX-RN® examination year is January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
3. The program shall provide an evaluation of the effect of the corrective measures in bringing the program into compliance with Rule 215 to Board Staff no later than August 1, 2022.
4. Failure to comply with Requirements 1, 2, and 3 may result in withdrawal of program approval.

Entered this 21<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2022

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