

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
The College of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for The College of Health Care Professions (TCHCP) Associate Degree Nursing Education (ADN) Program in Houston, 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:

- TCHCP ADN Education Program, designed for Licensed Vocational Nurses to earn an Associate Degree and to be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN® examination, was approved by the Board in July 2014.
- TCHCP is privately owned, licensed as a career school with approval to offer educational programs by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and holds accreditation from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). TCHCP holds a Certificate of Authorization from The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to grant the associate degree.
- The ADN program director role has been filled by four different directors in the past seven years.
- Mr. Gary Heath, MSN, RN, served as Director from October 2020 until his retirement on March 20, 2022.
- Dorothy M. Conley, MSN, MBA, RN-CNE, was approved by the Board March 21, 2022 as the Director. Ms. Conley has over 26 years of nursing experience with five years in nursing education and has responsibility for both the ADN and Vocational Nursing Education (VN) Programs. Ms. Conley served as faculty at TCHCP ADN Education program prior to her appointment.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since the program inception are included in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	Pass Rates	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2021	Conditional (pending)	69.77%	30/43
2020	Full with Warning	57.14%	20/35
2019	Full	65.52%	19/29
2018	Full	95.00%	19/20
2017	Initial w/warning	67.74%	21/31
2016	Initial	60.00%	6/10

- The program submitted two Self-Study Reports (SSRs), one in 2017 due to the 2016 pass rate and one in 2020.

- Due to the NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2017 and non-compliance with Rule 215, the Board changed the approval status of the ADN program in January 2018 from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning, and issued a requirement for a survey visit. All Board ordered requirements, based on the survey visit, were fulfilled in a timely manner.
- In January 2018, the Board changed the approval status of the ADN program from Initial with Warning to Full Approval based on the 95.00% NCLEX-RN pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.
- Due to the 2019 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 65.52%, a second SSR was submitted in 2020. The program director and faculty members identified multiple factors that may have contributed to the NCLEX-RN® pass rate falling below 80% and designed the following corrective measures:
 - *Ensure all admitted meet the admission criteria for exam scores and GPA;
 - Require remediation and retakes on standardized specialty exams for students who score below the benchmark;
 - *Implement standardized specialty exams in designated courses;
 - Acquire adequate OB and Pedi clinical experiences;
 - Purchase OB and baby manikins to increase simulation;
 - *Faculty development on test item writing to assure exams will be based on class content;
 - Require faculty to conduct an item analysis on all exams and to develop a blueprint for each exam;
 - Assure adequate maintenance of computer testing software;
 - Limit taking exit exam to two times per student in RNSG 2130; and
 - *Decrease faculty turnover and continue to hire experienced nursing faculty.

*Note: Corrective measures were the same as the corrective measures on the 2017 SSR.
- Due to two consecutive years of below 80.00% pass rates and non-compliance with Rule 215, 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 was below 80%.
- 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 had met the recommendations.
- On November 23, 2021, Board staff notified the director via email that the program's approval status will change from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional at the April 2022 Board meeting if the NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2021 is below 80.00%.
- On February 23, 2022, Board staff received an update on the program status via email from the program director. The update includes:
 - Since the survey visit in 2021, one full-time faculty resigned, one full-time faculty is on leave; one full-time faculty retired April 1, 2022; one full-time new faculty hired; one full-time faculty new hire is pending; two part-time faculty positions open;
 - Student enrollment with expected graduation date: 18 - July 13, 2022; 13 - October 14, 2022; 13 - July 15, 2023; and 16 - October 16, 2023.
- On February 23, 2022, the program director was notified that program representative(s) from TCHCP 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.

- In preparation for the April 2022 Board meeting, Board staff confirmed to Mr. Gary Heath, MSN, RN, Director, via email on March 16, 2021, that the program's approval status would change from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional and explained the implications of this change. A reminder notification letter was included to confirm that program representative(s) will be allotted time to speak at the April 2022 Board meeting.

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."

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for The College of Health Care Professions Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2021 and compliance with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2022

Dorothy M. Conley, MSN, MBA, RN-CNE, Program Director
The College of Health Care Professions
Associate Degree Nursing Program
240 Northwest Mall Blvd.
Houston, Texas 79092

Dear Ms. Conley:

At the April 21, 2022 hybrid meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the approval status for The College of Health Care Professions Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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 College of Health Care Professions Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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: Ian Avington, Campus President
Texas Workforce Commission
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
The College of Health Care Professions
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Houston, Texas

A public meeting in 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 College of Health Care Professions Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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 The College of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of The College of Health Care Professions Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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 21nd day of April, 2022

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