

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Initial Approval to Full Approval
Arizona College in Dallas, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Proposed change in approval status for the Arizona College (AC) Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- Arizona College, a private, degree-granting institution, was established in Glendale, Arizona in 1991 for the purpose of educating healthcare professionals for careers in nursing and allied health. AC began as Arizona School of Pharmacy Technology. In 1995, Eduvision, Inc., an education service corporation with experience in allied health education, purchased the school and the name was changed to Arizona College of Allied Health. In 2012, the name was officially changed to Arizona College.
- AC established its first BSN program in 2013 on the Mesa, Arizona campus.
- There are currently 11 BSN programs in eight states. Three BSN programs are in Arizona, two in Florida, and one program in Virginia, Utah, Nevada, Michigan, California, and Texas.
- At the July 2018 Board Meeting, Arizona College in Dallas, Texas, became the third campus to offer the BSN program. The only program of study offered at this site is the BSN program.
- Arizona College has maintained continuous accreditation by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) since 1994. The most recent accreditation visit occurred in August 2015, with continued accreditation through February 2022. The United States (U.S.) Department of Education recognizes ABHES as an approved accrediting body.
- In October 2016, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited the nursing education program in Mesa, Arizona. In May 2018, CCNE also accredited the nursing education program at the Dallas campus.

- Arizona College holds a Certificate of Authorization from The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to offer bachelor's degrees.
- There have been three directors and two interim directors since AC was approved. Cassie DelCheccolo, PhD, RN, CNE, was the first Director of the BSN program, and met the qualifications of Rule 215.6 to assume administrative leadership. Dr. DelCheccolo had 27 years of professional nursing experience in nursing education and practice, mainly in the State of Massachusetts. She resigned in February 2020. The current director is Jennifer Mundine, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, who was approved in May 2021. Dr. Mundine previously served as Director at Tarleton State University.
- AC currently offers two admissions to 30 students in January and May for a total of 60 students annually.
- The BSN Program has seven full-time faculty who teach the didactic content and 10 part-time faculty for clinical instruction.
- The BSN Program is a block curriculum consisting of 705 hours didactic, 270 hours skills lab, 250 hours simulation lab, and 380 hours direct patient care.
- All Arizona College nursing programs utilize the same face-to-face nursing course curricula, program outcomes, and course outcomes. However, Texas-specific (i.e. *Differentiated Essential Competencies*) content has been added to the curriculum, and to student and faculty handbooks.
- Clinical learning experiences offers 70% clinical learning experiences in acute care settings, 10% in long-term care, and 20% in the community settings.
- During the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination year, 13 of the 14 candidates tested passed the exam yielding an NCLEX-RN® pass rate of 92.86% for the first graduating cohort.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Arizona College is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and holds a Certificate of Authorization from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The BSN Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The most recent CCNE visit was October 2021. Under the leadership of Dr. Jennifer Mundine and the nursing faculty, the first AC cohort of 2021 had a pass rate of 92.86%. Based upon the pass rate and program accreditation by CCNE, Board Staff recommend full approval.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2021 and program strengths that indicate compliance with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order.

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2022

Jennifer Mundine, EdD, MSN, RN, Dean
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Arizona College
8330 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75243

Dear Dr. Mundine:

At the hybrid April 21, 2022 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 92.86% for 2021 and program strengths indicating 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 Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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 2022 Board meeting.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at Gayle.Varnell@bon.texas.gov or via telephone at (512) 621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Nick Mansour, President/CEO Arizona College
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Arizona College
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held by hybrid format on April 21, 2022, 333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Room 100, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon review of the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as any response from representatives from the Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Arizona College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from INITIAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 21st day of April, 2022

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