

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Initial Approval to Full Approval  
Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Texas Southmost College (TSC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, from Initial Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Board Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- TSC was established in 1926 and operated as the Junior College of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- In 1991, TSC began a partnership with the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and officially consolidated in 1995 as the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. In 2010, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System voted to terminate the UTB-TSC Agreement, and in 2015 TSC officially separated from UTB and re-launched as an autonomous degree-granting public community college.
- TSC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- The ADN Program at TSC in Brownsville, Texas was approved by the Board at the January 2019 Board meeting. TSC requested to start this new program after the previous ADN program that remained from the separation from UTB lost their approval through Board action in January 2017.
- The newly established ADN program consists of two tracks: a traditional or generic program and a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN track.
- Beth Kasprisin, MSN, RN, was instrumental in developing the program and has been the appointed Program Director since the inception of the program. Ms. Kasprisin has over 13 years of experience in nursing education including various leadership roles.
- Ten generic track students graduated in May 2021, 12 graduated in December 2021 and nine LVN-to-ADN track students graduated in December 2021.
- The program has one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty with one full-time open position since May 2021. The college has been actively recruiting for the faculty opening.
- Fourteen generic track students were admitted in January 2022 with an expected graduation in December 2023.
- Future plans, pending a faculty hiring update, are to admit up to 10 LVN-to-ADN students in Summer 2022 and up to 24 generic students in Fall 2022.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

Texas Southmost College is a public community college that is accredited by SACSCOC and holds a Certificate of Authorization from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to grant degrees. They began the program with a modest enrollment plan and experienced a 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 90.00% (9/10). Based upon their performance, consistent leadership in the program, and excellent clinical experiences (100% of clinical in acute care hospitals), Board Staff recommend full approval.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, 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 (See Attachment #1).

Draft Letter

April 21, 2022

Beth Kasprisin, MSN, RN  
Director of Nursing  
Texas Southmost College  
80 Fort Brown  
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Ms. Kasprisin:

At the hybrid April 21, 2022 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate 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 Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, 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 [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. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, President  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Texas Southmost College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Brownsville, 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 Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, 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 files materials, as well as any response from representatives from the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, from INITIAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 21st day of April, 2022

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