

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning  
South Plains College in Levelland, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the South Plains College (SPC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Levelland, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2021 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and areas of noncompliance with Rule 214 identified in the 2021 Self-Study Report.

**Historical Perspective:**

- SPC is a public community college established in 1957. The VN program began offering classes in 1978.
- SPC 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 offer the vocational nursing certificate.
- SPC offers more than 100 program options that lead to associate degrees and certificates of proficiency in the arts and sciences, the technical arts, and health occupations. The VN program is part of the Health Occupations Program that includes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) education, Child Development, Emergency Medical Services, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, Surgical Technology, and Sterile Processing Technician.
- Melissia Tomblin, MSN, RN, serves as the Director for the VN and ADN programs at the SPC Levelland campus and was approved by the Board in 2019.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided 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                          | Recommend Full with Warning | 60.87%            | 14/23   |
| 2020                          | Full                        | 63.64%            | 14/22   |
| 2019                          | Full                        | 88.00%            | 12/15   |
| 2018                          | Full                        | 94.12%            | 16/17   |
| 2017                          | Full                        | 100.00%           | 14/14   |

- Due to the 2020 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 63.64%, the Program Director and faculty members were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2021 to evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.

- The SSR listed factors that may have contributed to the program not reaching the 80% benchmark on the NCLEX-PN® including the pandemic and the rapid transitioning from face-to-face to online instruction, faculty turnover, and student attrition. In addition, the program listed a plan for improvement which included the need for more mentoring, support, and professional development opportunities for faculty, such as test item-writing and the use of technology in the classroom.
- SPC also addressed the importance of continuous review of their policies with revisions as needed, as well as seeking additional clinical experiences to accommodate clinical growth of the program.
- During a conference call on February 4, 2022, the Program Director at SPC and Board Staff discussed the change in approval status. The Program Director was offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration.
- The SPC VN Program has provided a response letter to be included with the Board report (See Attachment #1).

**Staff Rationale for Recommendation:**

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive years..." In consideration of corrective measures identified in the SSR, Board Staff recommend that requirements be issued to ensure that the program provides mentoring and professional development opportunities for nursing faculty including the use of technology in the classroom, as well as continue to review and revise policies related to the curriculum to meet program objectives.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Levelland, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based on the 2021 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and factors identified in the Self-Study Report that may have affected the pass rate and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).

March 31, 2022

Lisa Donnelly, DNP, MA, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education  
Texas Board of Nursing

Dear Ms. Donnelly,

One factor that influenced our board rate was the Covid-19 Pandemic. The sudden switch from face-to-face classes to online, Zoom instruction was distressing for many of our students. Many of them had limited or no access to the internet or computers, and found that having to supervise children's schoolwork and manage their own quite difficult. Time management and organizational skills were forgotten when managing their own schoolwork and their children's.

We made every effort to assist them with laptops and internet access, but many students found this environment too overwhelming to be successful.

Additionally, because many of them identified as kinesthetic learners, the loss of having the ability for some hands-on experiences detracted from their learning. While we supported the clinical experience with virtual simulations, it still did not give them the learning experiences of actual patient care.

This sudden change was a learning experience for faculty as well. Faculty had to make a switch and learn to manage things from an online perspective. A lot of it was trial and error, trying to adjust lectures, experiences, labs to new methods. Managing a Zoom class was a learning experience, and new rules had to be put in place to create an environment conducive to learning (such as requiring the camera be on the whole class, requiring a stationary environment).

From this experience, we have adjusted our methodology somewhat and include internet and computers on our requirements list. Faculty are learning how to use the internet more effectively to enhance learning, such as the Go React program which students could use to film themselves completing skills. We are using our LMS to enhance lectures with copies of our PowerPoints and/or outlines, YouTube video links, and other online links.

New faculty members adjusting from nursing to education while switching to online class also was a concern. Every effort of mentoring, guidance and assistance was made, but too late we learned a faculty member had not adjusted well.



I appreciate your consideration of this information when discussing our NCLEX-PN pass rates and approval status. We are committed to student success and welcome your guidance.

Sincerely,

**Melissia Tomblin**

*Melissia Tomblin MSN, RN*

Director of Nursing Programs

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1920 W. 24<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072  
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DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2022

Melissia Tomblin, MSN, RN  
Program Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
South Plains College  
1401 College Avenue  
Levelland, TX 79336

Dear Ms. Tomblin:

At the April 21, 2022, hybrid meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the approval status of South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Levelland, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2021, information provided in the 2021 Self-Study Report, and lack of compliance with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Levelland, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order. A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon the 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 [lisa.donnelly@bon.texas.gov](mailto:lisa.donnelly@bon.texas.gov) or 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Robin Satterwhite, Ed.D., President South Plains College  
Jerry Findley, MA, Ed.D., Dean of Health Sciences South Plains College

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
South Plains College  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Levelland, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 21, 2022, in a hybrid format at 333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Room 100, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Levelland, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2021, information in the 2021 Self-Study Report, and lack of compliance with Rule 214.

The Program Director at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff on February 4, 2022, and was offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of South Plains College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Levelland, Texas, from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 214.4(a)(3)(A), a virtual survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2022.
2. The Program Director shall design a program for faculty mentoring and professional development opportunities, including the use of technology in the classroom and submit the plan to Board Staff no later than July 1, 2022.
3. The Program Director and faculty shall review and revise faculty policies related to the curriculum. A copy of the revised faculty policy shall be submitted to Board Staff no later than October 1, 2022.

Entered this 21<sup>st</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