

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Coastal Bend College (CBC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Beeville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2021 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2021 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- CBC established a Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in 1967 in Beeville. The college added a VN program in Alice in 1974, a VN program in Kingsville in 1975, and a VN program in Pleasanton in 2002.
- CBC was granted initial approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) in April 2008 to establish a new generic associate degree nursing (ADN) education program with a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN track in Beeville. The hybrid model program of study includes didactic content online with clinical experiences and skills/simulation laboratories under direct faculty supervision.
- CBC 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.
- Loana Hernandez, MSN, RN, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, was approved by the Board in January 2021 as director for the ADN and VN education programs. Prior to Ms. Hernandez's appointment, she served as a faculty member in the ADN program. She has 12 years of nursing education experience including leadership as the VN education program director.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five years are included in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Status	Approval	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2021	Recommend Approval Warning	Full with	62.82%	49/78
2020	Full		69.14%	56/81

2019	Full	81.48%	66/81
2018	Full	80.28%	57/71
2017	Full	84.21%	16/19

- Due to the 2020 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 69.14%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2021 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Program Director and faculty identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the NCLEX-RN® pass rate and designed corrective measures that included:
 - Develop student remediation policy;
 - Hire a retention specialist and nursing tutors;
 - Increase the rigor of admission criteria;
 - Mandate faculty development on the teaching-learning process and test item writing;
 - Recruit faculty to fill vacant positions for didactic faculty;
 - Subscribe to *Mountain Measurement* NCLEX reports to identify weaknesses in curriculum;
 - Include the use of test blueprints for curriculum planning and development of test items;
 - Align student and program learning outcomes to the DEC's and evaluate each outcome;
 - Develop preceptor training; and
 - Incorporate standardized exams and resources across the curriculum.
- After review of the SSR, Board Staff acknowledged the findings in the SSR and the plan for corrective measures.
- During 2021, Board staff conducted several telephone calls and communicated via email with the program director regarding open faculty positions and difficulty recruiting new faculty, student enrollment numbers related to lack of adequate faculty, and limited hands-on clinical experiences due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In January 2022, Board staff held a telephone call with the program director regarding the program's pass rate, change in approval status to Full with Warning, and received a status report on the 2021 SSR that included the following information:
 - Retention/Remediation Specialist was hired in August 2021 and is actively working with students on study skills and learning styles;
 - Admission criteria rigor was increased for Fall 2021 admissions;
 - Faculty development was delayed until the current semester due to the hiring of two new faculty members;
 - All examinations are now administered on campus;
 - Faculty will attend test-writing workshop in Spring 2022;
 - Faculty began program assessment/review in Spring 2022;

- Clinical Coordinator hired to procure more clinical experiences and to develop training for preceptors; and
- Faculty working to incorporate standardized exams and modules throughout the curriculum to ensure student success with NCLEX style questions.
- Board staff notified the Program Director on March 15, 2022, via email regarding the program's approval status changing from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning at the April 21, 2022 Board meeting and the implications of the warning status.
- CBC ADN Program has provided an opportunity to respond to the report but nothing was received.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A) states: "A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive years..."

Rule 215.7(c) states: "A professional nursing education program shall employ sufficient faculty members with educational preparation and expertise necessary to enable the students to meet the program goals. The number of faculty members shall be determined by such factor as: (1) The number and level of students enrolled; (2) The curriculum plan; (3) Activities and responsibilities required of faculty; (4) The number and geographic locations of affiliating agencies and clinical practice settings; and (5) The level of care and acuity of clients."

The Education Guideline for writing a Self-Study Report requires that "The effects of the corrective measures should be evaluated as a part of the Total Program Evaluation Plan."

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beeville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2021 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2021 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, and issue the conditions and requirements as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2022

Loana Hernandez, MSN, RN Program Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Coastal Bend College
3800 Charco Rd.
Beeville, TX 78102

Dear Ms. Hernandez:

At the April 21, 2022 hybrid meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the approval status for the Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beeville, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2021, findings in the 2021 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beeville, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose 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 described.

If you have any questions or if we may offer 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: Dr. Justin Hoggard, President, Coastal Bend College
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Coastal Bend College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Beeville, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held by hybrid format on January 21, 2022, at 333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Room 100, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status for the Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beeville, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2020, findings in the Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Representatives from Coastal Bend College, in Beeville, Texas were notified of the change in approval status by Board Staff via email and were sent a notification letter that offered the opportunity to provide a written response. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Coastal Bend College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beeville, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions, requirements, and recommendation:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a virtual program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2022.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2021 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2022 per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.
3. The administration and the program director shall address faculty retention and recruitment in order to comply with Rule 215.7(c) and submit evidence to the Board no later than June 1, 2022.

Entered this 21st day of April, 2022

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