

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Conditional Approval to Full Approval
Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon the preliminary 2022 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:

- TSTC Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)-to-ADN program in Sweetwater received initial approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) in 2007.
- The didactic portion of the program is online with clinical experiences and skills/simulation laboratories having direct faculty supervision.
- TSTC 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.
- Lisa Van Cleave, EdD, MSN, RN, CCRN-E, Program Chair for the LVN-to-ADN (ADN) program, was approved by the Board in August 2018.
- Dr. Van Cleave has a doctorate in educational leadership, over 17 years of nursing education experience, and served as program faculty prior to her appointment.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past six years are provided in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2022	Full (pending)	80.00%	20/25
2021	Conditional	78.00%	75/97
2020	Full with Warning	73.26%	63/86
2019	Full	76.62%	59/77
2018	Full	80.82%	59/73
2017	Full	93.06%	67/72

- Due to the 2019 NCLEX-RN® pass rate, the Program Director and faculty members were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2020 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 has provided several updates to Board Staff regarding their corrective measures. Despite efforts made for improvement, the pass rate for 2020 was 73.26%.
- The approval status of the TSTC ADN Program in Sweetwater was changed from Full to Full with Warning at the April 2021 Board meeting.
- Per Board Order, a virtual survey visit was conducted in May 2021.
- Due to the continuing noncompliance with Rule 215 that requires an NCLEX-RN® pass rate of 80.00% or above and areas that need improvement, the program was placed on Conditional Approval at the April 2022 Board Meeting.
- When programs are on Conditional Approval, they are prohibited from enrolling new students.
- TSTC has made improvements to the program of study over the past two years to advance the performance of students.

Staff Rationale for Recommendations:

The program has demonstrated a preliminary pass rate for first-time candidates of 80.00% on the 2022 NCLEX-RN® examination and is currently in full compliance with Rule 215. Though the Board usually addresses approval status changes for professional nursing education programs at the April Board when the previous year's pass rates are officially reviewed, Board Staff recommend removal of a Conditional status at an early date. This action removes the severe penalty of not being able to admit new students to the program.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the preliminary 2022 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).

December 30, 2022

Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education
Texas Board of Nursing
Phone: 512-318-3219
Email: beverly.skloss@bon.texas.gov

Dear Beverly and BON Educational consultants,

The current pass rate for TSTC ADN Nursing program Sweetwater is 80%. Moving forward, the TSTC ADN Nursing Program is implementing or has implemented the following measures to ensure program success.

1. Curriculum alignment with the TSTC sister ADN nursing program in Harlingen.
 - a. This includes:
 - i. Didactic curriculum
 - ii. Lectures, videos, review materials
 - iii. Course assignments, quizzes, and evaluation methods
 - iv. Course exams, including content, types of questions and evaluation methods. Both programs will implement ExamSoft in Spring 2023.
 - v. HESI Course evaluation assessments/exams. Each course throughout the program will utilize HESI course content exam (2 exams, one in the beginning followed by required remediation and a second exam to evaluate remediation effectiveness and student progression.
 - vi. HESI exit exams in level 3 with the use of Compass as course content and evaluation in the RNSG 2230 (Professional Licensure course). Students not completing the remediation for exam 1 will not be allowed to take exam 2).
 - vii. One on one tutoring is provided throughout the program by appointment.
 - viii. Clinical curriculum
 - ix. Clinical evaluation methods, assessments of clinical experiences, and evaluation of students' abilities to apply didactic knowledge to clinical experiences. Increase the amount of interaction between adjunct faculty, faculty and director.
 - x. Increase the number of hours/days in face to face simulation, in order to promote faculty-student engagement.
 - xi. Increase the rigor of simulation.
 - xii. Show progression in simulation toward high fidelity simulation.
 - xiii. Evaluation methods of simulation, using the Creighton tool for simulation evaluation.
 - xiv. Matriculate to the Elsevier 360 package in order to improve student engagement and competency and decrease faculty workload.

- xv. Demonstrate progression from one level of students to the next level of students throughout the program, ensuring student is safe in practice.
- xvi. Increase faculty development
- xvii. Improve workplace environment and communication
 - 1. Faculty to faculty
 - 2. Faculty to student
 - 3. Faculty to director
 - 4. Director to faculty and students
 - 5. Director to leadership

2. Policies

- a. Aligned policies and increase rigor and clarity of policies
 - i. Admission policies
 - ii. Application process
 - iii. Progression policies
 - iv. Professional behavior policies
 - v. Exam policies
 - vi. HESI scoring and progression policies
 - vii. Dismissal policies
 - viii. Course policies
 - ix. Clinical policies
 - x. Simulation policies

3. Faculty

- a. Increase faculty development
- b. Decrease faculty workload
- c. Increase the number of faculty as enrollment increases
- d. Add a simulation technician for simulation assistance

4. Administrative assistance

- a. Add a new administrative assistant for the nursing program

5. Leadership succession planning/implementation

- a. Hire a doctorate prepared director for the program

Conclusion

The TSTC ADN Nursing Program anticipates growth and quality nursing education moving forward. Overcoming COVID issues, student issues and dynamics has proved a great challenge at best. The director and faculty, with the support of leadership, continues to remain proactive and positive in moving forward.

The information outlined in the 2020 SSR, communication regarding the conditional status of the program provided great insight on how to correct the issues in the program. During the alignment period, which continues, also lends to great insight on areas in need of correction and improvement.

I, we appreciate all of the support from the TBON educators and advisement during this difficult period. We look forward to excellent pass rates, excellent graduates, and a healthy, vivacious program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Van Cleave, EdD, RN

Draft Letter

January 21, 2023

Lisa Van Cleave, EdD, MSN, RN
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas State Technical College
300 Homer K. Taylor Dr.
Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Dear Dr. Van Cleave:

At the January 19, 2023, meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, based upon review of the preliminary 2022 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, from CONDITIONAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL as indicated in the attached Board Order. Congratulations on this achievement and the opportunity to move forward.

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: Hector Yanez, Statewide Sr. VP of Student Learning for Academics
Andy Weaver, BSHS, AAS EMS, LP, Provost
Ronnie Pitts, Director of Decision Support, Health Science Division

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Texas State Technical College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Sweetwater, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 19, 2023, at 10100 Burnet Rd Building 137, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, 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 2022, findings in the 2020 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Sweetwater, Texas from CONDITIONAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 19th day of January 2023

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