

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Conditional Approval to Full Approval
Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Wharton, Texas, from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon the preliminary 2022 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, 2020 virtual survey visit findings, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report (SSR), and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- WCJC is a public community college established in 1946. The VN program began offering classes in 1952.
- The college 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.
- Kayla Drabek, BSN, RN, is the Director for the VN program and was approved by the Board in July 2021. Ms. Drabek served as faculty for the VN program for three years prior to her appointment as director.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past six years are provided below:

| NCLEX Examination Year | BON Approval Status | Pass Rates | Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 2022 | Full (pending) | 96.15% | 25/26 |
| 2021 | Conditional | 77.78% | 21/27 |
| 2020 | Conditional | 68.42% | 13/19 |
| 2019 | Full with Warning | 75.00% | 21/28 |
| 2018 | Full | 67.86% | 19/28 |
| 2017 | Full | 86.96% | 20/23 |
| 2016 | Full | 94.12% | 16/17 |

- Due to the 2018 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the Program Director and faculty members were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2019 to evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and plan corrective measures to mitigate the weaknesses.
- The program has provided several updates to Board staff regarding their corrective measures. Despite these efforts for improvement, the pass rate for 2019 was 75.00%.

- In July 2020, the Board changed the approval status of the VN program from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and issued a requirement for a survey visit that was conducted virtually in October 2020.
- At the January 2021 Board meeting, Board members approved the virtual survey visit report and issued a Board order. Based on documents received by Board staff via email in February 2021, the program was in full compliance with the Board order.
- Due to the continued NCLEX-PN® pass rate below 80% and non-compliance with Rule 214, the Board changed the approval status of the VN program in April 2021 from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval.
- In January 2022, Board staff held a conference call with program representatives to talk about the Conditional Approval status of the program and possible options for the future. Obstacles related to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the clear need for the program in the Wharton community, and the planned/implemented improvements (detail report was received from the program) were discussed.
- Consideration of the program remaining on Conditional Approval was presented at the April 2022 Board meeting with a detailed report of planned/implemented improvements. The Board approved for the program to remain on Conditional Approval.
- When programs are on Conditional Approval, they are prohibited from enrolling new students.
- WCJC VN program has made significant improvements to the program of study over the past two years to enhance the performance of students (See Attachment #1).

Staff Rationale for Recommendation:

The program has demonstrated a preliminary pass rate for first-time candidates of 96.15% on the 2022 NCLEX-PN® examination and is currently in full compliance with Rule 214. 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 Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the preliminary 2022 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 214, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).



Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

December 16, 2022

With the changes that were implemented for Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Program cohort 0822, 24 out of 25 (96%) students passed the NCLEX-PN on their first attempt. There are currently no students admitted for the 0823 cohort to validate the curriculum changes. Previous pass rates for cohort 0821 was 77.78%, cohort 0820 was 68.42%, cohort 0819 was 75%.

Summary of changes:

Faculty:

New director was approved by Wharton County Junior College and the Texas Board of Nursing July 2021.

Two new faculty hired for 0822 cohort, one of which has an advanced degree in nursing education. New faculty are engaged and willing to modify teaching styles to increase student engagement.

Faculty attended continuing education during 2022 and have more seminars scheduled for 2023. This education involves improving teaching styles and fostering student engagement. The education seminars, which have already been attended, include: Integration of NCLEX-PN questions within the curriculum, NGN (Next Generation NCLEX-PN) updates from NCSBN (National Council of State Boards of Nursing), and Data Review of Cohort 0822 ATI (Assessment Technologies Institute) Results. Further knowledge was gained of resources available through the new textbook publisher with additional resources and tools to supplement course content.

Faculty attended SUN conference (Simulation User Network) September 2022 to enhance knowledge in simulation prebriefing, simulation, and debriefing. Case studies created with guidance of the NLN (National League of Nursing), additional knowledge gained learning the simulation equipment and how to best serve and educate our students. Networked with surrounding colleges to learn and adopt teaching strategies that have shown marked success with their students and further discussed barriers that they have overcome.

Faculty attended TAVNE (Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators) November 2022 to learn engaging teaching styles and strategies and gained further knowledge of creation of case studies. Met with vendors to source resources for educating nursing students. Further networked with Texas colleges to discuss challenges and where they find success in educating their students. Because of TAVNE, various teaching styles will be implemented within the new curriculum to better engage the students for increased student success. Additionally, new ideas

were formed for staff to design simulation experiences which would foster clinical judgement and prepare students for the transition into LVN practice.

Students:

Student mentors have been assigned for not just academics, but to sit down and have open conversations about current or potential student barriers to success including available resources offered through the college counseling office. Since the implementation of student mentoring, we saw improvement in the courses that they were struggling in, a positive change in attitude, and proved successful in guiding students to graduate the program.

Implemented individualized student remediation from results of the assessments for greater probability of passing NCLEX-PN.

Encouraged student involvement with the election of a student representative. The student representative was present at faculty meetings to be the voice of their peers for questions, concerns, and suggestions. This has increased student involvement in the program evaluation.

Additionally, student surveys were conducted. As a result of the surveys, faculty plan to incorporate a wide array of teaching modalities and increase the frequency of high fidelity simulation throughout the new curriculum to enhance student success and further promote didactic knowledge while encouraging critical thinking.

Program:

New insight was gained while working with our internal education consultant as to the weaknesses within the LVN program. The use of ATI (Assessment Technologies Institute) as a supplemental assessment resource was identified as a tool to further the success of our students in both didactic understanding and successful first time pass rates for the NCLEX-PN. This tool was previously utilized but not to its full extent. The upgrade to the complete package includes an end of program measuring tool to assess students' strengths and weaknesses, NCLEX-PN preparation, and remediates students on knowledge areas that show lack of comprehension. This was implemented for the 0822 cohort. It proved to be a great success and will be a continued resource for future cohorts. Previous data, which was gathered by the student's exit predictor, shows that 0821 cohort had an average probability pass rate of 78%, while cohort 0822 had an average probability pass rate of 88%. This data aligns closely with the first time pass rates of the students NCLEX-PN scores for their respected years.

Continuing use of SEP (Systematic Evaluation Plan) to improve program goals and better student success. This includes: editing the program philosophy, mission, and goals to align with the college and the standards of nursing practice. Student and faculty handbooks were edited and the creation of surveys for faculty and students to assess program satisfaction were implemented. Faculty aligned curriculum to incorporate the professional standards, guidelines, and competencies with the LVN licensure in accordance with DEC's (Differentiated Essential Competencies) and NPA (Nurse Practice Act). Revision of syllabi to ensure consistency and clarity to comply with college policy and to ensure student comprehension.

Utilized both low and high fidelity simulation in Summer 2022 semester to align with didactic courses and supplement the clinical experience to evaluate critical judgment within a controlled clinical setting. Thus assuring good correlation between didactic and clinical education. Students expressed positive acceptance of this initiative.

Increased collaboration with ADN faculty and the EMS departments, working in partnership to enhance simulation lab experiences, case studies, integrated clinical skills experience. Upon completion of these simulation experiences, our students reported greater understanding of the competencies and they reported greater understanding of teamwork and collaboration throughout the clinical setting. Grading rubrics indicated a positive progression in skill competencies.

Increased communication with clinical facilities to maximize the clinical experience for our students. Additional patient care units were identified as areas for students to engage in clinical learning experiences, such as increased presence within women's services, and skilled nursing units. This will be implemented with the acceptance of the next cohort.



Kayla Drabek, BSN, RN
Wharton County Junior College
Director of Vocational Nursing
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DRAFT LETTER

January 23, 2023

Kayla Drabek, BSN, RN, Director
Wharton County Junior College
Vocational Nursing
911 Boling Hwy
Wharton, Texas 77488

Dear Ms. Drabek:

At the January 19, 2023, meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas, based upon review of the preliminary 2022 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate and 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 Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, 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: Betty McCrohan, BS, M.Ed., President
Carol Derkowski, RDH, MAIE, Division Chair of Allied Health

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Wharton County Junior College
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Wharton, 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 Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, 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 2022, findings in the 2019 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from the Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, Texas and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Wharton, 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