

Understanding the Approval Status of a Nursing Education Program

For information on approval statuses for Vocational Nursing Education — [§§ 214 .4. Approval](#)

For information on approval statuses for Professional Nurse Education — [§§ 215 .4. Approval](#)

- A new nursing education program is placed on initial approval when they are approved by the Board. The program will usually be moved to full approval following graduation of the first cohort of students, evidence of compliance with education rules, and an NCLEX® examination pass rate of 80% or higher.
- A program on initial status may be moved to initial with warning if the first two years of NCLEX examination pass rates are below 80%.
- A program will remain on full approval based upon compliance with the education rules, NCLEX examination pass rate above 80%, and other pertinent information (such as accreditation status, complaints about the program, etc.).
- The approval status will be moved from full to full with warning if the program is not in compliance with Board rules or if the program experiences a lower than 80% NCLEX examination pass rate for two consecutive years.
- The approval status may be moved to conditional if the program has serious compliance issues or if the program experiences a third year with a lower than 80% NCLEX pass rate.
- All changes in approval status are made by a decision of the Board.
- The examination year for professional programs is October 1 through September 30.
- The examination year for vocational programs is January 1 through December 31.