

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO §§215.2 DEFINITIONS, 215.3 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION AND CLOSURE, 215.4 APPROVAL, 215.6 ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION, AND §215.12 RECORDS AND REPORTS RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the proposed amendments to §§215.2 Definitions, 215.3 Program Development, Expansion and Closure, 215.4 Approval, 215.6 Administration and Organization, and 215.12 Records, and Reports relating to Professional Nursing Education.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The Sunset Advisory Commission Report to the 80th Legislature, May 2007, Recommendations, Change in Statute and Management Action, and House Bill (HB) 2426, Sections 301.157(a-d) amendments have resulted in proposed amendments to Ch. 215 as follows:

- §215.2 Definitions - clarifying previous terminology and adding new terminology throughout the rule;
- §215.3 Program Development, Expansion and Closure - clarifying requirements relating to accreditation of the governing institution of a school of nursing, limiting the role of the Board to approving nursing educational programs leading to initial licensure, the authority of the Board to approve nursing education programs approved by other state boards of nursing; streamlining the Board's initial approval process for nursing education programs, and degree requirements for diploma nursing programs by 2015;
- §215.4 Approval - clarifying requirements relating to the selection of national nursing accrediting agencies by the Board; accreditation of the governing institution of a school of nursing; limiting the role of the Board to approving nursing educational programs leading to initial licensure, degree requirements for diploma nursing programs by 2015, and increasing the Board's approval of nursing education programs for longer than one year;
- §215.6 Administration and Organization - clarifying requirements relating to accreditation of the governing institution of a school of nursing and limiting the role of the Board to approving nursing educational programs leading to initial licensure; and
- §215.12 Records and Reports - ensuring consistency in the requirements for the proposed amendments in §215.4.

Additional non-substantive changes were made throughout §§215.2, 215.3, 215.4, 215.6, and 215.12 for the purposes of clarifying the intent of the rule and correcting spelling/grammatical errors.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros -

- The proposed amendments to Ch. 215 reflect statutory changes and operationalize the statute.
- The non-substantive changes to Ch. 215 for the purposes of clarifying the intent of the rule and correcting spelling/grammatical errors should assist in the understanding of the rule.

Cons -

None noted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve the proposed amendments to §§215.2 Definitions, 215.3 Program Development, Expansion and Closure, 215.4 Approval, 215.6 Administration and Organization, 215.12 Records, and Reports relating to Professional Nursing Education (See Attachment) and authorize staff to publish in the *Texas Register* for a 30-day comment period. If negative comments are not received, then adopt the amendments to §§215.2, 215.3, 215.4, 215.6, and 215.12 as proposed.

§215.2 Definitions.

Words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) Accredited nursing educational program--a professional nursing educational program having voluntary accreditation by a Board-approved nursing accrediting body (i.e. NLNAC, CCNE).
- (2) Affiliating Agency or Clinical Facility--a health care facility or agency which provides learning experiences for students.
- (3) Alternative practice settings--settings which provide opportunities for clinical learning experiences although their primary function is not the delivery of health care.
- (4) ~~Annual Report--a document required by the Board to be submitted at a specified time by the nursing education program dean or director that serves as verification of the program's adherence to chapter 215, Professional Nursing Education.~~
- (5) Approved professional nursing educational program--a professional nursing educational program approved by the ~~Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas~~ Texas Board of Nursing.
- (6) ~~(5)~~ Articulation--a planned process between two or more educational systems to assist students to make a smooth transition from one level of education to another without duplication in learning.
- (7) ~~(6)~~ Board--the ~~Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas~~ Texas Board of Nursing composed of members appointed by the Governor for the State of Texas.
- (8) ~~(7)~~ Clinical learning experiences--faculty-planned and guided learning activities designed to assist students to meet stated program and course outcomes and to safely apply knowledge and skills when providing nursing care to clients across the life span as appropriate to the role expectations of the graduates. These experiences occur in nursing skills and computer laboratories; in simulated clinical settings; in a variety of affiliating agencies or clinical practice settings including, but not limited to: acute care facilities, extended care facilities, clients' residences, and community agencies; and in associated clinical conferences.
- (9) ~~(8)~~ Clinical preceptor--a registered nurse or other licensed health professional who meets the minimum requirements in §215.10(f)(5) of this chapter (relating to Management of Clinical Learning Experiences and Resources), not paid as a faculty member by the governing institution, and who directly supervises a student's clinical learning experience. A clinical preceptor facilitates student learning in a manner prescribed by a signed written agreement between the educational institution, preceptor, and affiliating agency (as applicable).
- (10) ~~(9)~~ Clinical teaching assistant--a registered nurse licensed in Texas, who is employed to assist in the clinical area and work under the supervision of a Master's or Doctorally prepared nursing faculty member and who meets the minimum requirements in §215.10(g)(4) of this chapter.
- (10) Compliance Audit--a document required by the Board to be submitted at a specified time by the nursing educational program dean or director that serves as verification of the program's adherence to chapter 215, Professional Nursing Education.

(11) Conceptual Framework--theories or concepts giving structure to the curriculum and enabling faculty to make consistent decisions about all aspects of curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation.

(12) Course--organized subject content and related activities, which may include didactic, laboratory and/or clinical experiences, planned to achieve specific objectives within a given time period.

(13) Curriculum--course offerings, which in aggregate, make up the total learning activities in a program of study.

(14) Dean or Director--a registered nurse who is accountable for administering ~~one or more of the following: a pre-licensure nursing educational program or a post-licensure baccalaureate or higher degree program for registered nurses, who~~, meets the requirements as stated in §215.6(f) of this chapter (relating to Administration and Organization), and ~~who~~ is approved by the Board.

(15) Differentiated Entry Level Competencies--the expected educational outcomes to be demonstrated by nursing students at the time of graduation as published in *Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate Degree (Dip/ADN), Baccalaureate (BSN), September 2002*.

(16) Examination year--the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 used for the purposes of determining programs' NCLEX-RN examination pass rates.

(17) Extension Program--instruction provided by an approved professional pre-licensure nursing educational program providing a variety of instructional methods to any location(s) other than the program's main campus and where students are required to attend activities such as testing, group conferences, and/or campus laboratory. An extension program may offer the entire identical curriculum or may offer a single course or multiple courses.

(A) Complete program--provides the entire program of study at a site other than the program's main campus.

(B) Partial program--provides a course, or courses, from the program of study at a site other than the program's main campus.

(18) Faculty member--an individual employed to teach in the professional nursing education program who meets the requirements as stated in §215.7 of this chapter (relating to Faculty Qualifications and Faculty Organization).

(19) Faculty waiver--a waiver granted by a dean or director of a professional nursing educational program and submitted to the Board on a notarized notification form, or by the Board, as specified in §215.7(c)(E)(iii), to an individual who has a baccalaureate degree in nursing and is currently licensed in Texas, or has a privilege to practice, to be employed as a faculty member for a specified period of time.

(20) Governing institution-- ~~an accredited college, university, or hospital responsible for the administration and operation of a Board-approved nursing program~~ the entity with administrative and operational authority over a Board-approved professional nursing educational program.

(21) Health care professional--an individual other than a RN who holds at least a bachelor's degree in the health care field, including, but not limited to: respiratory therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, pharmacists, physicians, social workers and psychologists.

(22) Mobility--the ability to advance without educational barriers.

(23) Non-Nursing Faculty--instructors who teach non-nursing theory courses such as pharmacology, pathophysiology, research, management and statistics, and who have educational preparation appropriate to the assigned teaching responsibilities.

(24) Objectives/Outcomes--clear statements of expected behaviors that are attainable and measurable.

(A) Program Objectives/Outcomes--broad statements used to direct the overall student learning toward the achievement of expected program outcomes.

(B) Clinical Objectives/Outcomes--statements describing expected student behaviors throughout the curriculum and which represent progression of students' cognitive, affective and psychomotor achievement in clinical practice across the curriculum.

(C) Course Objectives/Outcomes--statements describing expected behavioral changes in the learner upon successful completion of specific curriculum content and which serve as the mechanism for evaluation of student progression.

(25) Observational experience--an assignment to a facility or unit where students observe activities within the facility and/or the role of nursing within the facility, but where students do not participate in patient/client care.

(26) Pass rate--the percentage of first-time candidates within one examination year who pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®).

(27) Philosophy/Mission--statement of concepts expressing fundamental values and beliefs regarding human nature as they apply to nursing education and practice and upon which the curriculum is based.

(28) Professional Nursing Educational Programs--~~(A) Pre-licensure nursing education program~~--an educational entity that offers the courses and learning experiences that prepares graduates who are competent to practice safely and who are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination and often referred to as a pre-licensure nursing program. Types of pre-licensure nursing programs:

(i) (A) Associate degree nursing educational program--a program leading to an associate degree in nursing conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a college or university.

(ii) (B) Baccalaureate degree nursing educational program--a program leading to a bachelor's degree in nursing conducted by an educational unit in nursing which is a part of a senior college or university.

(iii) (C) Master's degree nursing educational program--a program leading to a master's degree, which is an individual's first professional degree in nursing, and conducted by an educational unit in nursing within the structure of a senior college or university.

(iv) (D) Diploma nursing educational program--a program leading to a diploma in nursing conducted by a single purpose school usually under the control of a hospital.

(v) (E) MEEP--a Multiple Entry-Exit Program which allows students to challenge the NCLEX-PN® examination when they have completed sufficient course work in a professional nursing educational program that will meet all requirements for the examination.

~~(B) Post-Licensure nursing education program~~--an educational unit the purpose of which is to provide mobility options for registered nurses to attain undergraduate academic degrees in nursing. ~~Post-licensure programs may be components of educational units within pre-licensure nursing education programs or independent baccalaureate degree programs for registered nurses as defined in this section.~~

(29) Program of study--the courses and learning experiences that constitute the requirements for completion of a professional pre-licensure nursing educational program (associate degree nursing educational program, baccalaureate degree nursing educational program, master's degree nursing educational program, or diploma nursing educational program) ~~or a post-licensure nursing education program.~~

(30) Recommendation--a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

(31) Requirement--mandatory criterion based upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

(32) Shall--denotes mandatory requirements.

(33) Staff--employees of the ~~Board of Nurse Examiners~~ Texas Board of Nursing.

(34) Supervision--immediate availability of a faculty member, clinical preceptor, or clinical teaching assistant to coordinate, direct, and observe first hand the practice of students.

(35) Survey Visit--an on-site visit to a professional nursing educational program by a Board representative. The purpose of the visit is to evaluate the program of learning by gathering data to determine whether the program is meeting the Board's requirements as specified in §§215.2 - 215.13 of this chapter.

(36) Systematic Approach--the organized process in nursing which provides individualized, goal-directed nursing care by performing comprehensive nursing assessments regarding the health status of the client, making nursing diagnoses that serve as the basis for the strategy of care, developing a plan of care based on the assessment and nursing diagnosis, implementing nursing care, and evaluating the client's responses to nursing interventions.

(37) Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) - a state agency created by the Legislature to provide coordination for the Texas higher education system, institutions, and governing boards, through the efficient and effective utilization and concentration of all available resources and the elimination of costly duplication in program offerings, faculties, and physical plants (Tex. Educ. Code, Title 3, Subtitle B, ch. 61).

(38) Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) - the state agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers of Texas (Tex. Labor Code, Title 4, Subtitle B, ch. 301).

§215.3 Program Development, Expansion and Closure

(a) New Programs.

(1) Proposal to establish a new professional pre-licensure ~~or post-licensure~~ nursing educational program.

~~(A) A governing institution accredited by a Board-recognized accrediting body is eligible to submit a~~ The proposal to develop establish a professional nursing educational program may be submitted by:

(i) a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB or holding a certificate of authority from the THECB under provisions leading to accrediting of the institution in due course; or

(ii) a single-purpose school, such as a hospital, proposing a new diploma program.

~~(B)~~ The new professional nursing educational program must be approved/licensed by the appropriate Texas agency, i.e., THECB, TWC, before approval can be granted by the Texas Board of Nursing for the program to be implemented.

~~(i)~~ The approval process conducted by THECB or TWC must precede the approval process conducted by the Board.

~~(ii)~~ The proposal to establish a new professional nursing educational program may be submitted to the Board at the same time that an application is submitted to THECB or TWC, but the proposal cannot be approved by the Board until such time as the proposed program is approved by THECB or TWC.

~~(B)~~ ~~(C)~~ The process to establish a new professional nursing educational program shall be initiated with the Board office one year prior to the anticipated start of the program.

~~(B)~~ ~~(D)~~ The proposal shall be completed under the direction/consultation of a registered nurse who meets the approved qualifications for a program director according to §215.6.

~~(E)~~ ~~(E)~~ Sufficient nursing faculty with appropriate expertise shall be in place for development of the curriculum component of the program.

~~(D)~~ ~~(F)~~ The proposal shall include information outlined in applicable Board guidelines.

~~(G)~~ A proposal for a new diploma nursing educational program must include a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and, at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing.

~~(E)~~ ~~(H)~~ After the proposal is submitted and reviewed, a preliminary survey visit shall be conducted by Board staff prior to presentation to the Board.

~~(F)~~ ~~(I)~~ The proposal shall be considered by the Board following a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Board may approve the proposal and grant initial approval to the new program, may defer action on the proposal, or may deny further consideration of the proposal.

(G) (J) The program shall not admit students until the Board approves the proposal and grants initial approval.

(H) (K) Prior to presentation of the proposal to the Board, evidence of approval from the appropriate regulatory/funding agencies shall be provided.

(I) (L) After the proposal is approved, an initial approval fee shall be assessed per §223.1 (related to Fees).

(J) (M) A proposal without action for one calendar year shall be inactivated.

(N) If the Board denies further consideration of a proposal, the educational unit in nursing within the structure of a school, including a college, university, or proprietary school (career school or college), or a hospital must wait a minimum of twelve calendar months from the date of the denial before submitting a new proposal to establish a professional pre-licensure nursing educational program.

(2) Survey visits shall be conducted, as necessary, by staff until full approval status is granted.

(b) Extension Program.

(1) Only nursing programs that have full approval are eligible to initiate or modify extension programs.

(2) Instruction provided for the extension program may include a variety of instructional methods, shall be congruent with the program's curriculum plan, and shall enable students to meet the goals, objectives, and competencies of the educational program and requirements of the Board as stated in §§215.2 - 215.13 of this chapter.

(3) A program intending to establish an extension program shall:

(A) Notify the Board office at least four (4) months prior to implementation of extension programs by any approved program;

(B) Submit required information according to Board-approved guidelines;

(C) Provide documentation of notification to the Regional Council of the governing institution about plans for establishment of extension programs to the Board office at least four (4) months prior to implementation, as appropriate; and

(D) Provide evidence of approval from the ~~Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board~~ THECB, TWC and/or other regulating/accrediting bodies, as applicable, to the Board four (4) months prior to implementation, as appropriate.

(4) Extension programs of professional pre-licensure nursing educational programs which have been closed may be reactivated by submitting notification of reactivation to the Board at least four (4) months prior to reactivation, using the Board guidelines for initiating an extension program.

- (5) A program intending to close an extension program shall:
- (A) Notify the Board at least four (4) months prior to closure of the extension program; and
 - (B) Submit required information according to Board-approved guidelines including:
 - (i) reason for closing the program;
 - (ii) date of intended closure;
 - (iii) academic provisions for students; and
 - (iv) provisions made for access to and storage of vital school records.
 - (c) Transfer of Administrative Control by Governing Institutions. The authorities of the governing institution shall notify the Board office in writing of an intent to transfer the administrative authority of the program. This notification shall follow Board guidelines.
 - (d) Closing a Program.
 - (1) When the decision to close a program which provides the entire program of study has been made, the director must notify the Board and submit a written plan for closure which includes the following:
 - (A) reason for closing the program;
 - (B) date of intended closure;
 - (C) academic provisions for students;
 - (D) provisions made for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates; and
 - (E) methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes.
 - (2) The program shall continue within standards until all classes, which are enrolled at the time of the decision to close, have graduated. In the event this is not possible, a plan shall be developed whereby students may transfer to other approved programs.
 - (e) Approval of a Nursing Educational Program Outside Texas' Jurisdiction to Conduct Clinical Learning Experiences in Texas.
 - (A) The nursing educational program outside Texas' jurisdiction seeking approval to conduct clinical learning experiences in Texas should initiate the process with the Texas Board of Nursing two to three months prior to the anticipated start of the clinical learning experiences in Texas.
 - (B) A written request and the required supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Board office following Board guidelines.
 - (C) Evidence that the program has been approved/licensed by the appropriate Texas agency, i.e., THECB, to conduct business in the State of Texas must be obtained before approval can be granted by the Texas Board of Nursing for the program to conduct clinical learning experiences in Texas.

§215.4 Approval.

(a) The progressive designation of approval status is not implied by the order of the following listing. Approval status is based upon each program's performance and demonstrated compliance to the Board's requirements and responses to the Board's recommendations. Change from one status to another is based on NCLEX-RN examination pass rates, ~~annual reports~~ compliance audits, survey visits, and other factors listed under 215.4(b). Types of approval include:

(1) Initial ~~a~~Approval.

(A) Initial approval is written authorization by the Board for a new program to admit students and is granted if the program meets the requirements and addresses the recommendations ~~of~~ issued by the Board.

(B) Change from initial approval status to full approval status cannot occur until the program has met requirements and responded to all recommendations issued by the Board and the licensing examination result of the first graduating class is evaluated by the Board.

(2) Full Approval.

(A) ~~Pre-licensure nursing education program~~. Full approval is granted by the Board to a professional pre-licensure nursing educational program that is in compliance with all Board requirements and has responded to all Board recommendations. ~~Only programs with full approval status may propose extension programs and petition for faculty waivers.~~

(B) ~~Post-licensure nursing education programs~~. Full approval is granted by the Board to a post-licensure nursing education program after one class has completed the program and the program meets the Board's legal and educational requirements. Only programs with full approval status may initiate extension programs, grant faculty waivers and petition for faculty waivers.

(3) Full approval with warning is issued by the Board to a professional nursing educational program that is not meeting legal and educational requirements. ~~The program is issued a warning, provided a list of the deficiencies, and given a specified time in which to correct the deficiencies.~~

(A) A program issued a warning will receive written notification from the Board of the warning.

(B) The program is given a list of the deficiencies and a specified time in which to correct the deficiencies.

(4) Conditional ~~a~~Approval. Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the program the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

(A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional status.

(B) The Board may establish specific criteria to be met in order for the program's conditional approval status to be removed.

(C) Depending upon the degree to which the Board's legal and educational requirements are met, the Board may change the approval status to full approval or full approval with warning, or may withdraw approval.

(5) ~~Withdrawal of a~~Approval. The Board may withdraw approval from a program which fails to meet legal and educational requirements within the specified time. The program shall be removed from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs.

(6) A diploma program of study in Texas that leads to an initial license as a registered nurse under this chapter must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB. At a minimum, a graduate of a diploma program will be entitled to receive an associate degree in nursing.

(b) Factors Jeopardizing Program Approval Status--Approval may be changed or withdrawn for any of the following reasons:

(1) deficiencies in compliance with the rule;

(2) utilization of students to meet staffing needs in health care facilities;

(3) noncompliance with school's stated philosophy/mission, program design, objectives/outcomes, and/or policies;

(4) continual failure to submit records and reports to the Board office within designated time frames;

(5) failure to provide sufficient variety and number of clinical learning opportunities for students to achieve stated objectives/outcomes;

(6) failure to comply with Board requirements or to respond to Board recommendations within the specified time;

(7) student enrollments without sufficient faculty, facilities and/or patient census;

(8) failure to maintain a 80% passing rate on the licensing examination by first-time candidates;

(9) failure of the program dean or director to document annually the currency of faculty licenses; or

(10) other activities or situations that demonstrate to the Board that a program is not meeting legal requirements and standards.

(c) Ongoing Approval pProcedures. Approval status is determined ~~annually~~ biennially by the Board on the basis of the program's ~~annual report~~ compliance audit, NCLEX-RN examination pass rate, and other pertinent data.

(1) ~~Review of annual report~~ Compliance Audit. Each approved professional nursing educational program shall submit ~~an annual report~~ a biennial audit regarding its compliance with the Board's legal and educational requirements.

(2) ~~Pass rate of graduates on NCLEX-RN® examination.~~Pass Rates.

(A) Eighty percent (80%) of first-time candidates who complete the program of study are required to achieve a passing score on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

(B) When the passing score of first-time candidates who complete the professional nursing educational program of study is less than 80% on the NCLEX-RN® examination during the examination year, the nursing program shall submit a self-study report that evaluates factors which contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented. The report shall follow Board guidelines.

(C) A warning shall be issued to the program when the pass rate of first-time candidates, as described in subsection (c)(2)(A) of this section, is less than 80% for two consecutive examination years.

(D) A program shall be placed on conditional approval status if, within one examination year from the date of the warning, the performance of first-time candidates on the NCLEX-RN® examination fails to be at least 80%, or the faculty fails to implement appropriate corrective measures.

(E) Approval may be withdrawn if the performance of first-time candidates fails to be at least 80% during the examination year following the date that the program is placed on conditional approval.

(F) A program placed on warning or conditional approval status may request a review of the program's approval status by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting if the program's pass rate for first-time candidates during one examination year is at least 80%.

~~(4)~~ (3) Survey ~~and~~ Visit. Each professional nursing educational program shall be visited at least every six years after full approval has been granted, unless accredited by a Board-recognized ~~voluntary national nursing accrediting body agency~~.

~~(4)~~ (A) The Board may authorize staff to conduct a survey visit at any time based upon established criteria.

~~(2)~~ (B) After a program is fully approved by the Board, a report from a Board-recognized ~~voluntary national nursing accrediting body agency~~ regarding a program's accreditation status may be accepted in lieu of a Board survey visit.

~~(3)~~ (C) A written report of the survey visit, ~~annual report compliance audit~~, and NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate shall be reviewed by the Board biennially at a regularly scheduled meeting.

(4) The Texas Board of Nursing will select one or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education and determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards.

(A) The Texas Board of Nursing will periodically review the standards of the national nursing accrediting agencies following revisions of accreditation standards or revisions in Board requirements for validation of continuing equivalency.

(B) The Texas Board of Nursing will deny or withdraw approval from a school of nursing or educational program that fails to:

(i) meet the prescribed course of study or other standard under which it sought approval by the Board.

(ii) meet or maintain accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board under which it was approved or sought approval by the Board.

(iii) maintain the approval of the state board of nursing of another state that the Board has determined has standards that are substantially equivalent to the Board's standards under which it was approved.

(C) A school of nursing or educational program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval if the program:

(i) is accredited and maintains accreditation through approved national nursing accrediting agency that have been determined by the Board to have equal standards; and

(ii) maintains an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on the applicable licensing exam;

(D) A school of nursing or educational program that fails to meet or maintain an acceptable pass rate, as determined by the Board, on applicable licensing examinations is subject to review by the Board.

(E) A school of nursing or educational program that does not maintain accreditation is subject to review by the Board.

(F) The Board may assist the school or program in its effort to achieve compliance with the Board's standards.

(G) A school or program from which approval has been withdrawn may reapply for approval.

(H) A school of nursing or educational program accredited by an agency recognized by the Board shall:

(i) provide the board with copies of any reports submitted to or received from the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board within three (3) months of receipt of official reports;

(ii) notify the Board of any change in accreditation status within two (2) weeks following receipt of official notification letter; and

(iii) provide other information required by the Board as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state.

(d) Notice of a program's approval status shall be sent to the director, chief administrative officer of the governing institution, and others as determined by the Board.

§215.6 Administration and Organization.

(a) The governing institution of a professional nursing school/educational program, not including a diploma program, shall must be accredited by a Board-recognized-an agency recognized by the THECB or hold a certificate of authority from the THECB under provisions leading to accreditation of the institution in due course.

(b) There shall be an organizational chart which demonstrates the relationship of the professional pre-licensure nursing educational program to the governing institution, and indicates lines of responsibility and authority.

(c) In colleges and universities, the program shall have comparable status with other academic units in such areas as rank, promotion, tenure, leave, benefits and professional development.

(d) Salaries shall be adequate to recruit, employ, and retain sufficient qualified faculty members with graduate preparation and expertise necessary for students to meet program goals.

(e) The governing institution shall provide financial support and resources needed to operate a program which meets the legal and educational requirements of the Board and fosters achievement of program goals. The financial resources shall support adequate educational facilities, equipment and qualified administrative and instructional personnel.

(f) Each professional nursing educational program shall be administered by a qualified individual who is accountable for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the professional nursing educational program. The dean or director shall:

(1) hold a current license or privilege to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas;

(2) hold a master's degree or a doctorate degree in nursing;

(3) hold a doctoral degree, if administering a baccalaureate or master's degree program;

(4) have a minimum of three years teaching experience in a professional nursing educational program;

(5) have demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities in administration within a professional nursing educational program; and

(6) not carry a teaching load of more than three clock hours per week if required to teach.

(g) When the dean or director of the program changes, the dean or director shall submit to the Board office written notification of the change indicating the final date of employment.

(1) A new dean or director qualification form shall be submitted to the office by the governing institution for approval prior to the appointment of a new dean or director in an existing program or a new nursing program.

(2) A vitae and all official transcripts shall be submitted with the new dean or director qualification form.

(3) If an interim dean or director is appointed to fill the position, this appointment shall not exceed one year.

(4) In a fully approved professional nursing educationalal program, if the individual to be appointed as dean or director does not meet the requirements for dean or director as specified in subsection (f) of this section, the administration is permitted to petition for a waiver of the Board's requirements, according to Board guidelines, prior to the appointment of said individual.

(h) A newly appointed dean, director, interim dean, or interim director of a professional nursing educationalal program shall attend the next scheduled orientation provided by the Board.

§215.12. Records and Reports.

(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties. These records shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) records of current students;

(2) transcripts/permanent record cards of graduates;

(3) faculty records;

(4) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years; ~~annual reports~~ and school catalogs;

(5) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;

(6) agreements with affiliating agencies; and

(7) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.

(b) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.

(c) Copies of the program's ~~Annual Reports~~ Texas Board of Nursing Compliance Audit of the Nursing Education Program (CANEP), Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate.