

**Consideration for Change of Approval Status from Full with Warning to Conditional
 Kaplan College in San Antonio, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status of Kaplan College Vocational Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, based upon review of the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, the 2010 NEPIS, and Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- Kaplan College (San Antonio) Vocational Nursing Program has been in operation since 1996.
- The program was moved from Full approval to Full with Warning at the July 2010 meeting.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years follow:

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed / Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Change in Approval Status
2010	76.02%	187/246	(pending)	
2009	69.41%	177/255	Full with Warning	July 2010
2008	68.47%	139/203	Full	
2007	85.23%	127/149	Full	
2006	78.69%	48/61	Full	

- The program was required to complete a Self-Study report because the 2008 NCLEX-PN® pass rate fell below the required 80%. The Self-Study, dated August 19, 2009, presented a list of six (6) factors thought to contribute to a low pass rate in 2008.
- Also included was an action plan with 34 specific actions and corresponding timelines to address each of those factors. The action plan included some items for which implementation started prior to the submission of the report (e.g., April and June 2009), and extended with action plans through Autumn 2009 and evaluation plans extending into February 2010.
- Enrollments increased significantly after 2006. In 2006, 61 graduates tested; that more than doubled to 149 graduates testing in 2007 and more than quadrupled to 255 graduates testing in 2009 and 246 testing in 2010.
- The former Corpus Christi program Director (Tomak) transferred to the San Antonio campus as Director on September 14, 2009, and subsequently left the Kaplan system in July 2010.
- Dean Burke served as Interim Director starting in August 2010.
- The current Director (Baker) was approved in December 2010.
- The current faculty roster includes 37 faculty members plus the Director. Since the September 1, 2010 visit, twelve (12) new faculty members have been hired, one of whom has subsequently resigned. An additional five (5) faculty have resigned, transferred to another department, or have been terminated from the faculty since the time of the September visit. Thus, the faculty has experienced a net growth of six (6) members since September 2010.

Current Enrollment:

Anticipated Completion Date	Enrollment
4/22/11	28
4/29/11	39
6/18/11	36
7/22/11	48
8/19/11	43
10/21/11	31
Total	273

Projected Enrollment:

Projected Enrollment Date	Projected number to enroll
April 25, 2011	50
July 2011	50
November 2011	50
Total	150

PROs and CONs:

Pros:

- The 2009 Self-Study report analyzed all aspects of the program and identified a list of six (6) factors thought to contribute to a low pass rate.

Cons:

- Corrective actions identified by the program have not had a positive impact on the NCLEX-PN® pass rate.
- Administrative turnover may be an additional factor contributing to decreased pass rates.
- Faculty turnover and prior lack of a strong orientation program may also be contributing factors. (A faculty orientation program was developed in response to Requirement #2 issued by the Board at the October 2010 meeting.)
- Increased enrollment numbers from 2006 through 2010 cannot be overlooked as another possible contributing factor.

Background for Recommendation:

Rule 214.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) 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.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status of Kaplan College in San Antonio, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full with Warning to Conditional approval, specify the time for conditional approval status be set until the program demonstrates an annual pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the NCLEX-PN® examination, and authorize staff to conduct a survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

May 2, 2011

Geneva M. Baker, MSN, RN
Director, VN Program
Kaplan College – San Antonio
6441 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78238

Dear Ms. Baker:

At the April 28-29, 2011 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Kaplan College – San Antonio Vocational Nursing Education Program based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2010, review of the 2010 NEPIS, and compliance with Rule 214. Members of the Board wish to thank you and <<INSERT AS NEEDED>> for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to:

1. Change the approval status of Kaplan College - San Antonio Vocational Nursing Education Program from Full with Warning to Conditional.
2. Specify the time for conditional approval status be set until the program demonstrates an annual pass rate for first time test takers of at least 80% on the NCLEX-PN® examination.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit.

Rule 214.4(a)(4) sets forth the parameters of conditional approval status as follows:

(4) 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.

The purposes of conditional approval status are to allow faculty additional time to correct deficiencies which include improving the performance of graduates on the licensing examination and to protect additional students from the risk of receiving education preparation that does not meet Board standards. **Therefore**, the program must continue to evaluate the changes and strategies implemented over the past few years and initiate new strategies to improve student success. **The program shall not admit students until given permission by the Board.**

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit. If you have any questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-7658.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

Paul R. Waller, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: TWC