

**Consideration of Change of Approval Status from Conditional to Full Approval  
 West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas  
 Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon review of the 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, Board Rule 215, and a September 30, 2011 meeting with the nursing program administrators.

**Historical Perspective:**

Exam Year	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Change in Approval Status
2011	94.87%	74/78	Pending	October 2011
2010	76.58%	85/111	Conditional	April 2011
2009	76.27%	90/118	Full with Warning	April 2010
2008	74.26%	75/101	Full	
2007	91.30%	84/92	Full	
2006	86.76%	59/68	Full	
2005	85.42%	41/48	Full	

- The West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program has been in operation since Fall 1972.
- Due to the 74.26% pass rate on the 2008 NCLEX-RN® examination, the program was required to submit a self-study report that evaluated factors which contributed to graduates' performance and included a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- The comprehensive self-study report recommended the following corrective measures:
  - (1) Revise the processes for formative and summative evaluation of students throughout the curriculum using a standardized test;
  - (2) Develop and implement a student retention program in Fall 2008;
  - (3) Strengthen the faculty orientation and mentorship programs;
  - (4) Develop a 2 + 2 curriculum in order to better correlate nursing didactic and clinical learning experiences; and
  - (5) Increase admission requirements and utilize a standardized admission testing.
- In spite of implementing the identified corrective measures, the 2009 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate was 76.27%.
- The approval status of the program was changed from Full to Full with Warning at the April 2010 Board meeting.
- In May 2010, West Texas A & M University implemented a substantive baccalaureate nursing curricular change. The changes included:
  - (1) Transition from a six-semester program of study to a four-semester program of study;
  - (2) Inclusion of the revised Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education and the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for nursing education related to patient safety;
  - (3) Revision of the NCLEX-RN® blueprint; and

- (4) Establishment of an accelerated option for qualified Licensed Vocational Nurses.
- Despite the implementation of corrective actions, the 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate was 76.58%.
- The approval status of the program was changed from Full with Warning to Conditional at the April 2011 Board meeting.
- Dr. Helen Reyes, Department Head, Nursing, has been in frequent communication with Board staff. Dr. Reyes and Dr. Deborah Davenport, Associate Department Head, met with Board staff in Austin on September 30, 2011. Dr. Dirk Nelson, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, participated in the meeting via telephone, articulating strong administrative support of the program. Student excellence and faculty excellence are major goals of the nursing department and resources have been dedicated to ensure continued success.
- Corrective actions implemented in May 2010 were discussed during the meeting. Further changes included expansion of faculty development opportunities to include test item-writing skills and clinical evaluation tool design. Special attention has been placed on clinical evaluation instruments to ensure that students' application of theoretical knowledge in clinical environments would be appropriately assessed and evaluated.
- The nursing program has recently received approximately \$100,000 in nursing scholarship monies from private foundations in Texas.
- First-time NCLEX-RN® test takers demonstrated a 94.87% pass rate for the 2011 testing year.

**Pros and Cons:**

Pros-

- Ongoing corrective measures continue to be instituted and evaluated at pertinent data points.
- The administration and faculty conducted extensive reviews of the curriculum and testing process.
- Faculty have been engaged in ongoing curriculum revision and have implemented a major curriculum change.
- The administration has communicated frequently with Board staff to provide updated information and has worked diligently to ensure student success.

Cons-

- None identified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status of West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program from Conditional to Full Approval (Attachment #1).

**DRAFT LETTER**

October 31, 2011

Helen Reyes, EdD, MSN, RN  
Nursing Department Head  
West Texas A & M University  
WTAMU Box 60969  
Canyon, Texas 79016

Dear Dr. Reyes:

At the October 27-28, 2011 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program based on the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2011. 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 change the approval status of the West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program from Conditional to Full Approval.

If you have any questions or if we may provide assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN  
President

Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

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