

**Consideration for Change in Approval Status from Initial to Full Approval  
Western Governors University in Austin, Texas  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the change in approval status for Western Governors University (WGU) Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program located in Austin, Texas, from initial to full approval based upon the 2012 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, a review of information in the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and compliance with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- WGU BSN Education Program was approved at the July 2009 Board meeting to begin operating in the Houston and Dallas area.
- WGU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, holds a certificate of authorization for an exemption from The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- The curriculum is designed for online delivery of didactic content and faculty-supervised hands-on clinical instruction in partner hospitals through the use of MSN-prepared clinical instructors and preceptors (called coaches in the WGU model) assigned to work with students one-on-one.
- Students participate in nursing skills and simulation laboratories to prepare for actual patient care.
- The MSN-prepared clinical instructors supervise up to ten (10) preceptor (coach)/student dyads and are responsible for post clinical conferences, clinical evaluations, and communication with WGU mentors. Preceptors (coaches) receive WGU training to serve in this role and to familiarize them with the curriculum.
- Board Staff determined that the use of MSN-prepared clinical instructors and preceptors (coaches) is in compliance with Rule 215 for the supervision of clinical learning experiences.
- The first cohort graduates in May 2012 and eight (8) graduates took the NCLEX-RN® examination for the 2012 examination year. Seven (7) passed the examination yielding a 87.50%.
- The current total enrollment in the generic BSN Texas program is sixty-three (63) students.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

- The BSN Program at Western Governors University with Texas headquarters in Austin, Texas, has graduated its first class and achieved a 87.50% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN® examination for the 2012 examination year.
- The program has been in compliance with Rule 215 as evidenced by information in the NEPIS.
- The program is accredited by CCNE and a visit was made during the past year.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the program approval status of the Western Governors University Baccalaureate Degree Program in Austin, Texas, from initial to full approval. (See draft letter in Attachment.)

DRAFT LETTER

January 21, 2013

Veronica Abdur-Rahman PhD, RN, CNE  
Texas Director of BSN Pre-Licensure Program  
Western Governors University  
221 West 6th Street, Suite 1050  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Dr. Abdur-Rahman:

At the January 17-18, 2013 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status of the Western Governors University Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program with headquarters in Austin, Texas. Based upon the 2012 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and evidence of compliance with Rule 215, it was the decision of the BON to change the approval status from initial to full approval. Congratulations on this achievement.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff by email at [janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov](mailto:janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov) or by phone at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE  
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Jan J. Schwenk  
President, Western Governors