

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

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider a proposed change in the approval status of Kaplan College Vocational Nursing (VN) Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, based upon the review of the 2012 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, review of the 2011 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and measures implemented to comply with Rule 214.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Kaplan College VN Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, was approved by the Board in February 2007 when it began as Career Centers of Texas.
- The approval status for Career Centers of Texas was changed from initial to full approval at the October 2009 Board meeting based upon the 2008 NCLEX examination pass rate of 100% and a survey visit.

Exam Year	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status	Date of Change in Approval Status
2012	83.87%	52/62	Conditional - Recommend Full with Warning January 2013	Pending Board Decision
2011	74.12%	63/85	Conditional	April 2012
2010	70.67%	53/75	Full with Warning	April 2011
2009	73.91%	17/23	Full	Self Study Required
2008	100%	23/23	Full	October 2009

- In a review of NCLEX examination pass rates since the program began in 2007, the pass rate has been above 80% only one time.
- The program submitted a Self-Study report in 2010 that evaluated factors that may have contributed to graduates' performance and a description of corrective measures to be implemented.
- Even though the program has been implementing ongoing corrective measures to improve graduates' success on the NCLEX-PN® examination, the NCLEX pass rate continued below 80%.
- The last survey visit was conducted on March 8-9, 2012 and the program was issued one recommendations related to enhancing the syllabi and one requirement regarding revisions to the Total Program Evaluation Plan.
- The program was placed on conditional approval status at the April 2012 Board meeting and has not admitted new students since that action.
- A new director for the program, Christine Rios-Irizarry, BSN, RN, has been approved by Board Staff and appointed by Kaplan College in May, 2012.
- The NCLEX-PN examination pass rate for 2012 (January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012) is 83.87%.
- There are currently fifty-nine (59) students enrolled in the program.

- Because of the seriousness of restrictions in a program's ability to admit students imposed by conditional approval, Board Staff recommend changing the approval status from conditional to full with warning to allow time for a survey visit by Board Staff and a reevaluation of the program.
- This change would allow the program to admit a cohort of twenty (20) students in February, 2013..

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- With corrective measures in place, the NCLEX-PN examination pass rate for Kaplan College Vocational Nursing Program for 2012 is 83.87% (52/62).
- The program director has been diligent in continuing to communicate with Board Staff to ensure their compliance with Rule 214.

Cons:

- The program has had a number of changes in director and faculty since it began.
- The program has struggled in achieving consistent acceptable NCLEX examination pass rates.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for Kaplan College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, from conditional to full approval with warning, to allow the program to admit a cohort of no more than twenty (20) students in February, 2013, and authorize Board Staff to conduct a survey visit in 2013 to reevaluate the program of study.

DRAFT LETTER

January 21, 2013

Christine Rios-Irizarry, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing
Kaplan College, Corpus Christi
1620 South Padre Island Dr., Suite 600
Corpus Christi, TX 78416

Dear Ms. Rios-Irizarry:

At the January 17-18, 2013 meeting, members of the Board of Nursing discussed the approval status of the Kaplan College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, based on the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2012, review of the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and compliance with Rule 214.

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

1. Change the approval status of Kaplan College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, from conditional to full approval with warning.
2. Allow the program to admit a cohort of not more than twenty (20) students in February, 2013.
3. Authorize staff to conduct a survey visit in 2013 to evaluate the status of the program of study.

Board staff will contact you to schedule a survey visit in 2013. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President

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

copy: President, Kaplan Campus, Corpus Christi
Texas Workforce Commission
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges