

**Consideration of Change of Approval Status  
 from Initial with Warning to Full Approval  
 Dallas Nursing Institute Dallas, Texas  
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in the program approval status for Dallas Nursing Institute (DNI) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Full Approval based upon review of the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Board Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- DNI received initial approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) to establish an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program at the April 2009 Board meeting and began operation in Summer 2009.
- DNI changed ownership in December 2013 when it partnered with TCS Education System (TCS), an entrepreneurial, nonprofit higher education system.
- DNI is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) with ABHES accreditation through December 2016.
- Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, has served as the ADN program director since December 2010 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 215.6, Administration and Organization.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past five (5) years are included in the table below:

<b>NCLEX Examination Year</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>
2014	Pending Board Action	86.96%	20/23
2013	Initial with Warning remained since there were no test-takers	No first time candidates	
2012	Initial with Warning Approval Status issued at January 2013 Board meeting due to NCLEX pass rates below 80% for two years	65.22%	15/23
2011	Initial – Program was required to submit a Self-Study Report	62.75%	32/51
2010	New Program		

- The program offers two (2) tracks: a generic ADN track and a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to ADN track.
- Subsequent to the 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates, the nursing program prepared and submitted a Self-Study Report (SSR) to identify factors that may have contributed to the 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates, and suggested corrective

measures to be implemented. The corrective measures suggested in the SSR included:

- Securing an appropriate variety of rich clinical learning experiences necessary to prepare professional nursing students for safe and competent practice.
- Conducting a critical evaluation of the program's admission criteria.
- Providing tutorials for at-risk students.
- At the January 2013 Board meeting, the program approval status for DNI Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas was changed from Initial Approval to Initial Approval with Warning based upon the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance issues with Rule 215.
- Findings of a survey visit conducted by Board Staff on June 20, 2013 included:
  - The program has strong administrative support.
  - Corrective measures in the SSR have been fully implemented.
  - At the time of the survey visit, program learning outcomes and course syllabi objectives did not fully reflect the *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* objectives.
- At the October 2013 Board meeting, the survey report was considered and the Board issued a requirement to ensure consistency in the application of the DECs throughout the program. This requirement has been fully met.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(D)(i) states: "A Program issued a warning .... may request a review of the program's approval status ...following the end of the examination year if: the program's pass rate for first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates during the examination year is at least 80%".

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Full Approval based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and compliance with Rule 215 as indicated in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 22, 2015

Gwendolyn Gaston, MSN, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
12170 North Abrams Road, Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 75243

Dear Ms. Gaston:

At the January 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014 and compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program from Initial Approval with Warning to Full Approval as indicated in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director

copy: President, Dallas Nursing Institute  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Dallas Nursing Institute  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 22, 2015, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, and compliance with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Dallas Nursing Institute in Dallas, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Dallas Nursing Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from INITIAL APPROVAL WITH WARNING to FULL APPROVAL.

Entered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2015

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Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director  
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing