

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full to Full with Warning
Lone Star College – Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Kingwood, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate and areas of noncompliance with Rule 215 identified in the 2014 Self-Study Report.

Historical Perspective:

- Lone Star College – Kingwood ADN program has been in operation since 2004.
- Donna Spivey, MSN, RN, CEN was appointed Director in October 2009 after serving as a faculty member of the Lone Star College – Kingwood since 2007.
- Lone Star College – Kingwood is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the ADN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The most recent program evaluation visit by ACEN occurred in 2010.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are included in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2014	Full	70.70%	111/157
2013	Full	75.00%	93/124
2012	Full	89.05%	122/137
2011	Full	82.52%	118/143
2010	Full	91.18%	93/102

- Due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 75.00%, the program director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2014 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The faculty identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed corrective measures to be implemented that included:
 - Review readmission and transfer requests more carefully, considering entrance exams scores, HESI scores, remediation, and reason for prior failure;

- Mandate HESI remediation prior to return in the fall semester. Offer HESI exam at midterm during final semester;
 - Mandate HESI #1 at midterm. Meet with students one-on-one to remediate and recommend a study plan. Establish a faculty focus group to monitor and analyze HESI exam results; and
 - Strengthen test security for testing. Re-evaluate and realign all course syllabi.
- After review of the SSR, Board Staff acknowledged the findings in the SSR and the present and future challenges (See Attachment #1).
 - Board Staff conducted a conference call with the program director and Linda Luehrs Wolfe, Dean of Sciences and Health Occupations, on December 3, 2014, to discuss the process for changing the program's approval status from Full to Full Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on January 22, 2015. The conference call provided an opportunity for Board Staff and program representatives to discuss the process and implications of the warning status.
 - Lone Star College – Kingwood ADN Program has provided a response letter to be included with the Board report (See Attachment #2).

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A) states: “A warning may be issued to a program when the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates ... is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive years...”

The Education Guideline for writing a Self-Study Report requires that “The effects of the corrective measures should be evaluated as a part of the Total Program Evaluation Plan.”

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kingwood, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #3).

Draft Letter

January 26, 2015

Donna Spivey, MSN, RN, CEN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Lone Star College – Kingwood
20000 Kingwood Drive, HSB 118B
Kingwood, Texas 77339

Dear Ms. Spivey:

At the January 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kingwood, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2014, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kingwood, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Linda Luehrs Wolfe, Dean of Sciences and Health Occupations
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing



COPY

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701
 Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 www.bon.texas.gov

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

April 29, 2014

Donna Spivey, MSN, RN, CNE, Director
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
 Lone Star College – Kingwood
 20000 Kingwood Drive, HSB 118B
 Kingwood, TX 77339

Dear Ms. Spivey and Nursing Faculty:

This letter acknowledges receipt of the Lone Star College - Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Program 2014 Self-Study Report and provides a response to the information in the report. As the Education Consultant for the program, I wish to express my appreciation to the faculty for their diligence and thoughtfulness evident in this report. I also wish to express my gratitude for faculty participation in the February 25, 2014, conference call to discuss the program and the Self-Study Report. The consultants participated in thirty (30) conference calls with programs and found the time devoted to the calls a valuable experience that allowed for us to connect with the programs at the teaching level.

I would like to commend the program for the many strengths indicated in the Self-Study Report, including:

- Faculty stability;
- High retention rates for students;
- Willingness to accept transfer students; and
- Offering a variety of schedules for students.

I would also like to compliment the excellent Total Program Evaluation Plan and the program's interest in making it even more useful for program changes.

Below is a summary of the findings in the Self-Study Report and corrective measures to be implemented to promote future success of the program:

Members of the Board

Kathleen Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
 Lubbock, *President*

Nina Almasy, MSN, RN
 Austin

Deborah Bell, CLU, ChFC
 Abilene

Patricia Clapp, BA
 Dallas

Tamara Cowen, MSN, RN
 Harlingen

Sheri Crosby, JD, SPHR
 Dallas

Marilyn Davis, MPA, BSN, RN
 Sugar Land

Shelby Elzey, BBA
 Midlothian

Monica Hamby, LVN
 Amarillo

Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN
 Granbury

Mary M. LeBeck, MSN, RN
 Weatherford

Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN
 El Paso

Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN
 Bryan

Identified Factors that May Have Contributed to NCLEX Examination Pass Rate	Corrective Measures
More NCLEX failures among readmission and transfer students.	Review readmission and transfer requests more carefully, considering entrance exams scores, HESI scores, remediation, and reason for prior failure.
Evening students more at risk for failing, probably related to working.	Mandate HESI remediation prior to return in the fall semester. Offer HESI exam at midterm during final semester.
Changes in weight put on the HESI score affected students' remediation, per recommendations of ACEN, HESI score of 850 no longer required to pass the course.	Mandate HESI #1 at midterm. Meet with students 1:1 to remediate and recommend a study plan for prepare for HESI #2. Establish a faculty focus group to monitor and analyze HESI exam results.
Possible grade inflation and test security issues.	Strengthen test security for testing. Discrepancies recognized amongst same level syllabi (Face to face and online cohorts). Re-evaluate and align all course syllabi. Faculty align testing environment to mirror NCSBN test security.

Consultant Comments: It is also noted that a plan is in place to create a faculty committee to monitor and evaluate the Systematic Plan of Evaluation and feedback at monthly intervals.

Thank you again for the Self-Study Report documenting the status of the program in 2014. Best wishes for an exceptional academic year 2014-2015. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,



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

Copy: Lone Star College Kingwood President



December 14, 2014

Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE
Nursing Consultant for Education
Texas Board of Nursing
3333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Decrease in NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

Dear Dr. Hooper,

I am writing this letter in response to Lone Star College Kingwood's (LSC-K) decrease in NCLEX-RN pass rates beginning 2013. I appreciate your conference call to us to discuss our low pass rates and that the program will have a change in status from full approval to full approval with warning. We are also aware the change of status will be presented at the Board meeting on January 22, 2015 in Austin Texas. We will not be in attendance at this meeting; however, please accept this letter as our response to be included in the board report.

The nursing faculty and college administration are committed to improve the nursing pass rates and restore the program to good standing which it was noted for in the past. Unfortunately, the change in the NCSBN passing standard in 2012 led to a significant drop in scores nationwide including LSC-Kingwood. Historically, LSCS nursing programs required students to make a minimum of 850 on the exit HESI exam to be successful in the program and graduate. Students were allowed 5 attempts after remediation. In late 2012, the Lone Star College System (LSCS) nursing programs responded to the call from the accrediting body to cease using high stakes exams as part of the nursing program. Currently, the exam is now the final, counting as 25% of the final grade and as a NCLEX-RN predictor. This change occurred concurrently with the increase in complexity of the NCLEX.

In response to a continued decrease, LSCS has implemented an increase in the minimum passing grade in all nursing courses system-wide from 70% to 75%, effective January 2015, based on a survey of Texas nursing programs. After reviewing data, one interesting predictor was the students who failed on the first attempt of the NCLEX-RN had a course grade between 70-74%. LSC-K feels strongly this will impact our pass rate tremendously.

20000 Kingwood Drive
Kingwood, TX 77339-3801
281.312.1600
LoneStar.edu/Kingwood

In addition, we have implemented the following strategies:

- Expanded remediation to students by increasing faculty on release time from one faculty to three faculty.
- Required attendance in all didactic courses to be consistent with required lab and clinical attendance.
- New strategies to enforce required remediation for students failing didactic exams since many students do not follow through on required remediation.
- All faculty teaching didactic courses will participate in an exam preparation/test writing strategy workshop in January 2015.
- We have temporarily ceased offering the hybrid nursing program for further study.
- We are not currently going to accept any transfer students that have previously failed.
- Level 4 students will develop an NCLEX success plan at the beginning of their semester.
- Faculty are meeting with Elsevier in January to ensure that alternate format questions are included on their exam and better mirror NCLEX questions. They are also looking at ATI to determine if a move to ATI would provide a more effective exam preparation and practice upon expiration of our contract for HESI.

The LSC-Kingwood nursing department understands a site visit from the Texas Board of Nursing will occur in the spring of 2015. LSC-K has a deep desire to continue to assist nursing students to be the best nurse possible. Our administration fully supports the nursing program and the actions being taken to address the pass rates. We are committed to returning to our previous high standards and will work closely with the TX BON to increase the pass rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Spivey MSN, RN, CEN". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donna Spivey, MSN, RN, CEN
Nursing Program Director
Lone Star College- Kingwood
Office: 281-312-1781
Fax: 281-312-1490
Donna.G.Spivey@lonestar.edu

Cc: Linda Luehrs Wolfe, Ed.D.
Dean of Science & Health Occupations

Rebecca Riley, Ed.D.
Vice President, Instruction

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Lone Star College – Kingwood
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Kingwood, 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 Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kingwood, 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, information in the 2014 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 215.

Representatives from Lone Star College – Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and were offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board’s consideration. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Lone Star College – Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas, the Board hereby **CHANGES** the approval status of Lone Star College – Kingwood Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Kingwood, Texas from **FULL APPROVAL** to **FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING** and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 215.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2015.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2014 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2015, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 22nd day of January, 2015

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