

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Full to Full with Warning  
Lone Star College - North Harris in Houston, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Lone Star College – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Houston, 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 – North Harris ADN program has been in operation since 1978.
- Marguerite Tamasy, PhD, RN, CNE was appointed Director in August 2010 after serving as a faculty member and leader of the Lone Star College – North Harris since 2001.
- Lone Star College – North Harris 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 2013.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination 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	Full	70.93%	61/86
2013	Full	73.21%	82/112
2012	Full	91.43%	64/70
2011	Full	90.53%	86/95
2010	Full	92.23%	95/103

- Due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 73.21%, 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.
- Challenges for the program that were identified in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate included:
  - Maintaining stability with imminent faculty turnover due to retirements;
  - Determining the most effective use of standardized examinations to best serve the program;
  - Complying with the 60 credit associate degree curriculum requirement;
  - Maintaining clinical placements to meet clinical objectives; and
  - Identifying at-risk students and providing assistance to them.
- 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; William Drees, EdD, Dean; and Steven Kolar, MBA, RN, Vice President of Instruction on November 21, 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 – North Harris 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 – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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

Marguerite Tamasy, PhD, RN, CNE, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Lone Star College – North Harris  
17200 Red Oak DR, Suite 200X  
Houston, Texas 77090

Dear Dr. Tamasy:

At the January 22-23, 2015 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of Lone Star College – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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 – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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](mailto:Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov) or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: William Drees, EdD, Dean  
Steven Kolar, MBA, RN, Vice President of Instruction  
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

**COPY**

## Texas Board of Nursing

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Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 www.bon.texas.gov

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

March 25, 2014

Marguerite Tamasy, PhD, RN, CNE  
Director of Nursing  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Lone Star College – North Harris  
Health Professions Building  
17200 Red Oak Drive  
Houston, Texas 77090

Dear Dr. Tamasy and Nursing Faculty:

This letter acknowledges receipt of the Lone Star College North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Program 2014 Self-Study Report and provides a response to 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 comprehensive report. I also wish to express my gratitude for faculty participation in the February 27, 2014, conference call to discuss the draft of the Self-Study Report provided prior to the call. 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 received the impression that there are many strengths in the program including:

- a group of experienced faculty who find their work rewarding and who work well together;
- a team-teaching approach;
- a director who has great organization skills and leadership abilities;
- “growing your own” Master’s-prepared faculty from adjuncts;
- the director’s practice of reviewing students’ clinical evaluation folders to ensure consistency in evaluation;
- collaboration with sister campuses that widens available resources while allowing input from all;
- a modern well-equipped teaching center;
- ongoing awareness of environmental changes that must be reflected in curriculum;
- compliance with accreditation standards; and a
- highly diverse student body.

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### Members of the Board

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Weatherford

Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN  
El Paso

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Bryan

I also noted several unique educational strategies designed to improve retention and learning:

- dedicated success coaches that has led to a higher completion rate;
- “culture day” to broaden students’ cultural awareness; and
- a student emergency fund to help students with needs.

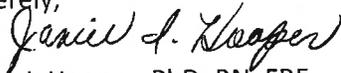
Challenges ahead for the program include:

- maintaining stability with imminent faculty turnover due to retirements;
- determining the most effective use of standardized examinations to best serve the program;
- complying to the 60 credit associate degree curriculum requirement;
- maintaining clinical placements to meet clinical objectives; and
- identifying at-risk students and providing assistance to them.

In looking over your data, it appears that some students with a low average in nursing theory tended to be unsuccessful on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

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](mailto:Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov) or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,



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

Copy: Lone Star College North Harris President Stephen Head, PhD



December 9, 2014

Dear Ms. Thomas,

The Vice president, Steven Kolar and Dean. Dr. William Drees would like to thank the Texas Board of Nursing for providing us with an advisory phone call regarding Lone Star College North Harris' (LSC-NH) approval status. We understand based on a review of the NCLEX-RN examination pass rate for 2014 that the program will have a change in status from full approval to full approval with warning. We are aware an Order of the Board will be presented at a meeting on January 22, 2015 in Austin Texas. We will not be in attendance at this meeting. Please accept this letter as our response to be included in the board report.

Lone Star College North Harris has had a highly regarded Associate Degree Nursing Program since 1978. In reviewing the NCLEX- RN examination scores from 2002-2012 the scores ranged from 88.89 to 96.33. The average score was 92.5 for this time period. It was not until 2013 and 2014 that a decline ensued. LSC-NH Nursing has prepared a detail SSR as well as an ongoing action plan related to the factors contributing to the decline which include:

- Change in the NCSBN passing standard in 2012 which led to a significant drop in scores nationwide
- Elimination of an exit exam the same year. This action was based on papers from the Texas BON and NLN.
- Lack of updated resources for faculty training to include writing of alternate item questions. The NCSBN item writing course has not been updated to reflect current trends.
- Standardized tests formally predictive of NCLEX success have not proven reliable.
- Challenges with integrating alternate item questions into current course management technology to adequately prepare students
- An increasingly diverse student population who are not accountable for following through with resources offered

LSC-NH Nursing department, together with the support of the administration have met many of the challenges identified by the Texas Board of Nursing including:

1. Replacement of all faculty members who retired over the past several years occurred. This had been planned for, and the new faculty are high functioning and receiving ongoing support with positive student outcomes.

2. Standardized exams are still currently in use with exploration of options to assure student preparation and predictive success.
3. A 60 hr. curriculum is in the final stages of approval within the system and reports are being prepared for submission to the Texas BON and ACEN
4. The passing score for all nursing courses has been changed from 70 to 75 based on a survey of other Texas SON and will be implemented in January 2015.
5. Dedicated remediation specialists provide ongoing support.
6. Simulation will be expanded by 10% of current clinical hours to cover identified areas requiring attention such as: pediatrics, pharmacology, psychiatric nursing and communications, all with a focus on safety.
7. Review of NCLEX blueprint and curriculum complete and ongoing integration occurring.

The LSC-NH nursing department understands a site visit from the Texas Board of Nursing will occur in the spring of 2015. In addition a SSR will be submitted by the program to the Board staff no later than June 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marguerite Tamasy (electronic signature)*

Dr. Marguerite Tamasy PhD, RN, CNE

Director of Nursing

Lone Star College North Harris

17200 Red Oak Drive

Houston, Texas 77090

281-943-6832

[mtamasy@LoneStar.edu](mailto:mtamasy@LoneStar.edu)

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Lone Star College – North Harris  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Houston, 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 – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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 – North Harris in Houston, 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 – North Harris in Houston, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Lone Star College – North Harris Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions and 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 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