

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
Valley Grande Institute in Weslaco, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Valley Grande Institute (VGI) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program, in Weslaco, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the Self-Study Report dated July 2016, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at VGI has been in operation since 1992.
- VGI is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).
- Other healthcare programs offered by VGI include Patient Care Technician, Limited Medical Radiologic Technologist/Phlebotomy Technician, Medical Assistant, and Medical Insurance Coder & Billing Technician.
- Olivia Pena, RN, is currently serving as Interim Director for the VN program.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five 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)
2016	Full	75.36%	52/69
2015	Full	78.18%	43/55
2014	Full	84.91%	45/53
2013	Full	94.44%	51/54
2012	Full	85.25%	52/61

- Due to the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 78.18%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® 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:
 - strengthening admission, readmission, and progression criteria;
 - mandating tutoring for at-risk students identified by grades;
 - revising faculty orientation program to prepare and support faculty;
 - planning consistency in clinical instruction;
 - providing feedback to faculty with data from faculty evaluations;
 - ensuring consistent use of policies;

- reviewing and revising entire curriculum;
 - revising and consistently following grading policies; and
 - reviewing and revising Total Program Evaluation Plan.
- The program has provided a response to the Board with updates of their corrective measures (See Attachment #1).

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(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 consecutive years...” The program had identified a number of factors that may have contributed to the pass rate and has planned corrective measures to improve student performance.

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 the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).

Agenda Item: 3.2.6.d.
Attachment #2
Board Meeting: April 2017

Draft Letter

April 24, 2017

Olivia Pena, RN, Interim Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Valley Grande Institute
345 S. Texas Boulevard
Weslaco, Texas 78596-6018

Dear Ms. Pena:

At the April 20-21, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, based upon the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and 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: Mari Aviles, President
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
Texas Workforce Commission

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Valley Grande Institute
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Weslaco, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 20, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the Valley Grande Institute Degree Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the Valley Grande Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Weslaco, Texas from FULL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. In accordance with Rule 214.4(a)(3)(A), a program survey visit will be conducted by Board Staff during 2017.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2016 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than September 1, 2017, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 20th day of April, 2017

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