

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
 From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
 Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- The NTCC in Mt. Pleasant, Texas ADN program began in 1988 in cooperation with Paris Junior College
- In 2014, the Division of Allied Health became the Division of Rural Health Services and Dr. Shannon Cox-Kelley was appointed Dean. Included in this Division are the following programs: ADN, VN, Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Medical Lab Technology, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Certified Medical Assistant, and Coding Specialist.
- In January 2016, Tonya Taylor, MSN, MBA became the Program Director for the ADN program. She is a graduate of the NTCC program and was mentored by the previous director to assume the role. Ms. Taylor will complete her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in May 2017.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past six (6) years are provided in the table below:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2016	Full with Warning	78.38%	29/37
2015	Full – Self-Study Report Required	70.59%	24/34
2014	Full	68.75%	22/32
2013	Full	83.87%	26/31
2012	Full	91.30%	21/23
2011	Full	100.00%	17/17

- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 68.75%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2015 to evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and to provide a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.

- Despite efforts to correct areas for improvement, the pass rate for 2015 was 70.59% and the program's approval status was changed to Full Approval with Warning at the January 2016 Board meeting.
- A focused survey visit to NTCC was conducted by Gayle Varnell on March 15, 2016. A survey visit report was included in the April 2016 Board Meeting agenda.

Summary of Findings:

Pros:

- The program provided a Report of the Evaluation of the Corrective Measures identified in the self-study report regarding the effectiveness of the following corrective measures that have been implemented:
 - Increased HESI A2 and HESI LPN to ADN Transition exam admission scores;
 - Faculty member remediation with exams and life events which were affecting student's grades;
 - Progression Requirements of both grades and standardized testing for each level;
 - Working with other departments for ESL and Culturally and Linguistically Challenged students;
 - Requirement of a 75 average to be eligible to take Final exam in all courses;
 - Faculty mentoring and orientation of new faculty;
 - Curriculum changed to Texas Concept-Based Curriculum (TCBC) in Fall 2015;
 - Engagement of unit staff nurses and managers with TCBC;
 - Development of Simulation Curriculum to align with course content ;
 - Faculty Test writing development workshop and ongoing education;
 - Pilot of ExamSoft software for increased test security and flexibility; and
 - Decrease in faculty required workload.

Cons:

- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2016 remains below 80%.

Staff Rationale for Recommendation:

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(B) states: "A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates ... is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years." Rule 215.4(a)(4) states that "Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the opportunity to correct deficiencies. (A) The program shall not enroll students while on conditional approval."

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #1).

Draft Letter

January 23, 2017

Tonya Taylor, MSN, MBA, RN
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Northeast Texas Community College
P.O. Box 1307
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Dear Ms. Taylor:

At the January 19-20, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status for the Northeast Texas Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Members of the Board wish to thank you and XXX for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the NCLEX-RN[®] examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Northeast Texas Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas from FULL WITH WARNING to CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, and to issue the conditions/requirements 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 or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Brad Johnson, President
Dr. Shannon Cox-Kelley, Dean of Rural Health Services
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Northeast Texas Community College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Mt. Pleasant, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 19, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Northeast Texas Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, 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 2016, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from the Northeast Texas Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Northeast Texas Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Mt. Pleasant, Texas from FULL WITH WARNING TO CONDITIONAL APPROVAL and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall not enroll students while on conditional approval status.
2. The program will remain on conditional approval status until the program demonstrates a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination. The NCLEX-RN® examination year is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 215 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.

Entered this 19th day of January, 2017

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