

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in the program approval status for the McLennan Community College (MCC) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Waco, Texas from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2017 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- The last survey visit to MCC ADN program was conducted in December 1989.
- The ADN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
- The most recent visit by ACEN was in Spring 2013.
 - MCC received continuing accreditation with conditions as the program was in non-compliance with two Accreditation Standards.
 - The follow-up report addressing the areas of non-compliance was submitted in Fall 2015.
 - The next ACEN visit is scheduled for Spring 2021.
- Rebecca Griffin, MSN, RN, has served as the ADN Program Director since April 2017 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 215.6 *Administration and Organization*.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past six years are provided in the table below:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2017	Full	77.88%	81/104
2016	Full	64.04%	73/114
2015	Full	86.96%	100/115
2014	Full	87.78%	79/90
2013	Full	88.43%	107/121
2012	Full	82.14%	92/112

- Due to the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 64.04%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2017 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 Program Director and faculty members identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed the following corrective measures:

- Change admission criteria;
- Ensure courses are using the test blueprint from NCSBN;
- Increase clinical hours;
- Include debriefing and more pharmacology in clinical post conferences; and
- Provide mentoring of new faculty;
- On December 12, 2017, the Education Consultant conducted a telephone conference with the Program Director concerning changing the program's approval status from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning at the Board meeting on January 18, 2018. The conference call provided an opportunity to discuss the process and implications of the warning status.
- The MCC ADN Program has provided a response letter to be included with the Board report (See Attachment #1).

Staff Rationale for Recommendation:

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 examination years..." The program identified areas for improvement and have been implementing changes.

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 McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, Texas from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2017 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #2).

McLennan Community College
1400 College Drive
Waco, Texas, 76708

Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701
December 21, 2017,

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to send a reply. We have made strides in improving the pass rate from 64.04% to 77.88% in one year. Unfortunately, it has not been quite enough. We have implemented many changes indicated in the self-study report. We have changed our admission exam to the PSB for RN candidates and are hopeful this will give us a more nursing oriented and qualified applicant.

After faculty agreed to the need for a testing committee, a faculty group to research best practices in testing met over the summer and introduced a new testing policy effective the 2017-2018 academic year. There are no participation grades in the grading system to inflate the grade of a student who would otherwise not pass the course. There is an emphasis on using the NCSBN NCLEX-RN blueprint for each item on an exam. Test questions are reviewed by faculty teaching the content as well as our testing coordinator. There is a procedure for exam items that fall outside the parameters of an acceptable test question.

Another faculty group worked on separating the Professional Nursing Concepts course from the Health Care Concepts course. This provides students an opportunity to have multiple grades at each level. In the past, we had the two courses combined and students received the same grade for both courses. Now a student must pass both courses as well as the clinical course to pass the semester.

We have strengthened our simulation experiences by dedicating faculty who are committed to simulation. This group of faculty has provided excellent experiences for students, increasing pre-briefing and debriefing depth to the simulation experience. They are also increasing the amount of simulation time students have at each level.

We have a clinical coordinator who works to ensure students have a clinical experience commensurate with the level of the student. Some observational sites were discontinued as they did not provide a good experience for the student. There is much competition for clinical space locally. We are accommodating students in a variety of learning experiences and always seeking other opportunities for them to learn.

I believe we will achieve the expected pass rate in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Griffin, MS, RN
Program Director, Associate Degree Nursing

DRAFT LETTER

January 18, 2018

Rebecca Griffin, MSN, RN, Director
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
McLennan College
1400 College Drive
Waco, TX 76708

Dear Ms. Griffin:

At the January 18-19, 2018 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status for the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2017, findings in the 2017 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, 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 gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

copy: Dr. Johnette McKown, President

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
McLennan Community College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Waco, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 18, 2018, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status for the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, 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 2017, findings in the Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Representatives from the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, Texas discussed the change in approval status during a conference call with Board Staff and was 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 the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the McLennan Community College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Waco, 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 2018.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2017 Self-Study Report is to be submitted to Board Staff no later than June 1, 2018, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 18th day of January, 2018

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