

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in the program approval status for The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Odessa, 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 (SSR), and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

Historical Perspective:

- UTPB received Initial Approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) to establish a BSN Education Program at the April 2013 Board meeting.
- UTPB is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The BSN program was accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2015.
- Dorothy Jackson, PhD, RN, GCNS, FNP, Dean, has been the approved Program Director since the program began.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past three 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	64.00%	32/50
2016	Full	67.50%	27/40
2015	Initial	91.67%	11/12

- Due to the 2016 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 67.50%, the Program Director and faculty were requested 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 SSR identified the following measures for program improvement that were implemented beginning in Spring 2017:
 - Promote strategies for student success on the NCLEX:
 - Measures to improve student attendance;
 - Utilizing data from standardized examinations for program improvement;
 - Considering data of student grades when planning quality improvement; and
 - Implementing weekly reviews and remediation of students.

- Review and revise policies, and promote consistency in their use.
- Provide test construction workshops for nursing faculty.
- Maintain evaluation data for use in program decisions and revisions.
- The program has provided a letter addressing the effectiveness of measures taken for quality improvement (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...” Though the program has instituted measures for improvement, the results of their efforts have not yet been seen.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to change the approval status for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, 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).

December 19, 2017

Dear Members of the Texas Board of Nursing:

I write this letter with full recognition of the serious nature of the status of the NCLEX pass rate for The University of Texas of the Permian Basin College of Nursing BSN program. I am confident, however, that our new Nursing program will be back on track to a successful NCLEX pass rate very soon. In fact, our most recent NCLEX scores have exceeded the 80 percent threshold. During the past year, we have thoroughly examined our program processes involving faculty, students, and policies and determined the areas that may have contributed to our low scores for 2016 and 2017. We have implemented the following plan to regain our successful status:

- Admit only those students who meet all the admission criteria as described in our guidelines
- Provide students with additional support to be successful by:
 - o Integrating the use of standardized testing skills in all nursing courses
 - o Remediating students whose grades fall below 75% mastery of course exams
 - o Providing academic advising and life crisis coaching for students enrolled in nursing courses
 - o Holding students accountable for professional conduct, attendance in clinical and classroom, safety and respect for patients
- Require test construction workshops for faculty
- Ensure consistency in carrying out policies
- Revise organizational structure to provide administrative support to Dean and faculty

While the plan has not been fully implemented we have witnessed a decreased need for clinical make-ups (indicating improved attendance in clinical). The most important result, however, is the pass rate for the Spring 2017 graduating cohort, which had a pass rate of 83.3% (25/30 on the NCLEX on the first attempt).

Please know that we do appreciate the support provided to us by our education consultant in helping us address our NCLEX pass-rate issue. It is our sincere commitment to carry out our NCLEX Success Plan and bring our overall pass rate up to the 80% standard. We believe we are well on our way to achieving this.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Jackson, PhD, RN
Dean
College of Nursing
UT Permian Basin
Medical Center Hospital Endowed Chair

DRAFT LETTER

January 18, 2018

Dorothy Jackson, PhD, RN, GCNS, FNP, Dean
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
College of Nursing
301 University Boulevard
Odessa, TX 79762-0001

Dear Dr. Jackson:

At the January 18-19, 2018 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, Texas 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.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, 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: Dr. Sandra Woodley, President, UTPB
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Odessa, 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 University of Texas of the Permian Basin Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215, based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2017 Self-Study Report, and areas of improvement to align with Rule 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status for the University of Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Odessa, 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.

Entered this 18th day of January, 2018

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