

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
From Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval  
El Centro College in Dallas, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the proposed change in the program approval status for the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215.

**Historical Perspective:**

- Joan Becker, MA, RN has served as the ADN Program Dean since August 2008 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 215.6 *Administration and Organization*.
- The NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past six (6) years are provided 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>
2017	Full with Warning	69.89%	195/279
2016	Full	70.79%	223/315
2015	Full	75.66%	230/304
2014	Full	82.47%	254/308
2013	Full	81.21%	229/282
2012	Full	87.35%	297/340

- Due to the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 75.66%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2016 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 2016 was 70.79% and the program's approval status was changed to Full Approval with Warning at the January 2017 Board meeting.
- Education Consultants Gayle Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC and Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE conducted a focused survey visit to the ECC ADN Education Program on September 29, 2017. A survey visit report was included in the October 2017 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:
  - Fewer applicants met the new admission requirement.
  - Fewer in-class activities were graded and calculated as part of the course grade, thereby decreasing grade inflation.

- Clinical affiliation agreements and clinical course schedules indicate that an appropriate variety of clinical learning experiences in acute care, pediatrics, maternal-newborn, and mental health facilities are provided.
- There is minimal faculty turnover in the program.

**Cons:**

- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2017 remains below 80%.
- The following recommendations were imposed at the October 2017 Board Meeting:  
Recommendation #1: The Program Dean shall submit to Board Staff the ADN Education Program's student assessment and evaluation policies related to grading rubrics and inter-rater reliability with evidence of consistent adherence to these policies no later than December 1, 2017.

Recommendation #2: The administration and Program Dean shall develop an acceptable budget and submit a copy to Board Staff that addresses identified budgetary deficits in the facilities, equipment, and instructional personnel categories no later than December 1, 2017.

Recommendation #3: The Program Dean shall submit to Board Staff evidence of plans to provide adequate student lounges no later than March 1, 2018.

Recommendations #1 and #2 were fully met by the December 1, 2017 deadline.

**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." The program has self-identified areas for improvement and a plan to implement corrective measures.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from Full Approval with Warning to Conditional based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2017, findings in the 2016 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 215, as indicated in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 18, 2018

Joan Becker, MA, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
El Centro College  
801 Main Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202-3604

Dear Ms. Becker:

At the January 18-19, 2018 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the approval status for the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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 2017, findings in the 2016 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 El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Jose Adames, EdD, El Centro College  
Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
El Centro College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Dallas, 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 of the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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 2016 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 El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, 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 2018 NCLEX-RN® examination. The NCLEX-RN® examination year is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 215 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.

Entered this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018

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