

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**  
**3.2.4.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE**  
**Nursing Education Programs Accredited by the**  
**Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and/or the**  
**Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education**  
**Specific Exemptions From Education Rule Requirements**

**Revised 10/04/2016**

Rule 214.4 sets forth the requirements for approval of a vocational nursing education program. Rule 215.4 sets forth the requirements for approval of a professional nursing education program.

Additional language amendments to Rules 214 and 215 were approved on February 19, 2008, based upon House Bill 2426, effective September 1, 2007, enacted by the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature. Board Staff have maintained an extensive comparison of accreditation criteria from the Accreditation Commission in Nursing Education (ACEN) and from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) with Board standards.

Based upon the results of the comparisons between accreditation standards and Texas Board of Nursing (BON) criteria, programs with voluntary national nursing accreditation are **exempt** from the education rules that are comparable to accreditation standards but are **not exempt** from rules related to protecting the public, patient safety, and content related to jurisprudence. These distinctions are provided in the rule citations outlined in the tables below.

<p>Rule 214.4(c)(5)-(13) related to <u>Approval</u> requires in part that “(5) The Board will select one (1) or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education, and determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board’s ongoing approval standards. Identified areas that are not equivalent to the Board’s ongoing approval standards will be monitored by the Board on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>(6) The Board will periodically review the standards of the national nursing accrediting agencies following revisions of accreditation standards or revisions in Board requirements for validation of continuing equivalency.</p> <p>(7) The Board will deny or withdraw approval from a vocational nursing education program that fails to:</p> <p>(A) meet the prescribed program of study or other Board requirement;</p> <p>(B) maintain voluntary accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(C) maintain the approval of the state board of nursing of another state that the Board has determined has standards that are substantially equivalent to the Board’s standards under which it was approved.</p> <p>(8) A vocational nursing education program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval as described in Board Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. if the program:</p> <p>(A) is accredited and maintains voluntary</p>	<p>Rule 215.4(c)(5)-(13) related to <u>Approval</u> requires in part that “(5) The Board will select one (1) or more national nursing accrediting agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education, and determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board’s ongoing approval standards. Identified areas that are not equivalent to the Board’s ongoing approval standards will be monitored by the Board on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>(6) The Board will periodically review the standards of the national nursing accrediting agencies following revisions of accreditation standards or revisions in Board requirements for validation of continuing equivalency.</p> <p>(7) The Board will deny or withdraw approval from a professional nursing education program that fails to:</p> <p>(A) meet the prescribed program of study or other Board requirement;</p> <p>(B) maintain voluntary accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(C) maintain the approval of the state board of nursing of another state that the Board has determined has standards that are substantially equivalent to the Board’s standards under which it was approved.</p> <p>(8) A professional nursing education program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval as described in Board Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. if the program:</p> <p>(A) is accredited and maintains voluntary</p>
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accreditation through an approved national nursing accrediting agency that has been determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards; and

(B) maintains an acceptable NCLEX-PN® pass rate, as determined by the Board, on the NCLEX-PN® examination.

(9) A vocational nursing education program that fails to meet or maintain an acceptable NCLEX-PN® pass rate, as determined by the Board, on NCLEX-PN® examinations is subject to review by the Board.

(10) A vocational nursing education program that qualified for exemption pursuant to paragraph (8) of this subsection, but does not maintain voluntary accreditation through an approved national nursing accrediting agency that has been determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards, is subject to review by the Board.

(11) The Board may assist the program in its effort to achieve compliance with the Board's requirements and standards.

(12) A program from which approval has been withdrawn may reapply for approval. A new proposal may not be submitted to the Board until after at least twelve (12) calendar months from the date of withdrawal of approval have elapsed.

(13) A vocational nursing education program accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the Board shall:

(A) provide the board with copies of any reports submitted to or received from the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board within three (3) months of receipt of official reports;

(B) demonstrate accountability of compliance with national nursing accreditation standards and processes and provide copies of approvals for substantive changes from the national nursing accreditation organizations after the program has followed the approval process.

(C) notify the Board of any change in accreditation status within two (2) weeks following receipt of official notification letter; and

(D) provide other information required by the Board as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state."

accreditation through an approved national nursing accrediting agency that has been determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards; and

(B) maintains an acceptable NCLEX-RN® pass rate, as determined by the Board, on the NCLEX-RN® examination.

(9) A professional nursing education program that fails to meet or maintain an acceptable NCLEX-RN® pass rate, as determined by the Board, on NCLEX-RN® examinations is subject to review by the Board.

(10) A professional nursing education program that qualified for exemption pursuant to paragraph (8) of this subsection, but does not maintain voluntary accreditation through an approved national nursing accrediting agency that has been determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards, is subject to review by the Board.

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(C) notify the Board of any change in accreditation status within two (2) weeks following receipt of official notification letter; and

(D) provide other information required by the Board as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state."

**Nursing Education Programs Accredited by ACEN and/or CCNE are exempt from the following Education Rules:**

<b>Exemptions from Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education</b>	<b>Exemptions from Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education</b>	<b>Section Title</b>
214.2	215.2	Definitions
214.3	215.3	Program Development, Expansion and Closure
214.4	215.4	*Approval
214.5	215.5	Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes
214.7	215.7	Faculty
214.11	215.11	Facilities, Resources and Services
214.12	215.12	Records and Reports
214.13	215.13	Total Program Evaluation

\*The BON approves all new programs and places them on initial approval. If a program achieves national nursing accreditation, the Board considers the program's accreditation status as one criterion, among others, for ongoing program approval. **All** nursing programs, whether accredited or not, must adhere to the exceptions in the following table:

**Nursing Education Programs Accredited by ACEN and/or CCNE are required to adhere to the following Education Rules:**

<b>Sections Not Exempt - Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education</b>	<b>Sections Not Exempt - Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education</b>	<b>Section Title and Specific Exception Area</b>
214.1	215.1	General Requirements
214.6	215.6	Administration and Organization
214.8*	215.8*	Students*
214.9	215.9	Program of Study
214.10	215.10	Clinical Learning Experiences

\*Exception:

Rule 214.8(b) and Rule 215.8(b) were amended to be effective April 19, 2016, to require programs to seek approval prior to an increase in enrollment of twenty-five percent (25%) or greater by headcount in one (1) academic year for each nursing program offered. This amended rule applies **ONLY** to those programs that do not hold national nursing accreditation.

It will be the responsibility of programs with voluntary national nursing accreditation to provide the Texas BON with accreditation reports from the accrediting agencies and to continue to provide other information required by the Board as necessary to maintain nursing program information and to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state.

Board staff shall:

1. verify the program's accreditation status by a Texas BON-recognized national nursing accrediting agency biennially;
2. review the program's pass rates of graduates on the NCLEX licensing examination annually; and
3. review the other information required by the Texas BON as necessary to evaluate and establish nursing education and workforce policy in this state.

**Important: Please be aware that references to Rules 214 and 215 are not all inclusive.**