

**REPORT ON A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
 COVENANT SCHOOL OF NURSING AND LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
 IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS,  
 ENTITLING GRADUATES OF COVENANT SCHOOL OF NURSING  
 TO RECEIVE A DEGREE**

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of Candidates (Passed/Total)
2009	Full	88.55%	116/131
2008	Full	89.92%	107/119
2007	Full	86.61%	70/79

- Covenant School of Nursing (CSON) began operation in 1918 and is the oldest school of professional nursing on the South Plains.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for CSON has consistently been above 80%.
- Lubbock Christian University (LCU) began a degree completion program in 1992 for registered nurses to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN).
- Both CSON and Lubbock Christian University Department of Nursing (LCUDON) share a mission based on Christian service.
- Both CSON and LCU are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.
- In order to comply with the Texas Nursing Practice Act (NPA) Section 301.157(a-1) which requires that "A diploma program of study in this state that leads to an initial license as a registered nurse under this chapter and that is completed on or after December 31, 2014, must entitle a student to receive a degree on the student's successful completion of a degree program of a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board," CSON and LCU have proposed a partnership to meet the intent of this requirement.
- The original proposed plan was submitted to board staff for feedback on August 3, 2009.
- Board staff and representatives from CSON and LCU have engaged in ongoing conversations and exchanges in information related to the plan.
- Partners to the plan requested it be presented to the Board during a regular Board meeting.
- A meeting at the Board of Nursing (Board or BON) office on February 19, 2010, between representatives from CSON and LCU, and board staff provided clarification of concerns and answers to existing questions.

**SUMMARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP:**

- Students admitted to CSON will sign a letter of intent to complete the diploma program and proceed with the BSN completion program at LCU.
- Students will apply to take the NCLEX-RN after completing the diploma program at CSON.
- LCU is authorized to award the Associate Degree in General Science by the Southern Associations of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- LCU will award the Associate Degree in General Science to graduates of CSON based upon their fulfilling the residency requirement with general education courses from LCU and acceptance of the diploma program as a block of credits transferred from CSON.
- There will be no changes in the diploma curriculum or the RN to BSN program.

Pros:

- The partnership is intended to meet the intent of the NPA Section 301.157(a-1).
- The partnership will allow for graduates of CSON to receive an AGS degree from LCU.
- All prerequisites and general education requirements will have been met with the student completes the diploma program at CSON.
- The partnership will encourage more students to earn a BSN.
- Incentives are in place to encourage CSON graduates to complete the BSN program including tuition discounts and employee benefits offering students release time from work and tuition remission.

Cons:

- Some CSON graduates may elect to not complete the LCU BSN.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only. No decision is required.