

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
 From Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning
 Houston Community College in, Texas
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for Houston Community College Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Houston, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at HCC began in 1951.
- The VN Program uses a face-to-face instruction model with selected nursing courses as blended/hybrid nursing courses (partially online and partially face-to-face).
- The twelve (12) month program offers two (2) admission points each year in January and August.
- The NCLEX-PN® pass rates for the past five (5) years are reflected in the table below:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2015	Recommend Change to Full with Warning April 2016	76.56%	49/64
2014	Full Self-Study Report	68.07%	81/119
2013	Full	92.19%	59/64
2012	Full	93.22%	55/59
2011	Full	87.93%	51/58

- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 68.07%, the program director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2015 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.

- The faculty identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed corrective measures to be implemented that included:
 - Inadequate admission and readmission policies; and
 - High faculty turnover.
- A survey visit was conducted on December 1-2, 2015 to the Houston Community College VN Program to evaluate the success of corrective measures implemented this year and to assist the program in identifying other measures for success.
- Two (2) recommendations were issued to the program based upon findings during the survey visit. One (1) was related to their interest in developing a dual credit high school track and the second was related to difficulty in recruiting faculty. The recommendations were:
 - **Recommendation #1:**
The Administration and Program are encouraged to evaluate the program resources as new initiatives (such as dual credit high school) are considered to ensure that the primary focus remains on current tracks and that there is careful planning for new developments.
 - **Recommendation #2:**
The Administration should review faculty salaries to ensure their adequacy to hire qualified nursing faculty.
- HCCS was invited to provide a response letter to be included in the Board report but no response was received.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(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 years...”

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 Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, from Full Approval to Full Approval with Warning based upon the 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

Draft Letter

April 25, 2016

Deborah Simmons-Johnson, Med, MSN, BSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Houston Community College
1900 Pressler Street, Suite 312
Houston, Texas 77030

Dear Ms. Simmons-Johnson:

At the April 21-22, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of the Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2015, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, 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: The Texas Higher Education Board
Dr. Phillip Nicotera, President

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Houston Community College
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Houston, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 21, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2015, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and compliance with Rule 214.

Representatives from Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas were offered the opportunity to provide a written response for the Board's consideration during this deliberation. After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, the Board hereby **CHANGES** the approval status of Houston Community College Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas from **FULL APPROVAL** to **FULL APPROVAL WITH WARNING** and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective measures outlined in the 2015 Self-Study Report is to be submitted by the program to Board Staff no later than August 1, 2016, per Education Guideline 3.2.1.a.

Entered this 21st day of April, 2016

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