

- (c) Ongoing Approval Procedures. Ongoing approval status is determined biennially by the Board on the basis of information reported or provided in the program's NEPIS and CANEP, NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates, and other pertinent data.
- (1) Compliance Audit. Each approved professional nursing education program shall submit a biennial CANEP regarding its compliance with the Board's requirements.
  - (2) NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates. The annual NCLEX examination pass rate for each professional nursing education program is determined by the percentage of first time test-takers who pass the examination during the examination year.
    - (A) Eighty percent (80%) of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates are required to achieve a passing score on the NCLEX-RN® examination during the examination year.
    - (B) When the passing score of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates is less than 80% on the examination during the examination year, the nursing program shall submit a Self-Study Report that evaluates 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 report shall comply with Board Education Guideline 3.2.1.a. Writing a Self-Study Report on Evaluation of Factors that Contributed to the Graduates' Performance on the NCLEX-PN® or NCLEX-RN® Examination.
  - (3) Change in Approval Status. The progressive designation of a change in approval status is not implied by the order of the following listing. A change in approval status is based upon each program's performance

and demonstrated compliance to the Board's requirements and responses to the Board's recommendations. A change from one approval status to another may be determined by NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates, compliance audits, survey visits, and other factors listed under subsection (b) of this section.

- (A) A warning may be issued to a program when:
    - (i) the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates, as described in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive examination years; and
    - (ii) the program has been in violation of Board requirements.
  - (B) A program may be placed on conditional approval status if:
    - (i) the pass rate of first-time candidates, as described in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, is less than 80% for three (3) consecutive examination years;
    - (ii) the faculty fails to implement appropriate corrective measures identified in the Self-Study Report or survey visit;
    - (iii) the program has continued to engage in activities or situations that demonstrate to the Board that the program is not meeting Board requirements and standards; or
    - (iv) the program persists despite the existence of multiple deficiencies mentioned in subsection (b) of this section.
  - (C) Approval may be withdrawn if:
    - (i) the performance of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates fails to be at least 80% during the examination year following the date the program is placed on conditional approval;
    - (ii) the program is consistently unable to meet requirements of the Board; or
    - (iii) the program persists in engaging in activities or situations that demonstrate to the Board that the program is not meeting Board requirements and standards.
  - (D) A program issued a warning or placed on conditional approval status may request a review of the program's approval status by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting following the end of the examination year if:
    - (i) the program's pass rate for first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates during the examination year is at least 80%; and
    - (ii) the program has met all Board requirements.
  - (E) The Board may, in its discretion, change the approval status of a program on full approval with warning to full approval, to full approval with restrictions or conditions, or impose a monitoring plan. The Board may restrict enrollments.
  - (F) The Board may change the approval status of a program on conditional approval to full approval, full approval with restrictions or conditions, full approval with warning, or impose a monitoring plan. The Board may restrict enrollments.
- (4) Survey Visit. Each professional nursing education program shall be visited at least every six (6) years after full approval has been granted, unless accredited by a Board-recognized national nursing accrediting agency.
- (A) Board Staff may conduct a survey visit at any time based upon Board Education Guideline 3.2.3.a. Criteria for Conducting Survey Visits.
  - (B) After a program is fully approved by the Board, a report from a Board-recognized national nursing accrediting agency regarding a program's accreditation status may be accepted in lieu of a Board survey visit.
  - (C) A written report of the survey visit, information from the program's NEPIS and CANEP, and NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates shall be reviewed by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- (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.
- (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.
- (7) The Board will deny or withdraw approval from a professional nursing education program that fails to:
- (A) meet the prescribed program of study or other Board requirement;
  - (B) maintain voluntary accreditation with the national nursing accrediting agency selected by the Board; or
  - (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.
- (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. Nursing Education Programs Accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and/or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education - Specific Exemptions from Education Rule Requirements if the program:

- (A) is accredited and maintains 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; 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.
- (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 professional 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 any 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 an 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.
- (d) Notice of a program's approval status shall be sent to the dean or director and others as determined by the Board. The chief administrative officer of the governing entity shall be notified when there is a change of approval status of the program.

The provisions of this §215.4 adopted to be effective January 9, 2005, 29 TexReg 12190; amended to be effective February 19, 2008, 33 TexReg 1328; amended to be effective October 19, 2008, 33 TexReg 8509; amended to be effective December 27, 2010, 35 TexReg 11668; amended to be effective October 23, 2012, 37 TexReg 8304.

§215.5. *Philosophy/Mission and Objectives/Outcomes.*

- (a) The philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes of the professional nursing education program shall be consistent with the philosophy/mission of the governing entity. They shall reflect the diversity of the community served and shall be consistent with professional, educational, and ethical standards of nursing.
- (b) Program objectives/outcomes derived from the philosophy/mission shall reflect the *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs Evidenced by Knowledge, Clinical Judgment, and Behaviors: Vocational (VN), Diploma/Associate Degree (Diploma/ADN), Baccalaureate Degree (BSN), October 2010* (DECs).
- (c) Clinical objective/outcomes shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall serve as a mechanism for evaluating student progression.
- (d) The conceptual framework shall provide the organization of major concepts from the philosophy/mission of the program that provides the underlying structure or theme of the curriculum and facilitates the achievement of the program objectives/outcomes.
- (e) The dean/director and the faculty shall periodically review the philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes and shall make appropriate revisions to maintain currency.

The provisions of this §215.5 adopted to be effective January 9, 2005, 29 TexReg 12190; amended to be effective October 19, 2008, 33 TexReg 8509; amended to be effective December 27, 2010, 35 TexReg 11668; amended to be effective October 23, 2012, 37 TexReg 8304; amended to be effective September 28, 2014, 39 TexReg 7735.

§215.6. *Administration and Organization.*

- (a) The governing entity of a professional nursing education program, not including a diploma program, must be accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB or hold a certificate of authority from the THECB under provisions leading to accreditation of the institution in due course.