

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.6.2.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE
Proposal to Increase Student Enrollments
02/05/2021

Rule 214.8(a) and Rule 215.8(a) require that the number of students admitted to pre-licensure nursing programs shall be determined by the number of qualified faculty, adequate educational facilities and resources, and the availability of appropriate clinical learning experiences for students.

When programs wish to increase student enrollments, they shall apply for Board approval to admit more students. This only applies to nursing programs that do not have national nursing accreditation since accredited programs must file a Substantive Change Proposal with the accreditation organization.

Rule 214.8(b) and Rule 215.8(b) require that:

(b) A program must 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. The program must notify Board Staff four (4) months prior to the anticipated increase in enrollment. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve an increase in enrollment on behalf of the Board. When determining whether to approve a request for an increase in enrollment under this rule, the Executive Director and/or the Board shall consider:

- (1) the comparison of previous to projected nursing program enrollment by headcount;
- (2) enrollment projections and enrollment management plan;
- (3) the effect of the change of enrollment on faculty workload;
- (4) clinical placement/utilization;
- (5) additional resources required by the enrollment increase; and
- (6) the program's plan to evaluate the effect of the enrollment increase on the program's success.

Programs seeking approval to increase enrollment by 25% or more shall provide the following information to Board Staff:

- A table indicating enrollment for the past year including admission points;
- A table with enrollment projections;
- Enrollment management plan;
- Rationale for the enrollment increase;
- Changes in personnel and resources to accommodate the additional students;
- Effects on faculty workload – please explain;
- Clinical agreements and clinical scheduling to accommodate the additional students;
- Evaluation criteria to measure the impact and effectiveness of the enrollment increases;
and
- Administrative support for additional resources needed.

Board Staff will consider NCLEX examination pass rates, program approval status, and any area of noncompliance in determining approval of the increase.

Note: The 25% increase benchmark is the same benchmark used by the accreditation agencies.