

**Notification of Closure of Nursing Education Program
Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary:

Rule 215.3(d) related to Closing a Program states that “when the decision to close a program has been made, the dean or director must notify the Board by submitting a written plan for closure....” Lamar University (LU) has provided notification to the Board of their intent to close the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program effective August 30, 2014.

Historical Perspective:

- The nursing programs at LU JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing have been in operation since 1974.
- Lamar University at Beaumont is a member of the Texas State University System with a student enrollment of more than 14,000 students.
- Four (4) types of nursing programs have been offered at LU JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing including:
 - Associate of Nursing Degree (ADN) including a generic ADN and an LVN-to-RN track
 - Bachelor of Science Degree (BSN), including an RN-to-BSN track
 - Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with specialization in either Nursing Administration or Nursing Education
 - Master of Science/Master of Business Administration Dual Degree
- LU JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing has held continuous accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) since 1985 with the next reaccreditation scheduled for Fall 2017.
- In May 2012, the chair of the LU JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing notified Board Staff that the last ADN cohort would be admitted in Fall 2012.
- All students in the class of 2014 graduated August 16, 2014.

Requirements for Notification of Closure:

Rule 215.3(d) requires that the written plan for closure shall include information about the reasons for closing, the date of closure, academic provisions for students to complete the program, provisions for record storage, and strategies to maintain requirements and standards through the program’s closure. LU detailed their plan as follows:

- Reasons for closing the program and strategic initiatives:
 - The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (ADN) degree and LVN to ADN track at LU JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing will be closing to focus on BSN education.
 - LU will increase the number of BSN students admitted equal to the number of students previously admitted into the ADN program. This change supports a recommendation from the Future of Nursing report that 80% of nurses by 2020 will be BSN educated.
- Date of intended closure: August 30, 2014
- Academic provisions for students to complete the nursing education program:
 - The last cohort of generic ADN students completed the program August 16, 2014. No students remain requiring a teach-out.
 - The standard ADN curriculum was maintained for the last cohort with courses taught by full time faculty with appropriate credentials.
 - All normal graduation standards were met.

- Provisions made for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates:
 - Records for students enrolled and/or graduated from the ADN program, including the LVN-RN track, will be maintained securely by the Records Office at LU.
 - Past students are able to access their vital records/transcripts by providing approved identification to the LU Records Office.

- Methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes:
 - The program has closed as of August 30, 2014 and all requirements and standards required by state and the national nursing accrediting body have been followed.

Staff Recommendation:

Accept the notification of closure of the Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beaumont, Texas and extend congratulations for their years of providing nursing education at the Associate Degree level. (See draft letter in Attachment #1.)

DRAFT LETTER

October 27, 2014

Cynthia Kellam Stinson, PhD, APRN, CNS, RN-BC,
Chair, JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing
Lamar University
P.O. Box 10081
Beaumont, TX 77710

Dear Dr. Stinson,

At the October 23-24, 2014 meeting of the Board of Nursing, Board members acknowledged and accepted the Notification of Closure of the Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Beaumont, Texas, effective August 30, 2014. The program is in compliance with all requirements in Rule 215.3(d) Closing a Program. The Board wishes to acknowledge the many years of successful nursing education at the Associate Degree level and to congratulate faculty for their commitment as they have served the program, the nursing students, and the community.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MSN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Lamar University President
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
Southern Association of Schools and Colleges