

**Consideration of Notification of Voluntary Closing of a Nursing Education Program
Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas to close its Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program, effective July 20, 2017.

Historical Perspective:

- The Sul Ross State University VN program began operation in 1981.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the last five years of program operation are provided below:

NCLEX-PN® Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2015	Full	83.33%	5/6
2014	Full	100%	8/8
2013	Full	100%	10/10
2012	Full	100%	9/9
2011	Full	87.50%	7/8

- In 2014, university administration decided to close the VN education program to focus efforts on establishing an associate degree nursing education program and timely communicated this intent to Board Staff.
- Although the initial decision to discontinue the VN program was made in December 2014, university administration requested the Board continue to approve the program for two more years.
- The last cohort, comprised of 11 students, was enrolled in January 2014 and six of the 11 students graduated in December 2014. No new students have been enrolled since that time.
- All enrolled students have completed the program of study and graduated.
- Record retention plans are in alignment with Board Rule 214.12. Student and program records have been securely maintained with grades submitted to the Registrar's Office and transcripts housed with Enrollment Services at the university.

- Notification to the Board for closing the program was received in the Board office June 15, 2017 (See Attachment #1).
- Sul Ross State University elected to close the VN Education Program. NCLEX-PN® pass rates were consistently above the Texas benchmark of 80% and no issues with the program's adherence to Board rules and regulations were identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the request for voluntary closure from the Sul Ross State University Vocational Nursing Education Program in Alpine, Texas, effective July 20, 2017, and extend congratulations for their providing nursing education at the Vocational Nursing level for more than 30 years in Alpine, Texas to more than 300 vocational nursing students (See Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING NOTIFICATION FORM CLOSING A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR AN EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS	
NAME OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM	Program Code: 27- <u>206700</u>
TYPE OF PROGRAM	Vocational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR	None at this time Phone No: 432-837-8337 Email: kwright@sulross.edu
LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS	Alpine, Texas
REASON FOR CLOSURE	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: Decision was made to start an ADN program
DATE OF CLOSURE	December 2014
ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All students completed the program and graduated
PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: Grades were sent to registrars office and transcripts are with Enrollment Services. All required paperwork was kept in a locked file cabinet in a locked office for the prescribed amount of time.
METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All policy and procedures were followed as in previous years
COMMENTS: The program was put on hold for two years. No students were enrolled. The University has since decided to close the LVN program for good and start an ADN program.	
SIGNATURE: <i>Kristin Wright</i>	DATE: 06/15/2017

*Please attach additional pages if needed.

Date Presented at Board Meeting: _____

DRAFT LETTER

July 24, 2017

Kristin Wright, RN
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Sul Ross State University
East Highway 90
Alpine, Texas 79832

Dear Ms. Wright:

At the July 20, 2017 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the voluntary closure of the Sul Ross State University Vocational Nursing Education Program in Alpine, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the Sul Ross State University Vocational Nursing Education Program in Alpine, Texas. The Board wishes to acknowledge the many years of successful nursing education at the Vocational Nursing level and to congratulate the faculty for their commitment as they have served the program, the nursing students, and the community.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at (512)305-7660 or Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. William Kibler, Sul Ross State University President

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Sul Ross State University
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Alpine, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on July 20, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the voluntary closure of the Sul Ross State University Vocational Nursing Education Program in Alpine, Texas, based upon the June 15, 2017 notification from Sul Ross State University of its intent to voluntarily close its program; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the last five years of program operation; and the program's history of compliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials and history of the program, including currently being on Full Approval status, as well as the presentation by representatives from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the Sul Ross State University Vocational Nursing Education Program in Alpine, Texas.

Entered this 20th day of July, 2017

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