

**Notification of Closure of Nursing Education Program
Angelo State University in San Angelo, 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...” Angelo State University (ASU) has provided notification to the Board of their intent to close the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program effective August 31, 2013.

Historical Perspective:

- The nursing programs at ASU have been in operation since 1972.
- ASU has recently become a member of the Texas Tech University System.
- Three types of nursing programs have been offered at ASU including:
 - an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN),
 - a Bachelor of Science (BSN) Degree, including an RN-to-BSN program,
 - a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN).
- The two tracks in the ADN program include the generic AASN and the LVN-to-RN program.
- The generic BSN program was approved by the Board in July 2011 and the administration mentioned this was the first step toward offering only a BSN degree.
- Dr. Wilkinson, Associate Professor and Director of Nursing Programs, stated “This closes a valuable chapter in the history of nursing education at ASU.”
- All students in the ADN program should have graduated in August 2013.

Requirements of Notification of Closure:

Rule 215.3(d) requires that the written plan for closure of a nursing program 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. ASU detailed their plan as follows:

- Reason for closing the program and strategic initiatives:
 - ASU is following their nursing program strategic plan to phase out the AASN program as they are phasing in the generic BSN program.
 - ASU plans to retain all faculty by providing faculty development and mentoring to prepare to teach in the BSN program.
 - All student services will remain in place for the ADN students.
- Date of intended closure: August 31, 2013.
- Academic provisions for students to complete the nursing education program:
 - The last cohort of generic AASN students completed the program in May 2013.
 - Three (3) students did not successfully complete the last class and practicum, and therefore did not graduate with their cohort in May.
 - The class and practicum are being repeated for the three (3) students during the summer with anticipation that they will all finish.
 - If any do not complete the program, they would not be eligible to be readmitted because of policy allowing for only one readmission to the program.
 - Additionally there are two (2) LVN-to-RN students who have completed all nursing courses but are lacking one academic course. They are completing this course during the summer with expected graduation in August 2013.

- Provisions made for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates:
 - All records are stored in the nursing administrative office in locked file cabinets according to the State of Texas requirements.
 - Records will be maintained according to the *State of Texas Records Retention Schedule*.
- Methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes:
 - As with the other nursing program offerings at ASU, all requirements and standards required by the state and the national nursing accrediting body are followed and maintained at all times.

Staff Recommendation:

Accept the notification of closure of the Angelo State University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Angelo, Texas, and extend congratulations for their years of providing nursing education at the Associate Degree level to at least 3,043 graduates. (See draft letter in the attachment.)

DRAFT LETTER

July 22, 2013

Susan Wilkinson, PhD, RN, CNS
Associate Professor & Director of Nursing Programs
Angelo State University
ASU Station, #10902
San Angelo, Texas 76909-10902

Dear Dr. Wilkinson:

At the July 18-19, 2013 meeting of the Board of Nursing, Board members acknowledged and accepted the Notification of Closure of the Angelo State University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Angelo, Texas, effective August 31, 2013. 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 the faculty for their commitment as they have served the program, the nursing students, and the community.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE
Lead Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: ASU President
National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
Southern Association of Schools and Colleges