

**Consideration of Withdrawal of Approval  
Lamar State College, Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the change of status for Lamar State College, Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing (LVN-RN) Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, which has been on conditional approval status since January 2013, and Board Staff recommendation based upon the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate, review of the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), the self-study summary and corrective actions, and the survey visits of November 9, 2012 and April 22-23, 2013.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The LVN-RN Program at Lamar, Port Arthur accepted its first student cohort in 1995.
- The LVN-RN program at Lamar Port Arthur, Port Arthur, Texas has experienced four (4) years of NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates below 80%, as shown in the following table:

<b>Examination Year NCLEX-RN®</b>	<b>Examination Pass Rate</b>
2013	63.06% (140/222)
2012	66.67% (90/135)
2011	78.08% (57/73)
2010	66.67% (26/39)

- In 2011, the program was required to submit a self-study report based upon a 2010 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 66.67%. Findings from the report led to the development of several corrective measures which were implemented by the program (See attachment #1):
  - Closer monitoring of the progress of repeating students;
  - Rearranging course content so more challenging concepts were evenly distribute across the semesters;
  - Increasing the health promotion and maintenance content in didactic courses and on exams;
  - Adding a Professional Nursing Review and Licensure Preparation course; and,
  - Adding weekly scheduled classroom sessions to allow students to receive assistance with any didactic material covered in the on-line presentations unclear to them.
- At the January 2012 Board meeting the program's approval status was changed from full approval to full with warning as the program's 2011 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate was 78.08%. A survey visit was authorized and subsequently conducted in November 2012 by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, Board contract evaluator (See attachment # 2).
- At the January 2013 Board meeting, the program's approval status was changed from full with warning to conditional as the 2012 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate was 66.18%. The program was restricted from enrolling additional students in the program. A follow-up survey visit was conducted April 22-23, 2013 (See attachment #3).
- Despite implementation of corrective measures, the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the LVN-RN program was 63.06%.
- Information provided by the program coordinator indicates three (3) student cohorts remain in the program. The information reports scheduled graduation dates for these cohorts of April 4, 2014, October 13, 2014, and March 2, 2015. The number of students in these cohorts has not been reported to Board Staff (See attachment #4).
- Rule 215.4(c)(3)(C)(i) states "Approval may be withdrawn if: 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."

**Meeting Between Board Staff and Lamar State College, Port Arthur Representatives:**

- On November 14, 2013, Board Staff met with representatives from Lamar State College, Port Arthur to discuss the status of the LVN-RN Program and possible Board action. The agenda for this meeting is included in attachment # 5. Several facts were made evident at the meeting:
  - Lamar State College, Port Arthur administrative personnel expressed an understanding that strong admission requirements were essential for student success.
  - The program coordinator reported there was insufficient time from the findings of the November 2012 survey visit for corrective actions to remedy identified issues.
  - Lamar State College, Port Arthur administration introduced an option for program continuation, requesting consideration by the Executive Director (See attachment # 6).
- Rule 215.4(a)(5) states “The Board may withdraw approval from a program which fails to meet the Board’s requirements within the specified time. The program shall be removed from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs.”
- Withdrawal of approval from a program requires that the program design a plan to teach-out the currently enrolled students or find placement for them in other nursing programs.

**Pros of Withdrawal of Approval:**

- The mission of the BON is to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a nurse in this state is competent to practice safely.
- The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of nursing and the approval of nursing education programs.
- Students and potential students of the program may be at risk for receiving inadequate educational preparation to practice safely.

**Cons of Withdrawal of Approval:**

- Withdrawal of approval can affect the morale within an institution.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

- Based upon the program’s history of approval status changes, the identification of areas of noncompliance with Rule 215 during the November 2012 and April 2013 survey visits, the four year history of NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates below the statewide benchmark of 80%, and consistent with the process described in Rule 215.4(a)(5), the recommendation is to withdraw approval from Lamar State College, Port Arthur LVN-RN Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and to remove the name of the program from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs following the teach-out.
- Rule 215.3(d)(1) provides guidance when a program closes, including the requirements that the director of the program notify the Board of the academic provisions and teach-out plan for students to complete the program; of provisions made for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates; and the methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes.
- Rule 215.3(d)(2) states “The program shall continue within standards until all students enrolled in the professional nursing education program at the time of the decision to close, have graduated. In the event this is not possible, a plan shall be developed whereby students may transfer to other approved programs.”
- Rule 215.4(c)(12) states “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.”

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to withdraw the approval of Lamar State College, Port Arthur LVN-RN Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and to remove the name of the program from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs following the teach-out. Further, move to impose the requirements as indicated in the following letter and Board Order.

DRAFT LETTER

January 24, 2014

Anneliese Gongre, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE  
Coordinator, Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Lamar State College, Port Arthur  
P.O. Box 310  
Port Arthur, Texas 77641-0310

Dear Dr. Gongre:

At the January 23-24, 2014 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2013, review of the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), findings of the 2010 Self-Study report, and survey visit reports. Members of the Board wish to thank you and .....for being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Rule 215.4(a)(5) states “The Board may withdraw approval from a program which fails to meet the Board’s requirements within the specified time. The program shall be removed from the list of Board-approved professional nursing education programs”.

After much deliberation, the Board has decided to withdraw approval from Lamar State College – Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing Program in Port Arthur, Texas, to remove the program from the list of Board approved professional nursing education programs following the teach-out, and to impose the requirements in the Board Order. Since this will constitute a closure of the Professional Nursing Education program at Lamar State College – Port Arthur, the program is required to follow Board standards for closing a program.

It is the responsibility of the program director to inform the college administration of this action.

If you have questions, please contact Board Staff at [sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov](mailto:sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov) or 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

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

Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education  
Copy: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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<b>In the Matter of:</b> Lamar State College–Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing Education Program Port Arthur, Texas	§ § § § §
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### ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 23, 2014, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing Education program in Port Arthur, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2013, review of the 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), findings from the Self-Study Report, and survey visit reports, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

Board members in attendance were: Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP; Nina Almasy, MSN, RN; Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC; Patti Clapp, BA; Tamara Cowen, MN, RN; Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR; Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA; Shelby Elizzey, BBA; Monica Hamby, LVN; Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Lamar State College – Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby WITHDRAWS approval of the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and hereby imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. Lamar State College – Port Arthur LVN-RN program shall make academic provisions for the currently enrolled students to complete the nursing education program and teach-out arrangements that have been approved by the appropriate agencies (i.e., Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Board of Nursing), and submit the teach-out plan to Board Staff no later than March 1, 2014.
2. Lamar State College – Port Arthur LVN-RN program shall make provisions for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates. Plans for the provisions for access to and storage of the records shall be submitted to Board Staff by March 1, 2014.
3. Lamar State College – Port Arthur LVN-RN program shall develop a plan to be in compliance with Board requirements and standards until the program closes, and submit the plan to Board Staff no later than March 1, 2014.

4. Lamar State College – Port Arthur LVN-RN program shall develop a plan for transfer to an approved nursing education program any student who does not complete the program by the last established graduation date, and shall provide this plan to Board Staff no later than May 1, 2014.

Further, in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin Code § 215.4, the program may submit a new nursing program proposal no earlier than twelve (12) months from the date of this order.

Entered this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2014

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