

**Consideration of Notification of Voluntary Closure of Nursing Education Program  
 Texas State Technical College – Harlingen in Harlingen, Texas  
 Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the notification of voluntary closure of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program at Texas State Technical College (TSTC)-Harlingen in Harlingen. 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...” The administration at TSTC-Harlingen in Harlingen, Texas, has notified the Board of their decision to close the ADN Program effective September 1, 2015 (See Attachment #1).

**Historical Perspective:**

- The ADN Program at TSTC-Harlingen was approved as a Licensed-Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree Program (LVN-to-ADN) at the July 2012 Board meeting.
- The program has had two Program Directors since the program began and Jean Lashbrook, RN, Allied Health Division Director, is currently overseeing the program.
- All students have graduated and they did not take a cohort this year due to poor performance and lack of qualified faculty.
- The program is currently on Full Approval with Warning. The projected pass rate for 2015 is below 80%.
- Twenty-three (23) graduates from the 2015 cohort have taken the examination so far with eighteen (18) passing resulting in a 78.26% pass rate for the last class. The official pass rate for all professional programs is based upon all first-time candidates for the examination year (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015).
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the program since it began are provided below:

<b>• Examination Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>BON Requirements</b>
2015 preliminary	73.08%	19/26	Initial with Warning	Pending
2014	63.16%	12/19	Initial	Change to Initial Approval with Warning at January 2015 Board meeting  Self-Study Report submitted in 2014
2013	63.16 %	12/19	Initial	

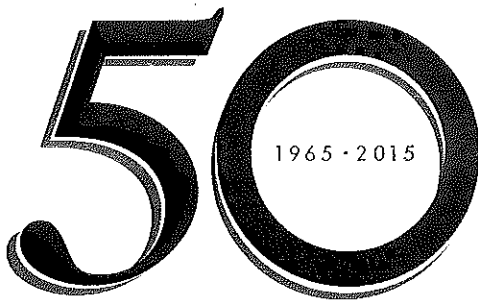
- A survey visit was conducted by Jo Queen, PhD, RN, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN on April 9, 2015, resulting in six (6) requirements and one (1) recommendation as outlined in Board Order dated July 23, 2015.
- The Administration at TSTC-Harlingen had previously contemplated closing the program and had discussed the matter with Board Staff during the year.
- There are currently no faculty and no students in this program. TSTC-Harlingen plans to design a new ADN program proposal to submit no earlier than one (1) year following Board notification.
- Student records will be maintained according to school policy at TSTC-Harlingen.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Since the ADN program at TSTC-Harlingen is currently on Full Approval with Warning with no potential to improve the situation, they have chosen to voluntarily close the program, reconsider their needs, and develop a proposal for a new program to meet community needs. Since no students are enrolled in the program, no teach-out is necessary and accommodation of student records is in place at the college.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Accept the notification of voluntary program closure from the Texas State Technical College-Harlingen Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Harlingen, Texas effective September 1, 2015 and issue the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See letter and Board Order in Attachment #2).



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September 24, 2015

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE  
Nursing Consultant for Education  
Texas Board of Nursing

Dear Texas Board of Nursing Board Members,

I am writing to inform you that Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen will voluntarily close its Associate Degree Nursing program, effective September 1, 2015. The decision was based on the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates of graduating students, which did not meet the required 80% pass rate established by the Texas Board of Nursing. Although pass rates fell below required standards for the 2013 and 2014 cohorts, TSTC in Harlingen was pleased to learn of significant improvement in examination results for the most recent August 2015 graduating class. The pass rate for this group is currently 82%, with 18 out of 22 passing the NCLEX-RN to date.

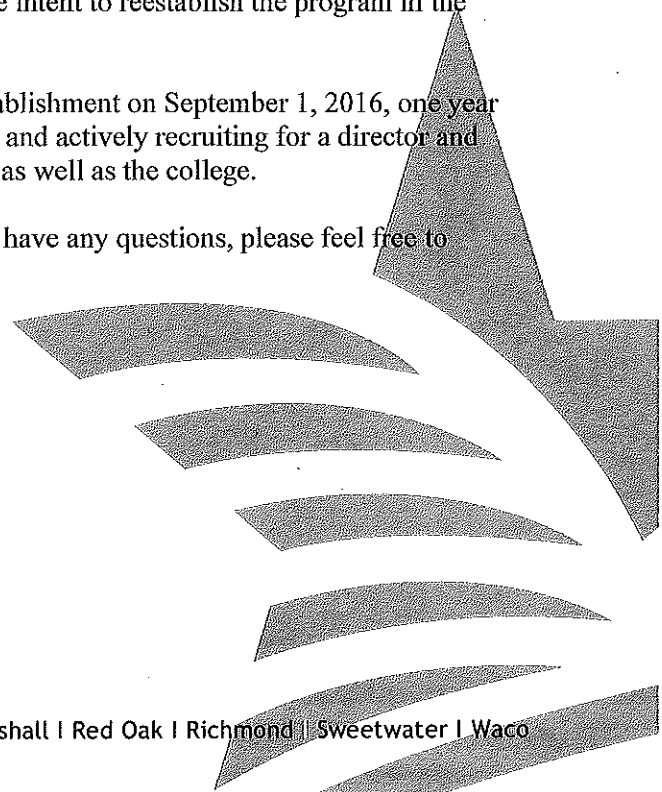
TSTC in Harlingen made the decision not to enroll students after the last cohort successfully completed in August. Therefore, a teach-out plan will not be needed. It is our intent to reorganize, restructure, and strengthen the program overall. All student records will continue to remain stored at the college in keeping with TSTC's records retention. Advisement and recruitment are already working with any students interested in pursuing professional nursing to inform them of educational options in the region. Moreover, we are working with our TSTC Marketing Department to issue a public notification to inform community stakeholders of the voluntary closure, as well as the intent to reestablish the program in the future.

TSTC in Harlingen plans to submit a proposal for program establishment on September 1, 2016, one year from the voluntary closure of the program. We are advertising and actively recruiting for a director and faculty that will support the vision and mission of the program as well as the college.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Jean A. Lashbrook, RN  
Interim Contact & Allied Health Division Director  
Texas State Technical College  
1902 N. Loop 499  
Harlingen, Texas 78550  
(956) 364-4797



DRAFT LETTER

Jean Lashbrook, RN, Allied Health Division Director  
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen  
1902 North Loop 499  
Harlingen, Texas 78550-3653

Dear Ms. Lashbrook:

At the October 22, 2015 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the notification of closure of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Harlingen, Texas, effective September 1, 2015. It was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Harlingen, Texas and to impose the conditions/requirements set out in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at [Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov) or (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Stella Garcia, Interim President  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**In the Matter of:**

Texas State Technical College - Harlingen  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Harlingen, Texas

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on October 22, 2015, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the notification of voluntary closure of Texas State Technical College – Harlingen Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Harlingen, Texas, based upon the notification letter from Texas State Technical College - Harlingen dated September 24, 2015; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since the program opened in 2012; and the program's history of areas of non-compliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials and history of the program, including currently being on Full Approval with Warning, as well as the presentation by representatives from Texas State Technical College – Harlingen in Harlingen, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the Texas State Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Harlingen, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program may not reapply for approval of a new proposal for a nursing education program until at least twelve (12) calendar months from the date of this order have elapsed.

Entered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2015

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Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director on behalf of the  
Texas Board of Nursing