

**Proposal to Establish a New Nursing Education Program
Lamar State College – Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Lamar State College – Port Arthur proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas. The final proposal was provided electronically to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON). A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

Historical Perspective:

- Lamar State College – Port Arthur (LSC-PA) was founded in 1909 as a business college, providing education and training for the growing petrochemical industry.
- LSC-PA is a member of The Texas State University System and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) with the most recent reaffirmation received in 2014.
- A Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program at LSC-PA was established in 1983 and has current BON Full Approval status. The program NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years have been consistently above ninety percent.
- From 1995 to 2014, LSC-PA had an approved ADN education program. The ADN program's approval status was changed to Conditional status at the January 2013 Board meeting due to three (3) consecutive years of NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates below eighty percent. The 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate remained below the benchmark of eighty percent and program approval was withdrawn at the January 2014 Board meeting. The teach-out of remaining students was completed in July 2015.
- A well-developed, comprehensive first draft of a new program proposal for a pre-licensure associate degree nursing education program was received in the Board office on April 13, 2015. Upon review by Board Staff, the proposal was deemed complete August 22, 2015.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- LSC-PA proposes to establish an Upward Mobility LVN-to-ADN Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas.
- Upon acceptance, a student can complete the LSC-PA LVN-to-ADN Program in twelve (12) months.
- The proposal requests enrollment of one (1) cohort of thirty (30) students in January 2016 and one (1) cohort of forty (40) students in January 2017. The projected graduation date for the first cohort is December 2016.
- Didactic instruction is designed to be delivered face-to-face on campus. Clinical learning experiences will be faculty led and supervised in a variety of health care settings in the surrounding southeast Texas communities.
- The curriculum meets the credit requirements for associate degrees as set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board with a total of sixty (60) semester credit hours.
- The LSC-PA Upward Mobility LVN-to-ADN Program proposes to implement the Texas Concept Based Curriculum Model.
- Clinical learning experiences will be offered in health care facilities in the southeast Texas communities. Clinical affiliations have been established with a wide variety of health care venues which include acute care settings, clinics, home health, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care, and outpatient settings.

- Resources and services for LVN-to-ADN students are the same for all enrolled LSC-PA students. A complete array of student services is available, including, but not limited to, financial aid, advising, disability services, and student success center.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data presented in the proposal indicate a need for the ADN Education Program in the community and southeast Texas area. Data from a survey of thirty-one (31) local health care facilities report vacancies of 197 registered nurses in a variety of health care settings.
- Currently, one (1) Upward Mobility LVN-to-RN professional nursing education program is located within a fifty (50) mile radius of LSC-PA. Survey data reports that approximately 100 potential LVN-to-RN students are not able to be accommodated at that program annually.
- Three (3) VN education programs are located within a fifty (50) mile radius of LSC-PA. These schools report a total annual graduation of 370 vocational nurses.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicates clinical space availability to accommodate LSC-PA LVN-to-ADN nursing students for all required clinical courses.
- Letters from more than twenty (20) community leaders in the southeast Texas area express strong support for the proposed nursing program.
- Survey responses from the three (3) pre-licensure nursing education programs within fifty (50) miles of LSC-PA are positive with all respondents indicating support of the LVN-to-ADN program at LSC-PA.

Administration and Organization:

- The college is accredited by SACSCOC with the most recent reaffirmation occurring in 2014. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees has not taken recent action on the activities of this institution.
- The proposed LSC-PA Program Director will report directly to the Department Chair of Allied Health, Dean of Technical Programs.
- The proposed LSC-PA Program Director has the responsibility and full authority to administer all aspects of the LVN-to-ADN program.
- The proposed ADN Program Director, Shirley B. MacNeill, MSN, RN, CNE, is fully qualified to serve in the leadership role, meeting Board Rule 215.6. Ms. MacNeill has eighteen (18) years teaching experience in nursing education programs, both at the VN and ADN levels. In addition, she has served as the Interim Coordinator for the Upward Mobility ADN Program under the teach-out plan since April 2014. She is the co-author of the proposal to establish the LVN-to-ADN Education Program at LSC-PA.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- LSC-PA currently employs two (2) qualified faculty members who are able to begin teaching in the LVN-to-ADN program upon BON approval. Each faculty member has more than four (4) years of teaching experience in pre-licensure nursing education programs and has been involved in the proposal development.
- Recruitment of additional faculty will be managed through the Human Resources Department with open positions posted on the LSC-PA website and advertised in local newspapers. Other recruitment sources include posting advertisements on the Texas Nurses Association Career Center website and contact with the Lamar University Nursing Department and recent Master of Science in Nursing graduates.
- Affiliation agreements are in place with over sixty (60) facilities. These agreements afford students a rich and diverse scope of clinical opportunities and experiences to include: acute care facilities, long-term care facilities, physician offices, outpatient clinics, mental health agencies, and home health agencies.
- The program directors and/or coordinators from LSC-PA, Lamar State College-Orange, and Lamar University meet twice yearly in the allocation of clinical spots at the acute care facilities. This is an ongoing collaboration.

- The proposed program plans to utilize high-fidelity simulation activities in conjunction with hands-on clinical learning experiences. The proposal authors note that the use of simulation will lessen the impact to local nursing programs and clinical agencies.
- Sandi Emerson and Virginia Ayars, EC, conducted a survey visit to LSC-PA in 2013 and the facilities were found to be in compliance with Rule 215.11.

Financial Support and Resources:

- Financial stability is demonstrated in the financial information included in the proposal.
- The governing entity, LSC-PA, has in place student support services to include student activities center, career counseling, assessment and remediation, and special populations/disability services. These services are open to all students enrolled at LSC-PA.
- Educational resources include a well-equipped physical facility which will house the LVN-to-ADN program staff and students. A nursing skills laboratory and simulation center will provide opportunities for students to learn, practice, and demonstrate both technical and clinical reasoning skills.
- The campus library, Gates Memorial Library, is open sixty (60) hours weekly. Periodical holdings are available twenty-four (24) hours per day electronically. Holdings include the following nursing databases: Academic Search Complete, CINAHL, Health Reference Center Academic, HealthSource: Nursing/Academic, Medline with MESH, and STAT!Ref@.

Students:

- The program proposal seeks to accept thirty (30) students in the first cohort and forty (40) students in the second cohort the following year. Applicants will be required to hold an unencumbered current license as an LVN.
- Student recruitment will be focused on individuals completing a pre-licensure VN Education Program as well as those LVNs who are in the workplace and seeking to advance their education.
- The Student Handbook contains all required information as set forth in Rule 215.8.

Program of Study:

- The program of study consists of three (3) semesters in a twelve (12) month period of time.
- The proposed curriculum is the Texas Concept Based Curriculum Model and will follow the concepts and exemplars established by this model. Faculty will have electronic access to all course templates and teaching resources developed for the Texas Concept Based Curriculum Model.
- The Texas Concept Based Curriculum model contains forty-three (43) concepts that link to the delivery of patient care. As students gain an understanding of these concepts, they learn to recognize and understand similarities and recurring characteristics which will inform their clinical judgment and the application of nursing interventions. The conceptual approach to learning promotes a deeper understanding of individual concepts promoting the nurse's ability to apply concept components to nursing practice.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, 2010* (DECs) are embedded in the curriculum. Both the didactic and clinical course syllabi and evaluative tools include the associated knowledge, behaviors, and clinical judgements required for the achievement of competencies.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The LSC-PA ADN Total Evaluation (TPE) Plan enables the Program Director and faculty to evaluate all facets of the program. The TPE plan incorporates criteria, methodology, and frequency of the evaluation. Assignment of responsibility is made by the Program Director with input from faculty. Indicators or benchmarks of program and instructional effectiveness are identified in the evaluation plan.
- The program's TPE plan is well developed and provides measurable indicators of achievement. All required elements of Board Rule 215.13 are fully addressed.

Rationale for Recommendation:Pros:

- Established comprehensive and diverse clinical learning experiences with multiple health care facilities have been secured.
- The proposed Program Director is qualified and experienced in pre-licensure professional nursing education and holds National League for Nursing certification as a nurse educator (CNE).
- College administration has committed necessary resources to the development and implementation of this proposal.

Cons:

- None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Lamar State College – Port Arthur to establish a new ADN Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

DRAFT LETTER

October 26, 2015

Shirley MacNeill, MSN, RN, CNE
Upward Mobility Nursing Program Coordinator
Lamar State College – Port Arthur
Allied Health Department
1500 Proctor St
Port Arthur, TX 77640

Dear Ms. MacNeill:

At the October 22-23, 2015 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas. The Board wishes to thank you and XXXX for being present to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant initial approval to Lamar State College – Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov, or (512) 463-4631.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
for

Consideration of a Proposal from Lamar State College – Port Arthur
To Establish An
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
in Port Arthur, Texas

Date and Time: October 22, 2015 at 2:00 PM
Place: William P. Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street
Tower II, Room 225
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal. Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 1, 2015.

Address written testimony to:
Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Lamar State College – Port Arthur
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Port Arthur, Texas

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 Lamar State College – Port Arthur proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, based upon the review of the Proposal, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

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

1. The program shall not admit more than one (1) cohort of thirty (30) students in the first year and one (1) cohort of forty (40) students in subsequent years until the program achieves Full Approval from the Board.
2. Progress reports shall be submitted to Board Staff on the following dates: April 1, 2016, August 1, 2016, and November 1, 2016. The reports shall include, but not be limited to, data specific to student admission, progression, dismissal, retention, and withdrawal rates.

Entered this 22nd day of October, 2015

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