

**Consideration of Notification of Voluntary Closure of a Nursing Education Program
Hallmark University in San Antonio, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received from Hallmark University in San Antonio, Texas, to close its associate degree nursing (ADN) education program, effective October 27, 2016.

Historical Perspective:

- The Hallmark University ADN program was initially approved at the January 2011 Board meeting.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since the program began are provided below:

NCLEX-RN® Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2016	Conditional	68.85%	42/61 (Preliminary)
2015	Initial with Warning	69.84%	44/63
2014	Initial	61.90%	39/63
2013	Initial	67.65%	23/34
2012	New Program		

- Due to the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 67.65%, the program was required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR). The SSR was received in the Board office May 30, 2014.
- Although corrective measures to improve candidate success were initiated, the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates continued to be below the 80% benchmark. The program was placed on Initial Approval with Warning status at the January 2015 Board meeting.
- Due to the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate of 69.84%, the program was placed on Conditional Approval status at the January 2016 Board meeting and several conditions and requirements were issued. The program has not been allowed to enroll new students since January 2016.
- Notification to the Board for closing the program was received in the Board office October 5, 2016 (See Attachment #1).

- Currently, one hundred two (102) students are enrolled in the program, in the following four (4) cohorts:

<u>Graduation Date</u>	<u>Number Enrolled</u>
December 2016	Twenty-six (26) students
May 2017	Twenty-six (26) students
August 2017	Thirty-two (32) students
December 2017	Eighteen (18) students
- Hallmark University will retain all permanent educational files indefinitely at its San Antonio, Texas campus.
- The program elected to close the ADN education program. If this decision had not been made, Board Staff would have recommended withdrawal of approval to the Board at the January 2017 meeting based upon four (4) consecutive years of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates falling below 80%.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the voluntary closure of the Hallmark University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, effective October 27, 2016, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #2).



October 5, 2016

**IT'S TIME FOR
CHANGE**

Dr. Virginia D. Ayars
Nursing Consultant for Education
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Dr. Ayars:

This letter is to inform the Texas Board of Nursing that Hallmark University will voluntarily close its Associate of Applied Science Nursing degree program effective October 1, 2016. The University has not met the 80% NCLEX-RN pass rate required by the Texas Board of Nursing. With that being said, the Martha Fessler School of Nursing is proud to announce that it has improved its program tremendously as evident by 95% NCLEX-RN pass rate from the last graduating cohort (April 2016) of twenty-two students.

The University plans to teach out our current four cohorts of 102 students by December 2017. We also ensure that all the resources currently available to the students will remain in place, including but not limited to, qualified and sufficient faculty, staff, and clinical sites. All student records will continue to remain at the university per Hallmark University's policy.

Hallmark University strongly believes that it has what it takes to successfully train competent nursing graduates and plans to substantially revise its curriculum. The University plans to reapply to the Texas Board of Nursing and open a new improved program in October 2017.

Hallmark University appreciates your considerations in this matter. We intend to work closely with Dr. Virginia Ayars to ensure a hitch-free, teach-out and submit a great proposal for our new program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Oluwakotanmi'.

Dr. Gabriel Oluwakotanmi
Director of Nursing

Hallmark University
10401 IH-10 West
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210)690-9000
hallmarkuniversity.edu

**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>405900</u>
TYPE OF PROGRAM	Vocational <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR	Dr. Gabriel Oluwakotanmi Phone No: 210-690-9000 ext 283 Email: goluwakotanmi@hallmarkuniversity.edu
LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS	10401 IH-10 West San Antonio, Texas, 78230
REASON FOR CLOSURE	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: NCLEX pass rates below 80% for three years. Recent changes in director, content delivery, and teaching methods (including a comprehensive NCLEX review by the director) have show great improvement in the last graduating cohort. However, low number of graduates taking NCLEX will not be enough to meet the required 80% pass rate for this year (2015-2016).
DATE OF CLOSURE	
ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: A total of 102 students are currently enrolled in the ADN program. These students are enrolled in four different cohorts, which graduate in December 2016, May 2017, August 2017, and December 2017. Current enrollment by cohorts is listed below: 1. Cohort 12 graduating December 2016: 26 students 2. Cohort 13 graduating May 2017: 26 students 3. Cohort 14 graduating August 2017: 32 students 4. Cohort 15 graduating December 2017: 18 students Cohorts will receive didactic and clinical instruction under the curriculum plan that is currently in place. Courses, by semester and cohort, are listed in a detailed
PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All current records will be maintained in a secure manner to prevent loss, destruction or unauthorized use. Records will be maintained for the required specified time and will remain accessible to those with a need for access (e.g., Program Director, Coordinator).
METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: The University will continue to provide the necessary resources and support to the professional nursing program in meeting all requirements established under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 11, Chapter 215. The University administration will provide direct support to the appointed director, Dr. Gabriel
COMMENTS: Further details related to academic provisions for current students, provisions for access to and safe storage of vital school records, and methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes are provided in the Teach-Out Plan.	
SIGNATURE:	 DATE: 10/5/16

*Please attach additional pages if needed.

Date Presented at Board Meeting: _____

Hallmark University ADN Program

Teach-Out Plan

This document contains the teach-out plan for the Hallmark University ADN program. The University will continue to provide the necessary resources and support to the professional nursing program in meeting all requirements established under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 11, Chapter 215. This plan provides details regarding the following:

- (a) Administration and organization
- (b) Currently enrolled students
- (c) Transfer and enforcement of policies
- (d) Faculty
- (e) Program of study
- (f) Clinical learning experiences
- (g) Maintenance of records and reports
- (h) Total program evaluation

Administration and Organization

The Administration, Dean of Academics, Program Director and Faculty of the Hallmark University ADN program will continue to adhere to and remain accountable for complying with The Texas Board of Nursing's rules and regulations and the Nursing Practice Act while the program completes teach-out of the four currently enrolled cohorts. The University administration will provide direct support to the appointed director, Dr. Gabriel Oluwakotanmi, in fulfilling his responsibilities and duties under Rules 215.6(f) and 215.7(f)(6), until all students enrolled in the ADN program have completed their studies.

The University will provide sufficient resources while currently enrolled students complete their studies. Resource support provided by the University includes financial, personnel, equipment, facilities, and organizational support. The program will maintain a sufficient number of faculty by continuing to employ, recruit and maintain qualified faculty.

The University will maintain open communication with all currently enrolled students. These students have been informed about the status of the program, and concerns have been addressed by the Dean of Academics, Senior Vice President of Operations, and CEO.

The program will continue to utilize ATI to assess and evaluate student performance.

The program will not admit additional students into the ADN program (Program Code 27-450).

Currently Enrolled Students

A total of 102 students are currently enrolled in the ADN program. These students are enrolled in four different cohorts, which graduate in December 2016, May 2017, August 2017, and December 2017. Current enrollment by cohorts is listed below:

1. Cohort 12 graduating December 2016: 26 students
2. Cohort 13 graduating May 2017: 26 students
3. Cohort 14 graduating August 2017: 32 students
4. Cohort 15 graduating December 2017: 18 students

Cohorts will receive didactic and clinical instruction under the curriculum plan that is currently in place. Courses, by semester and cohort, are listed below.

Coursework for the cohort graduating December 2016 (Fall Semester, 2016)

Fall 2016 – Semester 4 Courses

RNSG2443 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG2363 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care Clinical
RNSG2221 – Management of Client Care
RNSG2161 – Management of Client Care Clinical
RNSG2207 – Transition to Nursing Practice
RNSG2030 – Professional Nursing Review

Coursework for the cohort graduating May 2017 (Fall Semester, 2016; Spring Semester, 2017)

Fall 2016 – Semester 3 Courses

RNSG2313 – Mental Health Nursing
RNSG2160 – Mental Health Nursing Clinical
RNSG2512 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family
RNSG2361 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family Clinical

Spring 2017 – Semester 4 Courses

RNSG2443 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG2363 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care Clinical
RNSG2221 – Management of Client Care
RNSG2161 – Management of Client Care Clinical
RNSG2207 – Transition to Nursing Practice
RNSG2030 – Professional Nursing Review

Coursework for the cohort graduating August 2017 (Fall Semester, 2016; Spring Semester, 2017; Summer Semester 2017)

Fall 2016 – Semester 2 Courses

RNSG1201 – Pharmacology
RNSG1441 – Common Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG1361 – Common Concepts in Adult Care Clinical

Spring 2017 – Semester 3 Courses

RNSG2313 – Mental Health Nursing

RNSG2160 – Mental Health Nursing Clinical
RNSG2512 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family
RNSG2361 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family Clinical

Summer 2017 – Semester 4 Courses

RNSG2443 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG2363 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care Clinical
RNSG2221 – Management of Client Care
RNSG2161 – Management of Client Care Clinical
RNSG2207 – Transition to Nursing Practice
RNSG2030 – Professional Nursing Review

Coursework for the cohort graduating December 2017 (Fall Semester, 2016; Spring Semester, 2017; Summer Semester, 2017; Fall Semester 2017)

Fall 2016 – Semester 1 Courses

RNSG1115 – Health Assessment
RNSG1513 – Foundations in Nursing
RNSG1260 – Foundations in Nursing Clinical
RNSG1146 – Legal and Ethical Issues for Nurses

Spring 2017 – Semester 2 Courses

RNSG1201 – Pharmacology
RNSG1441 – Common Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG1361 – Common Concepts in Adult Care Clinical

Summer 2017 – Semester 3 Courses

RNSG2313 – Mental Health Nursing
RNSG2160 – Mental Health Nursing Clinical
RNSG2512 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family
RNSG2361 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family Clinical

Fall 2017 – Semester 4 Courses

RNSG2443 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG2363 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care Clinical
RNSG2221 – Management of Client Care
RNSG2161 – Management of Client Care Clinical
RNSG2207 – Transition to Nursing Practice
RNSG2030 – Professional Nursing Review

Transfer and Enforcement of Policies

The program will continue to maintain and enforce nursing student policies, which include those relating to dismissal, progression, and graduation. The program will also maintain and file signed receipts for student acknowledgement of program policies.

Students will continue to have the opportunity to benefit from development of academic policies and procedures, evaluation of teaching effectiveness, evaluation of faculty, courses, learning resources as well as evaluation of program.

Faculty

The program will maintain a sufficient number of qualified faculty members to continue to meet the instructional needs of the program. Documentation of faculty qualifications, licensure, continuing education and evaluations will be maintained in accordance with existing institutional practice.

The faculty organization will continue to function with written bylaws in place, which may be updated, revised, or edited as needed to ensure the effective functioning of the faculty and program. Faculty will continue to meet on a scheduled, bi-monthly basis and will maintain participation in appropriate committees. Minutes of faculty meetings and committee meetings will be on file and available for review.

Faculty will continue to implement evaluation methods and utilize tools in place to measure students' cognitive and psychomotor achievement and progression in didactic and clinical instruction.

Program of Study

The program will remain as a four semester program. The program of study will consist of didactic and clinical/simulation learning experiences to include foundations, medical-surgical nursing, pharmacology, maternal/child health, pediatrics, mental health, and management as the central content areas. The program curriculum will remain current and available for review.

The program of study will continue to address laws and regulations pertaining to practice settings, which include the following:

- The Nursing Practice Act
- Standards of Nursing Practice
- Unprofessional Conduct Rules
- Delegation Rules

The program of study will continue to address professional values, which include ethics, safety, diversity and confidentiality.

The program will maintain the instructional goal of preparing students to enter practice demonstrating the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies established for graduates of Texas nursing programs.

The program of study is listed below:

Semester 1

RNSG1115 – Health Assessment
RNSG1513 – Foundations in Nursing
RNSG1260 – Foundations in Nursing Clinical
RNSG1146 – Legal and Ethical Issues for Nurses

Semester 2

RNSG1201 – Pharmacology
RNSG1441 – Common Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG1361 – Common Concepts in Adult Care Clinical

Semester 3

RNSG2313 – Mental Health Nursing
RNSG2160 – Mental Health Nursing Clinical
RNSG2512 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family
RNSG2361 – Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Family Clinical

Semester 4

RNSG2443 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care
RNSG2363 – Complex Concepts in Adult Care Clinical
RNSG2221 – Management of Client Care
RNSG2161 – Management of Client Care Clinical
RNSG2207 – Transition to Nursing Practice
RNSG2030 – Professional Nursing Review

Clinical Learning Experiences

The program will continue to ensure that the requirements established under Rule 3.7.2.a (Ratio of Clinical/Laboratory Hours to Classroom Hours) and Rule 3.8.2.a (Ratio of Faculty to Students in Clinical Learning Experiences) are followed and enforced. The program will follow existing institutional practices relating to the development and approval of memoranda of agreement that support clinical affiliations. A sufficient number of clinical affiliations will be maintained in order to provide clinical experiences. The program will ensure that all memoranda of agreement remain current.

Qualified faculty will continue to supervise clinical learning experiences and the program will ensure that required instructor to student ratios are followed and enforced.

The Program Director will continue to ensure that clinical facilities utilized for clinical experiences are appropriate for the level of student learning, achievement of course objectives and student safety. The program will continue to utilize clinical facilities that maintain an adequate patient census to provide breadth and depth of experience needed for instruction.

Clinical experiences will continue to provide opportunities for the students to

- (a) Administer medications
- (b) Provide nursing care to person of all age groups

- (c) Provide nursing care to persons with chronic/ acute illnesses
- (d) Provide preventive or rehabilitative care
- (e) Participate and develop patient/family teaching experiences

Maintenance of Records and Reports

All current records will be maintained in a secure manner to prevent loss, destruction or unauthorized use. All records will be maintained for the required specified time and will remain accessible to those with a need for access (e.g., Program Director, Coordinator).

The program will maintain currently enrolled student application and admission documents, clinical evaluations, and signed receipts of written student policies. The program will maintain signed receipt of student notifications of Texas Board of Nursing license eligibility information (up to six months after completion of program or withdrawal).

The program will also continue to maintain the records listed below in accordance with required institutional/nursing education guidelines:

- Faculty records
- Faculty meeting minutes
- University catalogs, program of study, mission and goals, curriculum and course outlines
- Memoranda of agreements with affiliating agencies
- Strategic planning documents and program evaluation master plan

Total Program Evaluation

The program will continue to follow the guidelines established under Rule 3.11.1.a (Total Program Evaluation) and will ensure compliance with the Rule through the following activities:

- Periodic review and assessment of the current plan
- Revision of the current plan in light of changes in program outcomes
- Incorporation of the plan goals with the institutional planning and budgeting cycle
- Incorporation of support staff to participate in the review process
- Employment of technological applications in improving the ability to assess program outcomes

The plan for evaluation will continue to follow the areas specified by the Board of Nursing in Rule 215.13, which include:

- Organization and administration of the program
- Philosophy/mission and objectives/outcomes
- Program of study, curriculum, and instructional technologies
- Education facilities, resources, and services
- Affiliating agencies and clinical learning activities
- Students' achievement
- Graduates' performance on the NCLEX-RN
- Graduates' nursing competence
- Faculty members' performance

DRAFT LETTER

October 31, 2016

Gabriel Oluwakotanmi, DNP, RN, Director
Martha Fessler School of Nursing
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Hallmark University
10401 IH-10 West
San Antonio, TX 78230

Dear Dr. Oluwakotanmi:

At the October 27, 2016 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the voluntary closure of the Hallmark University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the Hallmark University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

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: Brent Fessler, Hallmark University President
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Hallmark University
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In San Antonio, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on October 27, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the voluntary closure of the Hallmark University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, based upon the October 5, 2016 notification from Hallmark University of its intent to voluntarily close its program; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since the program opened in 2011; and the program's history of 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 conditional status, as well as the presentation by representatives from Hallmark University in San Antonio, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the Hallmark University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall submit to the Board no later than December 1, 2016, a plan for teach-out arrangements for all enrolled students, or evidence that all students either have completed the program or other academic provisions have been made; and
2. 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 27th day of October, 2016

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